



Photo provided
Dylan Ward pitched a gem Thursday to help Post 173 beat Columbia 4-2. He followed with the game-winning RBI in Friday's 8-7 victory over Tullahoma.

Ward stars for Post 173 in state tourney

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

After two nights, Dylan Ward has put himself in the driver's seat for the MVP award in the 17U Tennessee Legion State tournament in Gallatin.

Ward pitched a complete game in Post 173's 4-2 victory over Columbia Post 19 Thursday, then had the game-winning RBI in an 8-7 win over Tullahoma Post 43 Friday.

"It really came down to Dylan pitching well," said coach Trice Powers following Thursday's big win over Columbia. "He potentially had a shutout if we help him out a little more."

Ward was the one lending the help to the pitching Friday when his sacrifice fly made the difference in a matchup with Tullahoma.

Omari Harris got the ball rolling in the bottom of the seventh when he reached after being hit by a pitch. Harris went from first to third on a wild pitch during Braden Bottoms' at-bat, which ultimately ended in a walk.

Ward came to the plate with a base open, but Tullahoma decided to pitch to Post 173's sixth hitter. All Ward needed was something in the grass, which he accomplished when he lifted a fly ball into deep-left field.

The catch was made, but the throw wasn't going to get Harris as Post 173 moved into the winner's bracket finals against Gallatin Post 17.

Heath Kuykendall and Ty Martin held the fort in the final three innings on the mound, holding Tullahoma scoreless after Post 43 had built a 7-5

lead. Kuykendall earned the win in relief.

Thursday wasn't a banner day for the Post 173 offense, but the team scrapped away at the plate to give Ward enough run support to top a talented Columbia group.

"We went station-to-station and executed in situations to get the job done," said Powers. "It was bunting and getting a big hit or guys hitting well-placed groundballs with runners in scoring position. It was a good team effort."

The matchup against Gallatin was slated for Saturday afternoon. Results were unavailable at press time. Check Wednesday's *Standard* for more details.

In 15U play, Post 173 fell 4-0 in a first-round matchup with Tullahoma Post 43 Friday night.

SPORTS BRIEFS

MCMINNVILLE FALL LEAGUE REGISTRATION

Registration is underway for fall baseball and softball at McMinnville Civic Center.

Boys and girls ages 5-14 are eligible to play. T-ball leagues will be available for boys and girls ages 5-6. Boys leagues will be grouped in the following age groups: 6-8, 9-11 and 12-14. Girls leagues are available for ages 7-9, 10-12 and 13-14.

The cost for T-ball is \$40. All other leagues are \$50 per player.

Contact Terry Beard at 473-1212 for more information.



Atlantis Dodson delivers a pitch for Farm Bureau in the Morrison youth league.



Jeffery Simmons photos
Jace Blake hustles down the line for Elizabeth Smith Photography Friday night in Morrison.

Morrison —

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Robledo and Jones took turns in the early innings showing off their defensive chops from their pitcher position. Jones turned an unassisted double play in the second inning, stopping a scoring threat for McMinnville Funeral Home. Robledo matched the feat by recording five putouts, the last on a hard liner he snared to end the fifth.

In other youth 10-12 league tournament games, Morrison Hardware rode a big first inning to a 9-0 victory over Farm Bureau and Morrison Marathon flexed its muscles while topping Prater's BBQ 14-2.

Smith Photography was also a big winner Friday, finally getting over the hump in the youth coach-pitch league. Smith Photography toppled CT Repair 8-7 in the league tournament, surviving a nail biter when Samuel Smith corralled a pop fly in the bottom of the fifth when CT Repair had the tying run on third.

Smith Photography followed with a 7-0 win over McBride Window Cleaning.

Kendal Reed was also a defensive star at Morrison Friday, with her final-inning double play helping Great Lakes Cheese secure possession of third place in the co-ed junior league in an 8-7 win over Tim's Motors.

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