

Sports

Southern Standard

McMINNVILLE, TENNESSEE

FRIDAY
AUGUST 17, 2018

B

THE ART OF RACING

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LARSON



DUI not good for NASCAR

Everyone was elated when Chase Elliott won the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race at Watkins Glen, but the elation was short lived when Brian France, the CEO of NASCAR, was arrested Sunday for driving under the influence and being in possession of a controlled substance. His field sobriety test was over two times the legal limit. After spending a night in jail, he was released the next morning.

NASCAR is having trouble drawing fans and keeping sponsors, so this incident with its leader will not help. France took over the controls of NASCAR in 2003 and his reign as CEO has been very rocky. Many fans blame France for the steady decline NASCAR has had over the last decade. Several key people in the sport, including former driver and current team owner Tony Stewart, have criticized France for his lack of interest in attending races. France was not at Watkins Glen. Instead he was in the Hamptons. Perhaps this incident would not have happened if he had been at the race.

A man in his position could have easily had a limo drive him to the airport, but France made the conscious decision to drive while impaired. France released a statement saying that he is taking an "immediate leave of absence" from the sport. His uncle Jim France, now 73, will take over Brian's role as chairman and CEO of NASCAR on an interim basis.

As for last Sunday's race at the Chicagoland Speedway, it was business as usual for the "big three." Kevin Harvick was dominant, leading over half the 200-lap race and winning both stages and the race. This was Harvick's seventh win this year and the third time he has won all stages and the race. Harvick tied Bill Elliott for 17th on the all-time Cup Series wins with 44 career triumphs.

Kyle Busch, one of the "big three," had a great car and finished third.

Martin Truex Jr., the third member of the "big three," had a car that could keep up with Harvick and Busch, but gambled on fuel and ran out at the end of Stage 2. Having to pit while the pit road was closed, he sustained a penalty, losing a lap. He rebounded to finish 14th.

Harvick took the lead in playoff points with 40, followed by Busch (35) and Truex (27). With three regular season races left, Alex Bowman has a 62-point lead over Ricky Stenhouse for the final playoff spot. Two of the three remaining regular season races are in Bristol (Saturday night) and Darlington (Sept. 2) where anything can happen. Maybe we could see another unique winner that would spell trouble for Bowman.

Back under the lights

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

The Pioneers and Tigers are set to tangle once again.

The 14th clash in the border battle between Warren County and DeKalb County is set for Friday night in Smithville. Both teams are coming off 3-7 regular seasons and are hoping to get off to a successful start in 2018.

"It's a fun game. Everybody is excited to play in this game," said fourth-year Pioneer coach Tom Moore. "It's important in the game, and for the season, to get off to a good start. You never want to get off to a bad start."

Steve Trapp, who began his coaching career in DeKalb County when the programs first met in 2005, agrees on the importance of the first game.

"It means a lot to our program to start off the year right," Trapp told the *Smithville Review*. "A win to kick off the season helps the mindset of a young team like we are."

Youth will be on display on both sidelines. It will be a new era for both squads, with the matchup featuring the first starts of two sophomore quarterbacks.

Moore announced last week Clay Thompson will get the nod at quarterback after battling with fellow sophomore Bryson Elrod since the spring. Thompson took most of the team's snaps two weeks ago in a scrimmage against Tullahoma and has steadily increased his workload in preparation for the Tigers.

On the other side, the Tigers will roll with sophomore Axel Aldino. The young DeKalb County QB has shown the ability to make plays through the air and on the ground in preseason scrimmages, a staple of past Tiger signal callers in the rivalry.

DeKalb County will also get to rely on the running of bruising tailback David Bradford. Bradford could see the bulk of the team's carries, though speedster

Josh Berry – a relative newcomer to the gridiron after running track – could be in line for touches.

Corraling a big back like Bradford between the tackles or chasing Berry and Aldino around will be a challenge for the Pioneer defense, which could start as many as eight sopho-

mores. Warren County has spent the last two weeks trying to shore up its defense, one gashed by Tullahoma amid tackling issues.

Moore expects to see improvement from his team when the ball goes into the air in Smithville.

"We improved in phases

from our first scrimmage to our second. We've cleaned up some things since the second scrimmage too," said Moore. "We want to keep it simple. We want to try to play fast and not make it complicated."

The Pioneers have their own weapons offensively

the game evolves into a shootout.

Senior Eric Haywood has emerged in the backfield during the offseason. Haywood was a receiver when the teams met last fall, catching two passes for 54 yards in a 26-10 win.

Continued on 2B



PIONEER SPOTLIGHT



Jeffery Simmons photo
Senior Eric Haywood will get all the carries he can handle against the Tigers. Haywood has the speed to make big plays out the backfield for the Pioneers. He'll also be counted on to patrol the back line of the Warren County defense.

GAMES OF INTEREST

Cookeville at Upperman, 7 p.m.
Blackman at Hendersonville, 7 p.m.
Maryville at Knoxville Catholic, 7 p.m.
Franklin County at Coffee County, 7 p.m.
East Hickman at Grundy County, 7:30 p.m.
White County at Livingston Academy, 7 p.m.
Red Boiling Springs at Cannon County, 7 p.m.

DEKALB COUNTY TIGERS

CLASS: 4A REGION: 3

SERIES HISTORY

PIONEERS LEADS 7-6

FIRST MEETING:
Warren County won 50-6 (2005)

LAST MEETING:
Warren County won 26-10 (2017)

WHO TO WATCH

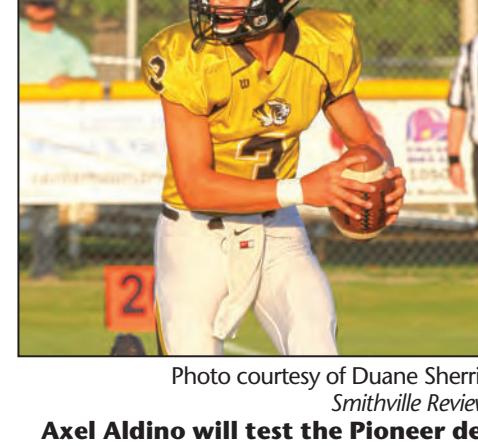


Photo courtesy of Duane Sherrill
Smithville Review

Axel Aldino will test the Pioneer defense with his feet and his arm. The dual-threat sophomore has taken the reins of the Tiger attack, which has taken to the air in previous years to test Warren County.

CURRENT STANDINGS

CLASS 6A, REGION 3

REGION	TOTAL
T1. Blackman	0-0
T1. Coffee Co.	0-0
T1. Cookeville	0-0
T1. Oakland	0-0
T1. Riverdale	0-0
T1. Siegel	0-0
T1. WARREN CO.	0-0



Jeffery Simmons photo
Freshman defender Natalie Stepien goes for the ball against an Ooltewah attacker during Tuesday's matchup. The Lady Pioneers fell in their opener 2-0.

Ooltewah tops Lady Pioneers

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

When the ball was rolled out Tuesday night, Todd Willmore didn't have all the answers about his Lady Pioneer team.

After a 2-0 loss in the opener against Ooltewah, the longtime head coach knows at least one thing about his squad – it won't give up.

"We will get better," said Willmore. "This is a good group of girls and I believe they are very resilient and will bounce back positively."

With a roster featuring more freshmen (three) starting than seniors (two), it was uncertain how the Lady Pioneers would respond to a tough opening test against the

Lady Owls. Warren County had trouble dealing with the surge of attacks from Ooltewah early, but Willmore saw the tide turn late as his team pushed to get on the board.

"I felt the girls did a nice job with possession throughout the match and fighting until the end," said Willmore. "The last 10-15 minutes, we kept the pressure on and controlled the action."

Warren County had its chances, including taking six corner kicks against the Lady Owls. The Lady Pioneers just missed taking an early lead, when freshman Katie Toney peppered the goal with a hot shot. Ooltewah keeper Nia Brown was able to get in front for the save.

Continued on 2B

McMinnville Parks and Recreation presents Multi-County ROOK TOURNAMENT

August 25 @ 9am • McMinnville Civic Center

Jr. Rook Rules (200 pt. hand) • Pre-register at Civic Center Now or on Game Day (space is limited)

\$10 per team • For more information contact Kyle:

kclyde@mcminnvilletn.gov • 500 Garfield Street • McMinnville, TN • 931-473-1212

POTLUCK LUNCH (optional)

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