



MAKENNA MASON



HOPE MULLICAN



ASHTON WHILES



KYRA HILLIS



EMILY MIKKOLA

All-district

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While Mikkola's top honor came for excelling as the team's shortstop, the junior was no slouch at the plate. Mikkola led the team with a .452 batting average, finishing the season on an eight-game hitting streak. She had a season-high four hits against Cookeville in the first of two

championship games in the district tournament, when Warren County took two from the Lady Cavaliers to claim the program's first tournament title in 34 years. Being a dual threat also helped Whiles garner a first-team selection. The junior is on pace to break the school's home run record after bashing seven long balls this season – giving her 12 in her career.

Along with leading the team in homers, Whiles carried a .390 average, drove in 23 runs and earned six wins in the circle. Hillis continued her steady impact in the middle of the lineup, improving from her .362 average last season to hit .395 with 18 RBIs this year. The lefty ended her career on a 10-game hitting streak, including a 3-for-4 performance in

the title-clinching victory over Cookeville May 10. The youngest Lady Pioneer to earn all-district honors was the team's sturdy backstop. Mason was behind the plate for the majority of the team's games, working with a trio of Lady Pioneer pitchers to limit opponents. After starting slow, Mason also found her groove in April at

the plate. The sophomore finished the year with a .338 average, up from .211 when the calendar flipped to April. Wood, Mikkola, Whiles and Mason will all be back next spring to defend the title, while coach Gooby Martin will try to replace the production of Mullican and Hillis when he holds tryouts Tuesday, June 5.

NFL awards 2019 draft to Nashville

ATLANTA (AP) — The NFL draft is heading to Music City. League owners awarded the 2019 draft to Nashville during their annual spring meetings on Wednesday, clearly impressed with the city's turnout for events such as the NHL Stanley Cup Final and a party to unveil redesigned uniforms for the Tennessee Titans. "You're now on the clock," NFL Commissioner Rog-

er Goodell quipped to the Nashville contingent, led by Titans controlling owner Amy Adams Strunk. The draft was held in New York City from 1965-2014, but the league has been moving it to different cities in recent years, looking to bolster its profile even higher. Chicago was the site in 2015-16, Philadelphia hosted in 2017 and this year's draft was held at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, home of

the Dallas Cowboys. "It has become one of the most anticipated events of the year," Goodell said. "It's one of the events we're continually focused on (to determine) how we can to be more effective, larger and frankly, an opportunity for our fans to engage in football during the offseason. We had a great experience in Dallas this year. They did a wonderful job." Now, Nashville will be

hosting for the first time. "It's a big day for Nashville," Strunk said. "Being entrusted with one of the league's premier gatherings is an honor and a responsibility that we take seriously." Nashville was chosen over several other bids, including a combined one from Cleveland and Canton, Ohio, home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The Northeast Ohio group remains hopeful to land the 2020 draft, which

would coincide with the league's centennial. "The Hall of Fame in partnership with the Cleveland Browns, the Cleveland Sports Commission and Visit Canton stand ready to host the NFL draft in 2020 should we be selected," said Hall president and CEO David Baker. "In the meantime, the Hall and the entire Canton region remains focused on preparing for the once-in-every-other-lifetime opportunity

in 2020 to celebrate the NFL's Centennial in Canton, the birthplace of the league." Nashville's bid was boosted by tens of thousands of people turning out last year for a party that shut down a big section of downtown when the Predators played for the Stanley Cup. Also, some 20,000 turned out on a cold night in April to see the Titans' new uniforms and attend a free concert by Florida Georgia Line.

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