

SIMMONS SAYS

JEFFERY
SIMMONS



Achieving perfection in sports

Perfection is rare in sports, but sometimes it occurs. Usually when it does, people lose their minds.

The scene in Blackwood, England was raucous Thursday when Gary Anderson did what most other dart throwers dream of – he completed a nine-throw out. Anderson, otherwise known as “the Flying Scotsman,” threw the dart equivalent of the perfect game, hitting his mark nine straight times in a game of 501.

Anderson’s accomplishment perked up the newsroom at the *Standard*, where occasionally a dart game will break out. It is beyond most people’s wildest imagination to do what Anderson did – hit seven straight triple 20s before finishing with a triple 19 and double 12 (playing by the standard rule of having to throw a double to finish).

Most people are happy when they throw one bullseye. The Flying Scotsman scoffs at our feeble throws.

But is it more impressive than say, a perfect game in baseball? For sure, each are fairly uncommon. There have only been 52 aired nine-dart finishes in the last 40 years, while there have been only 23 recorded perfect games in the history of Major League Baseball.

It’s hard to compare though, as darts are solely dependent on the thrower, while baseball relies on all nine players – and sometimes the umpires too.

Armando Galarraga lost a perfect game in 2010 when an umpire blew a call at first base on the final out, forever becoming the legacy of Galarraga and Jim Joyce, the umpire who offered a teary-eyed apology after seeing the replay.

Nobody around these parts will likely ever make it to the big leagues and have a chance at a perfect game, but what about some smaller feats? Could somebody dedicate a year to a craft and be perfect at it once?

The office narrowed it down to three individual accomplishments: the nine-dart out in 501, bowling a 300 and hitting a hole-in-one. Which would be the easiest?

Simple math says bowling would be the toughest. It requires 10 perfect frames – including three rolls on the last frame. Darts requires nine throws – including a variety of ways to get to 501. A hole-in-one on say, the par-3, No. 17 at McMinnville Country Club, takes just one tremendous swing.

And yet there are golfers who play their entire lives and never have that perfect swing. Bowlers also hit the lanes for years and never get past a turkey as their greatest accomplishment.

Perfection is likely unattainable for most avid athletes, but it’s not impossible. Just ask the Flying Scotsman.



Soccer players will get a chance to show their skill this week when WCHS coach Matt Jackson holds tryouts. Pictured is Jake Toney competing in a JV game last spring.

Soccer tryouts set

BY JEFFERY SIMMONS
Sports Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Prospective Pioneers can get their kicks this week when Warren County High School soccer coach Matt Jackson holds tryouts for next year’s squad.

Jackson announced tryouts for the Pioneer soccer team will be held Thursday, Aug. 2 and Saturday, Aug. 4 from 10:30 a.m. until noon and on Tuesday, Aug. 7 from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

“It’s the earliest I’ve done try-

outs,” said WCHS coach Matt Jackson. “It’s beneficial to be able to form the team and work them out. It should help to get the conditioning and get ready for the season.”

The Pioneers return the lion share of their roster, which finished in the top half of District 6-AAA. Warren County still has a few holes to fill though, and Jackson is hoping all interested soccer players come out to showcase their talent.

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19 DAYS TO KICKOFF

Ironing out issues



Photo courtesy of Paul Henry/Elk Valley Times

The Pioneers will have plenty to improve on after their first scrimmage in Lincoln County Friday. Warren County allowed five scores while finding the endzone only once. Pictured is quarterback Clay Thompson trying to find an open receiver.

Heavenly hoopers

BY JEFFERY SIMMONS
Sports Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Westwood Church turned into a hotbed for basketball this summer.

Led by Mendy Stotts and Stacey Simpson, young hoop-ers got a chance to hone their skills at the Shoot for Heaven Basketball Camp, which was held for free at Westwood Church.

“I want to see our kids have the most positive future possible,” said Stotts. “When kids play youth sports like basketball, you learn many life skills you will use your whole life – treating others like you want to be treated, overcoming obstacles, dealing with bullying and lifting others up.”

“I want our kids to know that putting God first in everything, even in basketball and team sports, can lead them to success.”

The camp was held each Tuesday in June and every Thursday in July, concluding with a special visit last week. Members of the Warren County High School boys basketball team came by to work with over 50 campers on hand the final day.

An autograph session was held beforehand, where kids were able to get signatures from the current Pioneers. Afterward, players were broken into groups to work on individual skills and compete in challenges.

Continued on 3B



Kinsley Simpson gets a boost from Pioneer player Austin Hodges to slam home a dunk during Thursday’s Shoot for Heaven basketball camp at Westwood Church.

Jeffery Simmons photo




PINNACLE ORTHOPAEDICS

3085 SPARTA STREET, MCMINNVILLE, TN 37110, 931-815-BONE

DR. JEFFREY S. PETERSON
HAILEY TAYLOR, FNP-C
TYLER GILLEY, PA-C

PINNACLEORTHOPAEDIC.COM