

## Youth Pioneers hit the field

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

Bobby Ray was buzzing Saturday as youth football made its home debut.

After weeks of playing on the road in Southern Middle Tennessee Youth Football Association action, the three youth Pioneer teams took their homefield.

It was successful debut for the division II Pioneers, who took down the Franklin County Rebels 13-6 on a long touchdown run in the final seconds. It was a tougher day for the other Pioneers, with the pee wee Pioneers falling 41-0 and the senior division Pioneers dropping a closely contested 25-23 decision.

The division II Pioneers were in danger of falling behind in the final minute, but the defense came up with a big fourth-down stop with :45 left. The offense took over at its own 25 with one timeout and tied 6-6.

Peyton Rhea dropped into shotgun, but his intent was never to pass. Rhea corralled a high snap and worked to the left, getting an escort of blockers paving the way. Rhea broke free down the home sideline, sprinting 75 yards as the clock dwindled down to 10 seconds for the game-winning score.

Dylan Aguilar added a score on the extra-point try, padding the team's scoring in its first victory this season.

Braylor Jones started the scoring for the Pioneers, rushing for a 40-yard touchdown in the first half.

The senior Pioneers had a chance for their own win over Franklin County, but fell short in the fourth quarter. Blake McBride, Kiandre Jackson and Lucas Bouldin each had rushing touchdowns in the loss.

The Pioneers scored on their opening drive, going 70 yards in a matter of seconds.



**Isaiah Robledo looks in a pass during the senior Pioneer game Saturday.**

Caden Martin sprinted 30 yards on the drive, while Jaxon Grissom got the team to the doorstep by hooking up on a 38-yard pass to Isaiah Robledo.

McBride punched in the score from the Rebel 2, followed by Grissom converting a two-point conversion with a pass over the middle to Jordan Kloosterman.

The Rebels swung the game on the first play of the second quarter, intercepting a pass in the endzone and returning it 100 yards for a score.

The Warren County squads will travel to Giles County this Saturday, with games starting at 2 p.m. Warren County is set to play at home on Saturday, Sept. 29 and Saturday, Oct. 6.



Jeffery Simmons photo

**Peyton Rhea dashes for a 75-yard touchdown in the last seconds of Saturday's Division II game. The Pioneers won 13-6, their first win this season.**



**Joan Ramirez brings down a Franklin County runner during the pee wee game Saturday. Franklin County won 41-0, remaining undefeated.**



**Titans safety Dane Cruikshank celebrates on his way to the endzone after stepping through a diving tackle from Tyler Ervin, left, and then outrunning Natrell Jamerson.**

James Clark photo

## Titans prep for Jaguars

BY **JAMES CLARK**  
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The Titans picked an odd way to win their first game Sunday against the Texans.

They started a lineman not even listed in the gameday program and gave him the assignment of blocking J.J. Watt, a former defensive player of the year.

Then they used one of their starting safeties to complete a 66-yard TD to one of their backup safeties, the longest completion by a defensive player in the Super Bowl era, according to the NFL.

The result was a 20-17 win, the first as a head coach for Mike Vrabel.

The Titans (1-1) will need more of that magic, and perhaps a few more tricks, to defeat the surging Jaguars this Sunday in Jacksonville. The Jags (2-0) are coming off a decisive win against the Patriots after reaching the AFC Championship game last season.

The Titans are hoping to get healthier. Left tackle Taylor Lewan missed last Sunday's game due to a concussion. Right tackle Jack Conklin continues to recover from a knee injury suffered in last year's playoffs, while Dennis Kelly, the backup to both, missed Sunday's game due to a virus.

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