

# WCMS cross country strong in home meet

Marissa Walker has etched her name in the record books at Warren County Middle School.

Walker broke the school record Wednesday while competing in a home cross country meet, finishing the 2.1-mile course in 16 minutes, 16 seconds.

It was part of a banner day for the local team, which saw the boys team win the meet and the girls place second.

"I'm so proud of them," said WCMS cross country coach Patty Kelly. "The meet was fantastic and Marissa was able to break a record which was set by one of the runners on our first team three years ago."

Walker's school-record run was good for second in a field of 19 runners. Olivia Lynch from Franklin North was the top finisher, completing the local course 11 seconds faster than the Lady Pioneer speedster.

Lynch's win helped Franklin North take home the victory in the event, which also featured Franklin South.

Other finishers for the Lady Pioneers included Kieven Franco (18:00, sixth), Shelbe Gross (18:43, 13th), Avery

McGiboney (21:27, 16th) and Gracie Orrick (21:32, 17th).

Brayan Holguin led the way for the boys team, which had six finishers in the top 10. Holguin and Franklin North's Braden Collins stayed neck-in-neck at the front of the pack, with Collins breaking away in the final few meters to win by eight seconds. Collins finished at 13:57, followed by Holguin at 14:05.

Jorge Vazquez led in a pack of Pioneers shortly after. Vazquez finished fifth at 14:26 and was followed in order by teammates Brody Womack (14:32), Andrew Key (14:47), Julian Martinez (14:57) and Lincoln Sain (15:02).

With the top-five finishers qualifying for the team score, the Pioneers easily outpaced Franklin North and Franklin South for the win.

Other Pioneer finishers included Zack Perry (15:10, 11th), Adan Looper (15:31, 12th), JP Toney (15:53, 14th), Aiden Cano (16:07, 15th), Parker Smith (16:08, 16th), Austin Craft (16:15, 17th), Sabasien Smith (17:03, 21st), Copper McGinnis (17:23, 23rd), Keynai Bryan



Brayan Holguin finished second in Wednesday's race.

(17:29, 24th), Alex Smith (17:40, 28th), Matthew Key (19:20, 29th) and Chase Ferrell (19:48, 30th).

The WCMS teams will be back in action Tuesday for an event at Webb School. Cross County is also planning the first Pioneer Invitational, which will be held Wednesday, Sept. 19.



Marissa Walker completes her record-breaking run at Wednesday's home meet for the WCMS cross country team.

Photos provided

## COACH TOM MOORE'S PIONEER OF THE WEEK



Written by WCHS coach Tom Moore

### AUSTIN JAKES

Austin is a returning starter in the offensive line. A very good athlete, he played tackle all of last season and transitioned to offensive guard this year. Austin also plays linebacker and defensive end.

He really improved through last season as a football player. He has done a good job over the last year getting stronger in the weight room.

Austin is a player who has a personality with a lot of charisma. He always seems to have lots of friends around him. Our team needs boys like Austin to be leaders.

I think his senior season is kind of special for Austin because his younger brother, Tyler, has joined the team. Austin is interested in continuing to play football at the next level. He wears No. 57 on the field and we like to run behind him at right guard.



## WCHS football

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White County (0-2) answered when Leftwich hit Will Griggs over the top for a 35-yard touchdown, drawing to within one touchdown with 6:14 to play.

The Warriors tried an onside kick, but the ball didn't cross the 10-yard threshold and the Pioneers took over.

Warren County tried to bleed the rest of the clock and almost succeeded when QB Clay Thompson kept on an option and converted a 3rd-and-seven with a 12-yard run. The Pioneers forced White County to use all its timeouts, but the Warren County offense stalled with 3:30 to go and had to punt.

The Warriors started at their own 10 and made it to the 32, but Haywood wasn't going to let the home team get any further.

The safety reverted to his training during the week, reading the trips

set and springing into action on Leftwich's throw over the middle. Haywood rose high to snag the game-sealing interception.

"The coaches were stressing the third receiver all week in practice. I saw him on a streak and read it," said Haywood.

Haywood dominated the end, but it was CJ Taylor who put the Pioneers out front early.

The sophomore did a bit of everything in the first half, going for 152 total yards and scoring twice.

Taylor was the catalyst on the opening drive, carrying the ball five times for 52 yards to get the Pioneers into the red-zone. After a holding penalty backed Warren County into a 3rd-and-goal at the Warrior 15, Taylor took a swing pass and made magic.

Taylor broke two tackles at the 10, then made a diving attempt at the goalline while being wrapped up. Taylor's stretch was just enough

to give the Pioneers a 6-0 lead just six minutes into the game.

The sophomore was back in the endzone less than two minutes later.

After a White County three-and-out, Taylor dropped back to take the punt. He caught the ball in the middle of the field and immediately worked his way to the sideline. Taylor found open room and broke free, sprinting 68 yards to give his team a 13-0 lead.

Taylor's night ended late in the third quarter, when he was dragged down by the facemask and suffered an ankle injury. His status will be evaluated early this week.

White County cut the lead to 13-7 on an Allen Shoupe 19-yard TD run late in the first quarter. Shoupe finished with 140 yards rushing to make up the majority of the Warrior offense.

The Pioneers will be back on the road again Friday, traveling to play the Cookeville Cavaliers at 7 p.m.

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