

THE ART OF RACING

ART
LARSON

All-Star race a success

In many ways, the aerodynamic package that NASCAR implemented for the All-Star race last weekend was a success. The package also included restrictor plates, something only done at Daytona and Talladega. Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, NC was the site for the race, and being a 1-1/2 mile "cookie cutter" track, racing could get boring if changes were not made.

The aero/engine package for the All-Star race created intense, close quarters racing all night long and had the fans on the edge of their seats. NASCAR's Steve O'Donnell addressed the media after the race. "(There are) a lot of things still to work on. We didn't want to push too much...you do like some things you see...so, how do we continue to look at this?" O'Donnell said that NASCAR will create a timeline for 2019 and make decisions on racing going forward.

The new package showed that cars could close and pass. Even the leader in clean air could not get away from the field. NASCAR's loop data showed 38 passes for the lead under green, with 17 official lead changes at the start-finish line. Official lead changes last year? Zero. A car could catch others without help, while passing was a little bit trickier, but there was plenty of it, along with side-by-side battles for position throughout the race. Restarts weren't the best or only opportunity to make moves. For fans in attendance, it was compelling, fast-paced action for just over 90 laps.

Seventeen drivers had the automatic entry into the race with four others added after the "open," the qualifying race for the remaining teams. Alex Bowman, Daniel Suarez and A.J. Allmendinger all won stages in the Open to advance, while Chase Elliott won the fan vote.

After a dismal return to Cup racing in Kansas, Matt Kenseth quickly got his act together to win the pole for the All-Star race. Kevin Harvick soon showed everyone that he was the driver to beat this year, as he quickly made his way into the lead. He was not able to open a huge gap, but he showed he was very difficult to pass, and won the first stage. Kyle Busch's pit crew got him out first for Stage 2, and he never relinquished that lead. The third stage was extremely competitive with several drivers wanting the lead. It took two overtimes for Harvick to win Stage 3. Harvick led the final 10 laps to win the \$1 million prize, his second All-Star win.

Harvick said afterward that five years from now, NASCAR will look back on this race as the one that started it all. Time will tell, but the action was furious Saturday night.

Softball selections

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

A repeat championship for the Warren County Middle School softball team will have to come with a completely new cast of characters.

Lady Pioneer coach Joe Damon held tryouts this week in hopes of replacing 10 eighth-graders from this spring's team, which rallied in the Central Tennessee Conference tournament to defeat Franklin North twice and earn the title. Mounting a title defense with a whole new roster won't be easy next spring, but Damon believes his 18-player roster has plenty of talent and potential.

"There is a lot of talent in the 10 returning players," said Damon, who will be entering his second season as the leader of the Lady Pioneers. "We chose a group with a lot of potential and we feel will put in the work needed to continue to compete each time we take the field."

The returning players, who helped the JV team finish 12-1-2 this season, include upcoming eighth-graders Alyssa Mosley, Bella Bain, Cadi Beth Todd, Dallis Melton and Jessie Young and seventh-graders Brooklyn Cope, Halle Lowe, Isabella Pennington, Jazlynn Ward and Kora Forbes.

Continued on 3B



Jeffery Simmons photo

Kora Forbes will be counted on in the circle for the WCMS softball team next season. The Lady Pioneers will be replacing their entire starting lineup after winning the CTC title.



Jeffery Simmons photo

Along with being named the District 6AAA player of the year, junior Hailey Wood was named All-District 6AAA first team, one of six Lady Pioneers to garner all-district honors.

Six Lady Pioneers earn all-district

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

Honors continue to roll in for the Lady Pioneers after a historic season.

Six members of the District 6AAA champion softball team were named all-district this week, including three who took home player of the year honors.

After being named District 6AAA MVP following the district tournament, junior Hailey Wood was one of four first-team selections on the district list. She was joined by fellow standouts Hope Mullican – District 6AAA Offensive MVP – and Emily Mikkola – Infielder of the year. Junior Ashton Whiles was the team's fourth first-team selection, while senior Kyra Hillis and sophomore MaKenna Mason were named to the second team.

Wood was a barometer for the Lady Pioneer offense, which averaged over eight runs a game en route to a 20-win season. When the junior got on base, she usually was putting a run on the board. Wood, second on the team with a .405 batting average, reached base 58 times and scored a team-high 44 runs, aided by her team-high 11 stolen bases.

Mullican was usually the one bringing Wood around the bases. The senior right fielder drove in a team-high 32 runs, including 12 in district games and racking up nine RBIs in six postseason games. Mullican hit .354 for the season, but raised her average to .464 in district games – taking particular delight in smashing Stone Memorial for five hits and three RBIs in two meetings.

Continued on 2B

Hollingsworth inks with Redhawks

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

It all started during his sophomore year. Tyler Hollingsworth got the call to start and more than held his own. From there, he knew he belonged at the high school level.

Now he'll get the chance to show if he can survive the college grind.

Hollingsworth, named District 6AAA pitcher of the year after a 7-2 campaign, signed Wednesday to continue his career at Martin Methodist. He'll hope to make an immediate impact in the Redhawks rotation, which will be losing former Pioneer Logan Underhill to graduation.

"The school really reminded me a lot of Warren County," said Hollingsworth on picking the Redhawks. "It's a small town, small school. I think they'll have hands-on teaching."

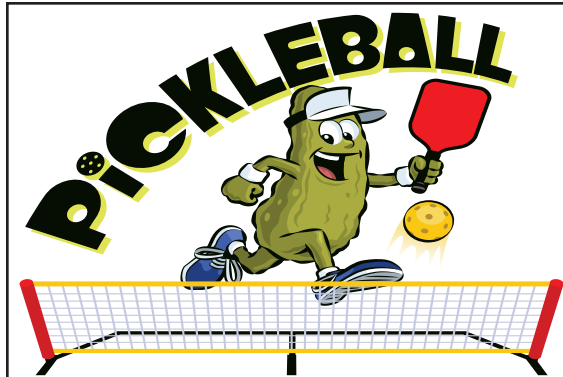
The righty seemed to put himself on the college radar throughout his senior season, especially when Hollingsworth started going pitch-for-pitch with some of the best arms in the state.

Continued on 3B



Jeffery Simmons photo

Pioneer senior pitcher Tyler Hollingsworth signed Wednesday to attend Martin Methodist. Pictured at the signing are, front row, from left, Chase, Chuck, Tyler and Chanda Hollingsworth. Back row, WCHS coaches Brent Whitlock, head coach Trice Powers and Matt Shepherd.



4 COURTS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PLAY!

League Starting Dates & Times

League 2.5

• For players new to the sport & need basic instruction

June 4th 6-7pm
play on Mon. & Thurs. 10:30am

June 5th 6-7pm
play on Tues. & Thurs. 6pm

League 3.0

• For beginners who know the basics

June 4th 7-8pm
play on Mon. & Thurs. 11:30am

June 5th 7-8pm
play on Tues. & Thurs. 7pm

500 Garfield St., McMinnville • 931-473-1212

at the McMinnville Civic Center

Rental Equipment Available

Parks and Recreation

McMinnville
WARREN COUNTY, TENNESSEE *Slow Natural!*