

## SIMMONS SAYS

JEFFERY  
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## Pioneers slowed by tired legs

Trailing 20-13 with the prospect of getting the ball to start the second half, one would expect the Pioneers to come bouncing out of the locker room. Instead, when Warren County returned to the field, the home sideline was filled with exhaustion.

That's how a tight contest turned into a 41-13 blowout.

With the welcome mat rolled out, Warren County played one of its best halves of the season. Homecoming packed the stands and the Pioneers gave the fans plenty to cheer.

Noah Martin's big sack and forced fumble ignited the packed crowd at Nunley Stadium. CJ Taylor's first of two touchdown runs put the Pioneers in the lead.

Even after Shelbyville's air attack got humming, the Pioneers still showed their will to win. Warren County rallied back with an 18-play march in the second quarter, again capped by the talented sophomore tailback.

Then the wheels fell off. Shelbyville struck late in the second quarter and never looked back, sending waves of bodies at the gasping Pioneers.

The Eagles on each of their first three drives in the second half, facing only three third-down situations out of their 22 plays. Shelbyville converted twice and the lone third-down stop turned into a 21-yard touchdown on a fourth-and-long.

Simply put, the Pioneers were too tired to put up much resistance.

The effort was there. It's just hard to sustain when 7-8 players are trying to play every snap on each side of the ball. Oftentimes the Pioneer coaching staff was searching the sidelines, hoping a fresh body would emerge to give a couple of snaps.

It's been like that all season. It doesn't look like it will change anytime soon either.

Warren County is in desperate need of a bye week, but it's not coming for another month. The 40-player (if you're generous) roster isn't equipped to trot out a fresh and feisty team for eight straight weeks.

It may not be able to roll out a squad for five.

This Friday's Coffee County game is one of the most circled on the calendars the day Alontae Taylor walked across the stage to get his diploma in Manchester. Without the guy who is starting on Saturdays in Knoxville now, the Red Raiders are much more of a favorable matchup for the Pioneers.

But does it matter if the Pioneers can't make it through the game with enough healthy bodies? I guess we'll find out Friday.

There are 40 kids and a coaching staff out there fighting every Friday, working hard to try to give Warren County some faith football can be successful in town. They just need help.

At risk of sounding like a broken record, skipping back over and over, the Pioneers need more bodies.

They've built the facilities. When will more players come?



Seth Meeks is swarmed by Shelbyville defenders during the final minutes of Friday's homecoming loss. The Pioneers ran out of steam in the second half as the Eagles scored 28 unanswered points in a 41-13 victory.

# Eagles spoil homecoming

BY JEFFERY SIMMONS  
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Homecoming packed the stands at Nunley Stadium Friday. By the end of the night, coach Tom Moore was probably wondering if any of the former lettermen still had eligibility left.

Warren County put up a fight for a half against Shelbyville, but the gassed Pioneers saw the Eagles scored 21 unanswered points in the second half to cruise to a 41-13 victory.

"We just ran out of the steam. I don't know what else to say," said Pioneer coach Tom Moore, who saw his team fall to 1-3. "We've got 6-7 guys going both ways and then have a few go down with injuries.

"We played our hearts out. They played as hard as they could. We made some mistakes, but we did some good things both offensively and defensively."

Warren County seized control in the opening quarter, getting a huge boost when Noah Martin blindsided Shelbyville QB Grayson Tramel, jarring loose the ball. Kaden Jordan made the recovery, giving the Pioneers possession at midfield.

CJ Taylor took over from there. The sophomore back carried five times on a nine-play drive, including a two-yard plunge through the middle to make it 6-0 with 4:13 left in the first quarter.

Taylor accounted for both of the team's TDs while finishing with 77 yards on the



CJ Taylor picks off a Shelbyville pass in the endzone during the first half.

ground.

The Pioneers' second score came on an 18-play march that took up the majority of the second quarter. Warren County converted three fourth downs to sustain possession, with quarterback Clay Thompson's 13-yard bootleg turning into a key play on fourth-and-five.

The final gamble turned into a touchdown, with Taylor finding the endzone on a 4th-and-2 play from the Shelbyville 9.

It was almost a perfect first half offensively for the Pioneers, where the team was able to keep Shelbyville off balance.

"We were running the ball

strong inside and threw it well too," said Moore. "Clay kept his poise under duress and was taking what they gave him. He did a good job in the passing game – and did some things with his legs too."

Tony Curtis added the extra point to briefly tie the game at 13, but Shelbyville took over from there.

The Eagles were able to take advantage of two short punts in the first half, the second swinging the game. The Pioneers had two punts that covered 0 and 7 yards – the second leading to a late touchdown.

Continued on 2B



Clay Thompson fires downfield during the second half. Thompson completed 6-of-11 passes and rushed for a season-high 44 yards Friday against the Eagles.

	
41	13
330 total yards	258 total yards
<b>SHELBYVILLE RUSHING</b>	
24 attempts for 172 yards, 2 TD	
<b>CALEB MARSH</b> – 12 for 150 yards, 2 TD <b>DEMARCUS SMALLS</b> – 5 for 25 yards <b>KADE CUNNINGHAM</b> – 1 for 2 yards <b>JUAN GOMEZ</b> – 1 for no gain <b>GRAYSON TRAMEL</b> – 5 for -5 yards	

<b>WARREN CO. RUSHING</b>	
52 attempts for 219 yards, 2 TD	
<b>CJ TAYLOR</b> – 17 for 77 yards, 2 TD <b>ERIC HAYWOOD</b> – 21 for 53 yards <b>CLAY THOMPSON</b> – 5 for 44 yards <b>SETH MECKS</b> – 4 for 18 yards <b>JORGE SIFUENTES</b> – 1 for 17 yards <b>ELI BUCHANAN</b> - 3 for 13 yards <b>RAVEN LEWANDOWSKI</b> - 1 for -3 yards	

<b>SHELBYVILLE PASSING</b>	
<b>GRAYSON TRAMEL</b> – 13 for 17, 152 yards, 4TDs, INT <b>KADE CUNNINGHAM</b> - 1 for 1, 6 yards	

<b>WARREN CO. PASSING</b>	
<b>CLAY THOMPSON</b> – 6 for 11, 39 yards	

<b>SHELBYVILLE RECEIVING</b>	
<b>AIRIUS TRICE</b> – 6 for 74 yards, 2 TDs <b>CALE SWING</b> – 3 for 52 yards, TD <b>MALACHI BURNS</b> – 2 for 23 yards, TD <b>MASON DAY</b> – 1 for 8 yards <b>MONTEZ MIRELEZ</b> – 1 for 6 yards <b>CALEB MARSH</b> – 1 for -5 yards	

<b>WARREN CO. RECEIVING</b>	
<b>ELI BUCHANAN</b> – 1 for 16 yards <b>JORGE SIFUENTES</b> – 1 for 10 yards <b>DANTE ELAM</b> – 1 for 8 yards <b>ERIC HAYWOOD</b> – 3 for 5 yards	

<b>SHELBYVILLE MISC.</b>	
6 penalties for 48 yards Dalton Corley 5-for-5 on PATs Converted 4-of-6 third downs, 2-of-2 on fourth Three blocked punts	

<b>WARREN CO. MISC.</b>	
6 penalties for 40 yards Noah Martin - one sack, forced fumble CJ Taylor interception in the endzone Kaden Jordan - fumble recovery Dante Elam stopped 2-pt conversion try Pioneers punted six times with a net of 76 yards	