



Sarai Ruiz scored both of Warren County's goals in Tuesday's 4-2 loss at Rhea County.

Downed in district

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

The Lady Pioneers were tripped up by the turf monster Tuesday in Rhea County. Playing on the slick, fast surface against the Lady Eagles, Warren County fell 4-2 in the district matchup. "We never looked comfortable on their field," said coach Todd Willmore. "The ball was super slick and we struggled to keep the ball consistently at our feet. The bounce of the ball impacted us all night. "Their keeper had a great punt and when it

hit the surface, it would bounce 20 feet in the air. We were watching the ball's flight and they were running to where they knew it was going to land." Warren County (5-5-1) found itself in a trailing position in the first minute. The Lady Eagles secured a corner kick in the first 45 seconds, which turned into a header and an early lead for the home team. "I believe they finished with 11 corner kicks to our two and two of their scores resulted from corners," said Willmore. The Lady Pioneers kept pace throughout the match, using two Sarai

Ruiz goals to be in striking distance in the final minutes. Ruiz was in the right place at the right time twice, getting rebounds out at the top of the box and banging two goals – one a bender to the corner and a second laced to the bottom corner. Rhea County was able

to put the game away with a lead-padding fourth goal in the final minutes, leaving Warren County with no time to mount a comeback. The Lady Pioneers played Thursday at home against LaVergne. More information can be found in Sunday's *Southern Standard*.

WCHS football

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Special teams is one place where Warren County will have to improve. Punting and kick returns put the Pioneers in a hole in last week's 41-13 loss to Shelbyville. The focus this week has been improving the third phase, which could be the difference. In its lone win, Warren County returned a punt for a touchdown. Coffee County has already given up a 70-yard, punt-return touchdown this season. "We have to win special teams. We had a poor showing last week," said Moore. "I'd be disappointed if we don't win the kicking game. And not by a little, but by a lot."

Health was also a big concern leaving last week's loss. Running back CJ Taylor is still bothered by an ankle injury he originally suffered against White County. Taylor looked fresh in the first half against Shelbyville, scoring twice, but a tweak in the second half slowed the sophomore down. Quarterback Clay

Thompson also had to leave last week's game after taking a hit to his throwing shoulder. He has practiced all week though and will make his fifth start Friday. "I'm proud of Clay. He's starting to complete some passes to help us move the chains," said Moore. "He's making good decisions."

Coffee County has been led offensively by running back Andrew Mahaffey, who had a 100-yard game in the team's season opener against Franklin County. He's been bottled up in losses to Tullahoma and Blackman, finishing with just 49 yards on 27 carries. The running game will be important for both teams. Warren County is hopeful Taylor, who has scored five of his team's seven touchdowns, and senior Eric Haywood can both gain traction against the Red Raider defense. Coffee County has surrendered over 500 yards rushing in three games, while Taylor and Haywood have combined for 763 yards through four games. Friday's kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

PIGSKIN PANEL

Helton knows fair and football

Cotton candy, Ferris wheels and horse shows overshadow football for a week in Warren County. The fair has taken over the area, with people more curious about showing livestock than watching the pigskin fly. Steven Helton knows how the fair causes fanatics, as he serves on the fair board. Helton took a quick break from funnel cakes to make his picks. Last year's champ Seth Wright is slowing trying to climb out of the basement, finishing last week at a panel-best 7-3. Wright's corn-

STANDINGS

JEFFERY SIMMONS	27-13
DALE STUBBLEFIELD	25-15
PAT ZECHMAN	24-16
JAMES CLARK	23-17
GUEST PICKER	23-17
SETH WRIGHT	22-18

This Week's Games	SIMMONS	STUBBLEFIELD	ZECHMAN	CLARK	HELTON	WRIGHT
DeKalb County at Grundy Co.	Grundy County	DeKalb County	DeKalb County	Grundy County	DeKalb County	Grundy County
Lincoln County at Shelbyville	Shelbyville	Lincoln County	Shelbyville	Shelbyville	Shelbyville	Shelbyville
Brentwood at Ravenwood	Ravenwood	Brentwood	Brentwood	Ravenwood	Brentwood	Ravenwood
LSU at Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn
Boise State at Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Boise State	Boise State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Boise State
Ohio State at TCU	Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State	TCU	Ohio State	Ohio State
Patriots at Jaguars	Jaguars	Patriots	Jaguars	Patriots	Patriots	Jaguars
Texans at Titans	Texans	Titans	Titans	Texans	Titans	Texans
Chiefs at Steelers	Chiefs	Chiefs	Chiefs	Chiefs	Steelers	Steelers
Vikings at Packers	Vikings	Packers	Vikings	Vikings	Packers	Vikings

Memorable night



Photo courtesy of Painted Barn Media

The Warren County Middle School soccer team celebrated eighth-grade night Monday with a 5-1 win over Coffee County. Bekah Jackson was one of the scorers in the game, which improved the Lady Pioneers to 5-1. Links to eighth-grade night photos can be found on the Painted Barn Media Facebook page.

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