

SPORTS **B**

Duane Sherrill photos

Grayson Redmon hauls in an Axel Aldino pass for a touchdown on the Tigers' first possession of their scrimmage against defending state champions Friendship Christian Friday night. Both starting teams ended up scoring once in the controlled scrimmage. The contest was the last tune up for the Tigers as they now look forward to hosting the annual border battle with Warren County on Aug. 17.

Catching on

Tigers show vast improvement in scrimmage

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The DeKalb County Tigers stood toe-to-toe with the defending state champions in their last tune-up for the regular season Friday evening, scoring on their first drive of the night while holding even with the perennial powerhouse.

"We did much better than our scrimmage last week against Gordonsville," admitted Coach Steve Trapp of his squad's performance against Friendship Christian here Friday evening, noting the energy and determination was there before the home crowd that did not exist at Gordonsville last week. "We didn't have the effort and energy at Gordonsville and that hurt our execution. This week we stepped on the field with the right state of mind."

The scrimmage couldn't have begun

any better as Quarterback Axel Aldino dropped back and threw a 30-yard strike on the first play from scrimmage.

"He (Aldino) stood in there and got hit but kept his composure and threw a good ball," Trapp noted, pointing out Friendship Christian has a couple of highly recruited defenders, one being a D-1 prospect. "I'd dare say we won't face anyone else like that the rest of the season."

On the same opening series Aldino scrambled out of trouble and was able to gain 20 yards. He then dropped back and pitched a 20-yard touchdown pass to Grayson Redmon who hauled the offering in over his shoulder.

The touchdown proved to be the only score of the night for the varsity although players were able to move the ball effectively throughout the scrimmage. Friendship's varsity also had a touchdown during the controlled scrimmage where each

team was given several consecutive possessions to work on their offense while the other team fielded their defense. The scrimmage also allowed for some junior varsity action.

The scrimmage will be the last for DeKalb before it hosts Warren County in the annual border battle Aug. 17. Coach Trapp says he would like another tune-up but their opponent in an upcoming jamboree pulled out, leaving the Tigers no time to find another opponent.

As for the scrimmage, Coach Trapp was happy with the turnout for community appreciation night, many of those taking test drives to benefit the football program while others bought BBQ, the proceeds also going to help the program.

"It was a great atmosphere," the coach said, noting he is looking forward to the excitement of the season opener with Warren County.



Tiger Quarterback Axel Aldino started the scrimmage against Friendship Christian with a 30-yard pass play and a 20-yard scramble for a first down. He culminated the opening series with a 25-yard strike to Grayson Redmon in the end zone.

Ready to run

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Running long distance in the summer heat has readied over 30 DeKalb middle schoolers for the heat of competition when cross country season begins in just over a week.

"We begin with the Cookeville Jam on Aug. 9," said Middle School Cross Country Coach Kristin VanVranken of their first taste of competition this season, following a long summer of near daily runs in the often oppressive humidity. "Cookeville will give us an opportunity to have a good run in going into the season."

Their first regular competition is on Aug. 18 but VanVranken said the main part of the season, both

home and away, is still to come.

"We really turn it on in September," she said of the meets scheduled for the season.

Unlike the high school cross country team which runs 5K, middle school runs two miles in its competition. The squad is made up of students, grades five through eight and is pulled from the various area middle schools including DeKalb Middle, DeKalb West and Northside.

VanVranken said the practice during the summer months helps build stamina for when the heat of competition is on, helping runners cut their times.

The cross country team has 35 runners participating this season.



Duane Sherrill photo

Juana and Brian Godinez train in the summer heat for the upcoming cross country running season. Juana's Middle School team kicks off its season on Aug. 9 and has been practicing most of the summer break.

Pool season almost over

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Where did the summer go? After beating the heat in the Smithville City swimming pool, time is winding down if you want to dip your toes in the water.

While plans were to keep the pool open on weekends through Labor Day weekend, the city pool, located on the same campus as the Smithville Golf Course, will be weekend-to-weekend with only this coming weekend assured of being open.

Lack of heat is not the issue, according to a spokesperson for the city pool, but instead it is getting lifeguards that are needed to safely operate the pool facilities. Lifeguards are school students, and since school is back in session, schedules may conflict as the month goes deeper. Provided the pool can staff enough lifeguards, it will continue to operate on its regular weekend schedule which is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The pool will be open for sure Aug. 10-11. After that it is suggested swimmers check for availability.

Meanwhile, the city golf course will keep in full operation, likely going year-round.



Duane Sherrill photo

Thomas Liggett was one of the many kids who enjoyed the Smithville City Pool this summer.