

Sports

Southern Standard

McMINNVILLE, TENNESSEE

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B

THE ART OF RACING

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Making moves in Bristol

For most of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series season, Kevin Harvick, Kyle Busch and Martin Truex Jr. (the big three) have dominated the races. It took a Saturday night in Bristol to end all that.

All three had cars good enough to win, but wild, aggressive driving ended any hope of victory. Harvick may have had the fastest car again but a near brush with the wall caused a tire to go down and he had to make a green-flag pit stop, losing two laps in the process. He eventually recovered enough to finish 10th.

The "big three" have won the majority of the 23 races and had very little contact with each other in doing so. Last Saturday night, Kyle Busch and Truex played bumper cars with each other, resulting in a 20th-place finish for Busch and 30th for Truex. Busch's problems started on lap two when he got loose and spun. His car blocked the entire field and resulted in 15 cars of the 40-car field sustaining damage, most of it to Busch's car.

Going down two laps for repairs, Busch was still one of the fastest cars on the track. Gaining a lap back on a waive-around and the other on a free pass, another mistake was his downfall. Busch made contact with Truex that put Truex out of the race.

Both drivers are in Toyotas and the teams have supported each other over the past few years. Truex was visibly upset with the incident but stated it was just Bristol. Busch took the blame for the incident stating, "That was just a misjudgment on my behalf. I crashed the [No.] 78."

Kyle Busch's problems continued after the race while he was signing autographs for fans. One fan confronted Busch verbally and physically while he was signing. As Busch then prepared to leave in his golf cart, the individual struck Busch across the chest, and at that time, Busch confronted the individual. The two were separated quickly and a uniformed officer pulled the individual to the side, allowing Busch to depart.

While the "big three" were having their problems, the elder Busch, Kurt was taking advantage of the situation. Kurt won the Bass Pro Shops/NRA race to secure a guaranteed spot in the playoffs. Kurt Busch took the lead for the first time with 24 laps to go and held off Kyle Larson for the victory, his first at Bristol since 2006, before the track surface was changed. "It just matters to win—it's all about winning," Kurt Busch said. "I'm glad we did. We've been the most consistent team this year that hasn't won."

Lady Pioneers run past Riverdale



Katie Toney led the way for the Lady Pioneers as she scored twice to help defeat Riverdale, 5-3.

Jeffery Simmons photo

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

Katie Toney plays soccer like the Energizer Bunny. She keeps going and going and going.

Toney was a thorn in the side of Riverdale Tuesday, scoring twice in the second half to help the Lady Pioneers down the visiting Lady Warriors 5-3.

"It was a good win. I think we played really well, especially the second half. We were more aggressive," said coach Todd Willmore. "It's exciting as a coach to see a number of specific things we worked on in the last few weeks out on the field. We weren't always successful, but that the girls are doing it is an encouraging sign."

"They're soaking it all in right now and it should pay dividends down the line."

The strategy seemed to be get the ball to Toney and get out of the way.

Coming out of halftime tied 2-2, the Lady Pioneers didn't waste long seizing control. MaKenna Mason found Toney with a pass through the middle and the freshman outraced two Lady Warriors for the ball.

Toney's shot went low and left of the keeper, tuck-

ing into the corner to give Warren County a 3-2 lead just three minutes into the second half.

Rachel Stewart was able to preserve the lead with a pair of saves in the 48th minute, including knocking away a point-blank shot off a corner kick. Warren County gained control, leading to Mason and Toney hooking up again.

Mason made a big run down the left side, working her way around the defense and tight-rope the end line. Mason was able to fend off defenders long enough to drop a centering pass to Toney, who knocked it in from a few feet in front of the net to make it 4-2.

Natalie Stepien showed off her big leg midway through the second half to turn the game into a rout. The freshman defender worked her way up field on the corner kick and was in the right place when Riverdale attempted to clear the ball.

Stepien stepped up from 40 yards out and boomed a shot, sailing it flying toward the Riverdale net. The ball squeezed under the crossbar and over the keeper's hand to put the Lady Pioneers ahead 5-2.

Continued on 2B



Pioneers ready for Warriors

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

Another rivalry game awaits the Pioneers Friday.

Warren County will travel to face the White County Warriors for the 40th meeting between the two programs. The Pioneers are hoping this one turns out like the last one.

Warren County (0-1) won last year's meeting at Nunley Stadium 55-14, improving its series lead to 22-17 in games that date back to 1969. Isaiah Grayson dominated last year's game, but the standout quarterback won't be in a Pioneer uniform this time around.

Finding ways to score is something that has been on the forefront of Pioneer coach Tom Moore's mind.

"We can't get behind on the sticks. We haven't demonstrated yet that we have a lot of 15-yard plays in the playbook," said Moore, who will assume play-calling duties this week. "We did break some runs last week."

"I think our kicking is getting better. When we get close, it's something we can do so we're not always having to score a touchdown."

Tony Curtis went 2-for-2 on PATs last week after showing an ability to kick late in fall camp.

The Pioneers piled up yards last week against DeKalb County, almost all of them coming on the ground. Senior Eric Haywood rushed for 156 yards—over half coming on an 85-yard touchdown—and sophomore CJ Taylor was right behind at 150 yards.

Continued on 2B

WARREN COUNTY
PIONEERS
CLASS: 6A REGION: 3

@

WHITE COUNTY
WARRIORS
CLASS: 5A REGION: 5

PIONEER SPOTLIGHT



Jeffery Simmons photo

The Pioneer offensive line, including center Noah Martin, will need another big night Friday in Sparta. Warren County was able to open up running lanes last week in DeKalb County, finishing with 320 yards rushing. Other starters are Kaden Jordan, Devin Jordan, Austin Jakes and Dillon Haley.

AREA TEAMS IN ACTION

(Using state AP rankings)

Coffee County at Tullahoma, 7 p.m.
Grundy County at Ezell-Harding, 7 p.m.
No. 4 Blackman at Florence (AL), 7 p.m.
Livingston Academy at Cookeville, 7 p.m.
Cannon County at Jackson County, 7 p.m.
No. 1 Oakland at No. 2 Maryville, 6:30 p.m.
No. 10 Upperman at DeKalb County, 7 p.m.

SERIES HISTORY

PIONEERS LEADS 22-17

FIRST MEETING:

Warren County won 33-0 (1969)

LAST MEETING:

Warren County won 55-14 (2017)

WHO TO WATCH

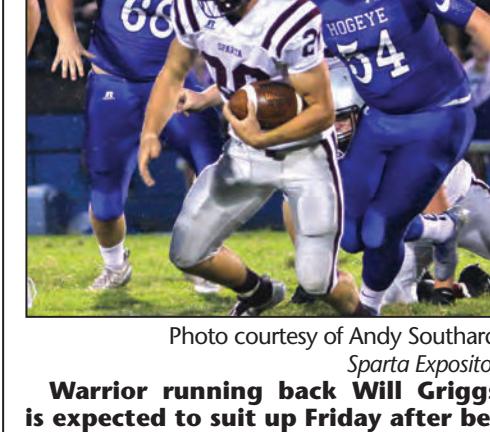


Photo courtesy of Andy Southard

Sparta Expositor

Warrior running back Will Griggs is expected to suit up Friday after being hobbled in a 35-0 loss to Livingston Academy last week. Griggs is a returning all-region performer for White County.

CURRENT STANDINGS

CLASS 6A, REGION 3

REGION TOTAL

T1. Blackman	0-0	1-0
T1. Oakland	0-0	1-0
T3. Coffee Co.	0-0	0-1
T3. Cookeville	0-0	0-1
T3. Riverdale	0-0	0-1
T3. Siegel	0-0	0-1
T3. WARREN CO.	0-0	0-1

**MOVIES
IN THE
PARK**

**SHERLOCK
GNOMES**

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August 25th at Dusk

THE LOT DOWNTOWN

Admission
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Parks and Recreation
McMinnville
Warren County-Tennessee See You Soon!

2017