

THE ART OF RACING

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Letting anybody into HoF

NASCAR has announced the NASCAR Hall of Fame five-member 2019 class. Jack Roush, Roger Penske, Davey Allison, Alan Kulwicki and Jeff Gordon will make up the next class.

Roush and Penske are still very active as NASCAR team owners, which questions their nominations into the Hall of Fame. Allison and Kulwicki both had their careers cut short by airplane or helicopter crashes. Gordon is the only nominee that truly deserves his entry into the Hall.

I still feel that inducting five members each year is too many and the pool of Hall-worthy individuals is rapidly being depleted. The Hall of Fame should be for the very special but at the rate NASCAR is going, just about everyone who participated in the sport will eventually get in.

The NASCAR Hall of Fame is located in the city of Charlotte. It honors drivers, crew chiefs and owners, broadcasters and other major contributors to competition. Opened in 2007, 50 members have already been installed. In order to be eligible for induction into the Hall of Fame, drivers must have been active in NASCAR for at least 10 years and retired for at least three.

Non-drivers must have been involved in the industry at least 10 years. They should have included the "retired" stipulation for these candidates also.

A 20-member nominating committee chooses nominees from those who are eligible. A voting committee includes the nominators, media, manufacturer reps, retired drivers, owners and crew chiefs, the reigning Cup Series champion, and one vote from a nationwide fan vote.

Kulwicki was unique in being both a car owner and driver. In the NASCAR Cup Series, Kulwicki ran in 207 races over nine years. He won only five races in that time span, but he was the NASCAR Cup Series Champion in 1992. At the age of 38, his career was cut short in 1993 in a plane crash near Blountville.

Davey Allison, son of Bobby and Judy Allison, became known as a member of the Alabama Gang. Upon graduating from high school, he raced in the ARCA Series, winning Rookie of the year in 1984. In 1985, Allison ran his first NASCAR Cup Series race, the Talladega 500. Winning 19 Cup Series races over nine years. His life was cut short by a helicopter crash at the age of 32.

Jeff Gordon raced in the NASCAR Cup Series over 25 years, winning 93 times.

He began competing full-time in the Cup Series in 1993. My wife and I witnessed his first Cup Series win at the Gatorade Twin 125's race in Daytona. He won the Rookie of the Year award that year.

Clashing with the Cavaliers

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

Friday's trip to Cookeville will give the Pioneers a chance to snap a long losing streak.

Warren County finishes its three-game road trip with a date with the Cavaliers, who have owned the Pioneers over the years. The Pioneers haven't beaten Cookeville since 2008.

Nine losses in a row isn't something the Pioneers are focused on though. A new year always brings about a new opportunity.

"We can't control the past," said Pioneer coach Tom Moore. "It's just the next game. Cookeville has a good team and we want to go and compete."

Warren County (1-1) comes in riding high off a 20-13 victory over White County last week. The Pioneers got a big night from senior Eric Haywood, who topped 100 yards on the ground for the second straight week and sealed the victory with a late interception.

Haywood and CJ Taylor have formed a lethal 1-2 punch in the Pioneer backfield. Each back has over 200 yards on the ground this season, though Taylor is a game-time decision Friday due to an ankle injury he suffered last week.

Taylor's potential absence isn't the only thing that could slow the Pioneers down in their first region game though. Cookeville has shown a knack for stonewalling Warren County.

The Pioneers went into last year's matchup at 2-0 and were coming off a 55-point outing against the Warriors – the team's highest scoring mark in five years. Cookeville ground the Pioneers to a halt, shutting out Warren County 42-0 while allowing just 164 yards – 14 coming on the ground.

"I looked at the tape and we couldn't run the ball at

all. It's two different teams though. We've been running the ball this year," said Moore. "I thought our defense played hard last year, but gave up a few big plays. They are well coached."

The Cavaliers are without several members of last year's 10-3 team that

made the 6A quarterfinal, but the cupboard isn't bare for coach Jimmy Maynard. Running back Jaedan McAllister leads the team with 148 yards rushing and scored three times in last week's win, while his backfield partner Jacob Stamps has 75 yards and a touchdown

this season.

Quarterback Blaine Espinosa is a dual threat, throwing for 206 yards and rushing for 47 more to help Cookeville start 1-1.

The Pioneers counter with Clay Thompson, who was much improved in his second start. A week after finishing 1-for-4 for zero

yards, Thompson connected on 4-for-7 for 53 yards and a score. His play-action passing, along with 41 rushing yards, helped keep White County defenders off balance.

Friday's kickoff is set for 7 p.m. The game will serve as homecoming for the Cavaliers.

WARREN COUNTY
PIONEERS
CLASS: 6A REGION: 3



COOKEVILLE
CAVALIERS
CLASS: 6A REGION: 3

PIONEER SPOTLIGHT



Jeffery Simmons photo

Sophomore Clay Thompson threw his first career touchdown pass last week and also added 41 yards rushing. Continued growth from the signal caller will be huge for the Pioneers as Cookeville will look to sell out to stop the Warren County rushing attack.

AREA TEAMS IN ACTION

(Using state AP rankings)

Riverdale at Siegel, 7 p.m.
White County at No. 8 Summit, 7 p.m.
Grundy County at York Institute, 7 p.m.
No. 4 Blackman at Coffee County, 7 p.m.
DeKalb County at Stone Memorial, 7 p.m.
Tullahoma at No. 5 Marshall County, 7 p.m.
Cannon County at Sequatchie County, 7 p.m.

SERIES HISTORY

CAVALIERS LEAD 35-13

FIRST MEETING:

Putnam County won 7-6 (1970)

LAST MEETING:

Cookeville won 42-0 (2017)

WHO TO WATCH



Photo courtesy of Scott Wilson
Herald Citizen

Jaedan McAllister carried the load for Cookeville in last week's 28-7 win over Livingston Academy. McAllister had 86 yards rushing and scored three times. The Cavaliers have won nine straight over the Pioneers.

CURRENT STANDINGS

CLASS 6A, REGION 3

	REGION	TOTAL
T1. Blackman	0-0	2-0
T1. Oakland	0-0	2-0
3. Cookeville	0-0	1-1
T4. Coffee Co.	0-0	0-2
T4. Riverdale	0-0	0-2
T4. Siegel	0-0	0-2
T4. WARREN CO.	0-0	0-2



Jeffery Simmons photo

Savannah Cox scored a goal in Tuesday's 4-2 victory over Huntland and was a big part of shutting down Sewanee in Wednesday's 4-1 win.

Double dipping Lady Pioneers win two

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

The Lady Pioneer soccer team may need to invest in Snickers. Coach Todd Willmore isn't easy to satisfy.

Willmore gave his own performance a bad review Tuesday, despite the Lady Pioneers turning in a 4-2 victory on the road against Huntland.

"I was a bit frustrated with the job I did coaching, but as they say, a win is a win," said Willmore. "I didn't do a very good job of keeping the girls motivated to continue to play with the type of energy we started the match."

Warren County didn't waste long jumping on its opponent. Freshman Katie Toney continued her blistering start to the season, scoring in the opening

minutes to give her five goals in as many games.

Relaxed with the lead, the Lady Pioneers allowed Huntland to get back in the game before halftime. The Lady Hornets looped a pass in behind the Warren County defense, finally capitalizing on a one-on-one shot that keeper Rachel Stewart challenged but couldn't corral.

Willmore got his team back to attacking when action resumed.

Toney fed Sam Ramsey for an early score before freshman Breezy Wanamaker made it 3-1 on a rush from the left side and beating the keeper on a crossing shot.

Savannah Cox put the game away with 20 minutes left. The junior decided to take aim for the goal on a free kick from 30 yards.

Continued on 2B



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