



Photos provided

Four members of Post 173 traveled over the weekend to play for the Tennessee All-Stars in a showcase tournament in Huntsville. Those players were, from left, Ryland Holder, Brandon Hennessee, Dylan Ward and Hunter Adams.

Representing the state

Four local baseball players got the all-star experience last weekend in Alabama.

Brandon Hennessee, Hunter Adams, Ryland Holder and Dylan Ward represented Post 173 on an all-star team in a showcase tournament held in Huntsville. The quartet of players, who each made the Pioneer roster announced Wednesday, were led by Warren County head coach Trice Powers.

"It was unfortunate we couldn't come up with the win, but the guys got some great experience playing with some area guys and good exposure to talented opponents," said Powers.

The Tennessee All-Stars, featuring members all across the Midstate, were defeated 4-3 in the tournament finals by Huntsville Post 237.

Hennessee took an unfortunate loss in the title game, one his coach believed was

more due to a lack of offensive firepower in the championship.

"Brandon came in and really settled us down. He got us out of a bases-loaded jam in the sixth," said Powers. "They started the seventh with a stand-up triple off the wall and got a sac fly. It was a close play at the plate."

Hennessee finished the tournament hitting .363 with two RBIs while also adding innings in relief. Adams played his usual solid defense at shortstop and was blistering at the plate, posting a .470 average over the weekend with two RBIs. Holder hit .500, while Ward turned in a .333 average.

Ward also started one game for the All-Stars, taking a hard loss while going five innings. An unfortunate injury ended up tagging the local with the defeat.

"We were up in the fifth

inning and two hits and an error tied the game," said Powers. "We had a double-play ball hit that would've ended the inning, but our second baseman blew out his ACL while trying to scramble to the base. Our third baseman had already thrown the ball and it went into right field and they scored."

The All-Stars advanced into the finals with an 18-3 victory over Gallatin in the semifinals.

The highlight of the trip was getting to meet many veterans on hand to toss out the first pitch, including Sherwin Callender, who was part of the D-Day Normandy Invasion.

"It was special for the guys to meet the veterans. The team got a picture with several veterans, one who had served under General Patton and was in the Battle of the Bulge," said Powers.



Jeffery Simmons photo

Will Cantrell is one of six returning seniors who will be part of coach Trice Powers' 35-man roster next spring.

Powers selects squad

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

Trice Powers had a successful debut as Warren County High School baseball coach. Now everybody is waiting to see what he'll do for an encore.

Coming off a 19-win season and a run to the region tournament, coach Powers made his picks Wednesday for his second squad. The 35-player roster is one which can improve on last year's success.

"We could be better than we were last year. It will all depend on how we develop and get better," said

Powers. "We only have 10 upperclassmen. We'll be counting on them to pick up the slack as we find some depth. It's going to be up to the sophomore class to step up, and if freshmen can play, we'll play them."

Powers may be thin on quantity in his upperclassmen, but there's no shortage of quality. Seniors Hunter Adams, Ethan Smith, Brooks Helton and Brandon Hennessee are all returning after all-district campaigns. Will Cantrell, and Dylan Ward are also back for their senior years and have starting experience.

The six seniors have been busy this summer winning prestigious tournaments. Smith, Helton, Cantrell and junior Jack Keele (a returning all-district junior) were part of an Upperclass World Series Championship in Florida with Blueprint Baseball. Ward, Adams and Hennessee helped guide Post 173 to an American Legion state title.

Keele is joined by fellow juniors Trace Adcock, Joey Burgess and Heath Kuykendall. Keele could be in the mix as an opening-day starter for the Pioneers next spring after posting a 5-1 record as a sophomore.

The sophomore class features last year's starter at catcher Braden Bottoms, along with Bryan Bynum, Omari Harris, John Garrett, Alec Hobbs, Kason Holder, Ryland Holder, Ty Martin, Ben Rivers, Westin Wilson and Wyatt Wilson.

Coming up from the WCMS team are True Craven, Ashton Forth, Curtlan George, Raleigh Gilliam, Chance Hunter, Kyle Johnson, Eli Kuykendall, Briley Moore, Layne Roberts and Will Vance.

Powers won't be rushing to judge the youngest Pioneers.

"We have a big group of freshmen. We may not see what they have for a couple of years," said Powers. "What they are now and what they'll become will be different as they get bigger and stronger."

Bryson Elrod, Brady Melton, Jared Scruggs and Alyx Smith also made the cut, coming in as wildcards after being unaffiliated with the baseball programs last spring.

"We had a couple surprises that came out, which was one the bright spots to me," said Powers. "It speaks to those kids wanting to play and getting better. They came out and had a good showing."

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