

# Fresh faces help Lady Pioneers



Jeffery Simmons photo  
**Mea Starkey, pictured in a previous game, stepped up in a big way during the Southern Slam Saturday. Starkey was second on the team in kills and third in aces as Warren County went 2-3.**

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

Tired legs and banged-up bodies made coach Katie Rogers wonder if a grueling five-game Saturday slate was what her Lady Pioneers needed. Turns out the Southern Slam was the perfect medicine for the Warren County High School volleyball team.

Warren County won two of its five matches, but the big positive was the contributions of many young players. Coach Rogers believes she may have found some viable options for the final run.

"After the injuries we suffered Thursday, I debated pulling out of the Slam just to ensure no more injuries occurred," said Rogers. "I'm so glad I decided against that because I saw some of our JV players really step up and do some amazing things on the court."

The Lady Pioneers were without a pair of rotation stalwarts who sustained injuries last week at Soddy Daisy. Samantha Jennings sat while nursing an ankle injury, while Megan Davis watched after a collision left

her with bruised ribs.

In their stead, senior Marah Wanamaker moved to the middle while Mea Starkey and Taylor Pegg worked on the outside. All three were solid in their new roles.

"I was impressed with Marah's ability to adjust her swing to get some kills and well-placed shots," said Rogers. "Mea and Taylor were both so comfortable. It was awesome to see them fit into the varsity rotation despite never practicing in our rotations."

Wanamaker and Starkey finished tops on the team in kills, finishing with 23 and 21, respectively. Beth Vaughn added 18.

Warren County's wins came against Franklin County and Tullahoma, which bookended defeats - a three-set loss to Community and being swept by Eagleville and Lincoln County.

Hailey Wood was a rock in the lineup, finishing with 58 assists, 46 digs and two blocks. Freshman Madison Hollis finished with 48 digs and five aces, while sophomore Sadie Simmons led the team with six aces. Danika Reno added three blocks.



Photo courtesy of Painted Barn Media  
**Mia Hobbs tries to place a shot over the Tullahoma defense while Caitlyn Adams provides backup for the Lady Pioneers. The Warren County Middle School team improved to 10-2 with a sweep over the visiting Lady Wildcats.**

## WCMS VOLLEYBALL

**LADY PIONEERS BEAT TULLAHOMA**  
**25-11, 25-17**

**Warren County stats**

**ACES:** Mia Hobbs 10, Caitlyn Adams 4, Krista Chisam 3  
**KILLS:** Jessie Young 5, Brianna Winkler 5, Mia Hobbs 4

**ASSISTS:** Kennedi Pegg 8, Krista Chisam 6

**DIGS:** Caitlyn Adams 9, Jessie Young 8, Mia Hobbs 7, Brianna Winkler 6

**COACH KELLY CLAYBORNE** - "I am happy with the way the girls are

playing right now. We still have work to do when it comes to communication on the court. This group of girls is fun to watch. They have fun each and every night. I have never coached a team where it's truly a team win every time. Each player contributes in some fashion in our victories."

# Best in show



**Savannah Scott won a blue ribbon and trophy atop Diamonds Lucky Ace in the Amateur Country Pleasure class Saturday at the fair. Savannah said she wasn't going to compete this year, but changed her mind Saturday morning and got her horse ready to go in a couple hours. She's presented her trophy by Harper Patrick, front, and Charlotte Hutchins.**



**Playboy Redford 2 was the top dog, or in this case the top horse, in the Quarter Horse Western Pleasure class. Amy Mitchell, riding in memory of Tim Taylor, won the blue ribbon Saturday night at the Warren County A&L Fair.**



**McKenzie Hillis riding Jezabell captured first place in Youth Pleasure 12-17 at the fair Saturday night. McKenzie is presented her trophy and ribbon by Teen Fairest of the Fair Lauren Mansfield. In the other Youth Pleasure class for ages 11-and-under, Taylor Gann won first place riding Go Boy's Power Stroke.**

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