

# Just wingin' it

## Sanchez wins wing competition

BY **JEFFERY SIMMONS**  
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(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Emilio Sanchez didn't know how many wings he could eat, but he knew he'd give it his all for five minutes. His all was just enough.

Sanchez won the wing eating competition held Sunday at Mud Bums Sports Grill, downing a field of contestants by consuming 30 ounces of chicken

wings in just five minutes. "I've never done this before," said Sanchez, the 18-year-old who was crowned champion in front of a packed crowd. "It's something new and exciting."

Ronald Black was just behind with 29 ounces, while Ryan Tackett finished third at 28 ounces.

Mud Bums manager Brett Simmons decided to hold the event on national chicken wing day. Over 40

pounds of wings were prepared for the field of competitors, who all had their ways of preparing for the competition.

"I just had a couple biscuits for breakfast, that's all," said Tackett before the event.

Black believed he may have been held back by a bigger lunch – a steak and baked potato just hours before competition.

Just before the 4 p.m. start felt like a prize fight. With the "Eye of the Tiger," playing in the background, water and spit buckets were brought out as competitors took their positions.

As soon as Weird Al Yankovic's "Eat It" began to play, the field dove in on the wings. Sanchez immediately made an impression, alerting the event manager to his eating prowess.



Jeffery Simmons photo

**Emilio Sanchez downed nearly two pounds of wings in five minutes to claim the title Sunday in Mud Bums Sports Grill's wing-eating competition.**

"When it started and he began eating, I knew we were going to need more wings," said Simmons. "He was going to town."

Sanchez had his own cheering section on hand, with cheers of "Emilio! Emilio!" echoing through the lobby as the youngster

put down wing after wing. After five minutes, the field stopped and scales were brought out to survey the damage.

Sanchez barely beat out Black, earning a \$50 gift certificate for taking down nearly two pounds of wings. He was seen enjoy-

ing wings shortly after the event ended, and came back for more later that night.

Why continue to enjoy the same meal over and over? Sanchez's explanation was simple, "They're really good."

When it comes to eating wings, so is he.

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**CJ Taylor eludes tacklers during last week's scrimmage. Taylor figures to be an impact performer for the Pioneers out of the backfield this fall.**

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### Football

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"I thought we blocked well upfront. It got us inside the 20 four times. I think that's going to be the strength of our team," said Moore.

CJ Taylor got plenty of work in the backfield, as did Eric Haywood. They played alongside two rotating sophomore quarterbacks, Clay Thompson and Bryson Elrod.

The Pioneers had one scoring toss called back for being out of bounds. It was a microcosm of the passing game, which Moore believed had a chance to pop.

"We had some open touchdowns out there, but sometimes we didn't get the ball out, or didn't block it up," said Moore. "Our sophomores were both a little nervous, being their first live action. We did a lot of reps Monday to get the passing game in sync."

Improving each day is something Moore has stressed. The end goal is to be ready by kickoff in Smithville in two weeks.

"I think we'll see lots of improvement from week one to week two, which is usually when you see a big jump," said Moore. "If the guys put in the work – and I believe they will – I think we'll see the improvements."

"It's all about being ready to play well against DeKalb County."

The Pioneers will get their final chance at pre-season work this Friday in Tullahoma. Warren County opens its season Friday, Aug. 17 at DeKalb County.

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