

PREP SOCCER

Seymour opens home slate with a big win

Lady Eagles get back on track with huge win over IMAC foe

By JASON DAVIS
Sports Editor

SEYMOUR — It's been a rough season so far for the Seymour Lady Eagles.

Following last year's state tournament appearance the Seymour squad was flying high with expectations for the '09 campaign. But this summer their head coach took a job at rival Sevier County.

A new coach, Drew Payne, brought in a new style of play, and the girls had a difficult time adjusting, losing their first five games of the young season.

Tuesday night the Lady Eagles put it all behind them with a 7-0 thrashing of IMAC foe Morristown East in front of a friendly home crowd at Benton Householder Field.

Payne was obviously excited to get his first win at the helm of the team.

"It feels good to final-



Jason Davis/The Mountain Press

Seymour's Lauren Aucoin is fouled hard by a Morristown East player during Thursday's game. Aucoin did score a goal later in the game on a penalty kick.

ly get that monkey off our backs," he said. "We came ready to play today, and it feels good to finally get that win. We've had a

really tough opening to the schedule."

Adding to the difficulty of the first five games, which included two

matchups with perennial powers Catholic, Webb and Maryville, was the contrasting style of Payne's game with that

of former coach Bobby Norwood.

"It's no secret, it's a little bit of a change of style," Payne said. "I started out going all the way my style, and over time we've met each other halfway. I've had to give a little bit, and they've had to give a little bit. We finally have come to the point where we've got a good formation, we've got people where they need to be, and it's starting to come together."

It certainly did Tuesday night.

It took the Lady Eagles about 26 minutes to light the scoreboard, but once they'd tallied their first point, the flood gates opened.

Standout forward Courtney Suttles scored the team's first goal on a breakaway at the 14:32 mark, and then chipped in another beautiful shot just four minutes later — lobbing a 15-yarder over the keeper's head into the back of the net.

Teammate Lauren Johnson waited just six minutes to up the lead to 3-0, as she pushed it past the keeper from the right side.

As the halftime whistle

neared, Suttles completed her hat trick, knocking in her third score for the night to up the ante to 4-0.

Playing with momentum the Seymour team added two quick scores to start the second half, and put the Lady Hurricanes far in the rearview mirror.

Suttles scored for the fourth time at the 36:06 mark, and Lauren Aucoin added a penalty kick eight minutes later.

Deb Huddleston got the team's final goal of the night with 12 minutes remaining to make the final tally 7-0.

Kelsey Fleming and Nikki Wiseman combined in goal for the clean sheet.

"We got an advantage by having the middle school football game right after us, that worked in our favor," Payne said. "It's really good for the girls to be able to play in front of a crowd like that."

"We've kept plugging, kept working, and we finally came out here and got a big 'W' — it feels good."

mports@themountainpress.com

TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS FOOTBALL

Volunteer freshmen make big contributions in 1st game

By BETH RUCKER

Associated Press Writer

KNOXVILLE — Tennessee freshman wide receiver Marsalis Teague knew he'd have to calm some nerves for his first game as a Volunteer.

"You've got to try to put it behind you as hard as it is with 100,000 people screaming. We got off the bus for the Vol Walk, and I thought, 'It's a dream come true now. It's time to show up.'"

Show up he did as one of 10 freshmen who played in Saturday's 63-7 win over Western Kentucky.

Teague was the only one of the freshmen to start. He led the receiving corps with 86 yards on six catches and reeled in a 5-yard touchdown pass from Jonathan Crompton.

"I thought Marsalis was extremely impressive, especially for him to start and all the pressure with that," coach Lane Kiffin said.

Kiffin told the Vols before the season they would all have a chance to earn starting positions and playing time — including the true freshmen.

Tailback Bryce Brown got his share of playing time, racking up 104 yards rushing and a touchdown. Fellow running back David Oku added two more touchdowns.

Receivers Nu'Keese Richardson and Zach Rogers, safety Darren Myles Jr., cornerback Mike Edwards, safety Janzen Jackson, linebacker Greg King, defensive tackle Montori Hughes and linebacker Nigel Mitchell-Thornton

also played.

Not everything went smoothly in their first game. Richardson fumbled his first punt return. Brown broke a 34-yard run up the sideline but stepped out of bounds rather than pushing forward for more yards.

"He ran out of bounds and did not finish it in the style that we play with here, so that was disappointing, but he'll learn from that," Kiffin said.

GREAT SCOTT!: Tennessee senior Chris Scott was named the Southeastern Conference offensive lineman of the week for his effort in the Vols' win over the Hilltoppers.

Scott recorded six knockdown blocks from the backside tackle position. The Vols' 657 yards were their most since 1997, and their 380 yards rushing were the most since 1994. Tennessee had five touchdowns by air, four on the ground and did not allow a sack.

Lane Kiffin said Scott, listed as 6-foot-5 and 346 pounds by Tennessee, has lost at least 30 pounds since the coach arrived on campus.

"You can see it in his play, even going back now to watch last year's game against UCLA, he looks like a completely different player," Kiffin said.

Scott said the coaches' energy has rubbed off on the offensive line, helping them to play much better than last season, and Saturday's performance has boosted the linemen's confidence.

"I think it's through the roof



Jason Davis/The Mountain Press

Tennessee's Bryce Brown scores the first TD of his Volunteer career and the first of the Lane Kiffin era during the Vols' 63-7 win over Western Kentucky on Saturday.

right now," he said. "The teaching that we're getting is pretty good, and we're having a lot of success with it."

JONESIN' FOR JONES: Coach

Lane Kiffin said he hopes to have star wide receiver Gerald Jones back Saturday when Tennessee hosts UCLA.

Jones suffered a high ankle sprain catching a pass in the

Vols' Aug. 22 scrimmage and was expected then to miss three to six weeks.

Denarius Moore missed most of fall camp as he recovered from foot surgery but played a few snaps against Western Kentucky and caught a 4-yard pass.

Moore said it helped to get a few snaps in before facing more challenging opponents like UCLA and Florida.

ORANGE SLICES: Tennessee's 657 yards on offense against a mismatched Western Kentucky were more than any other Football Bowl Subdivision team that had played through Sunday. The Vols finished the 2008 season 116th out of 119 FBS teams after averaging 268.8 yards per game, and their best effort last season was 548 yards against UAB. ... Offensive guard Vladimir Richard sat out much of Saturday resting an injured Achilles tendon as a precaution. He is expected to be available for practice this week and against UCLA.

SMOKEY SEZ: "The thing I'm nervous about is we still haven't played a game. Our guys don't know what it's like to play 80 plays in a real game. It was good to get a lot of guys to play, but at the same time we have a lot of work to do, and we're going to need to have very physical, intense practices this week to make sure that we're in shape for a full game," coach Lane Kiffin said when asked about getting to play reserve players against Western Kentucky.

LOCAL RACING

Blake Jones gets wins in Young Lions racing in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS — Blake Jones headed out to the Bullring at Las Vegas Motor Speedway this past weekend, where he competed against many new faces and was able to grab an overall win on Friday as well as a division win on Saturday in the Legends Young Lions division.

Despite being among new company and excruciating temperatures, Jones, 12, a Sevierville native, focused on his task and grabbed a great qualifying spot for his no.80 Mountain Dew Legends car.

"I was so excited about being there," said Jones. "I qualified

third overall, but first for the Young Lions division. They ran all of the divisions together and put me starting on the pole.

It was hot out there, and in the car with your uniform on, 107 degrees feels like 170 degrees. But there were some new names and good competition; it was exciting. I had a really fast car and knew if I just hit my marks and stayed focused, I could stay out front."

Jones stuck to his guns and was



Blake Jones

able to hold onto the front starting spot to grab the overall win.

"Getting the win felt great," commented Jones. "We been running consistently out front and to get a win was awesome."

When Saturday rolled around, Jones already had plenty of success on Friday under his belt and was confident that he was equipped with the knowledge and experience to take on the larger field of cars and subsequent stiffer competition.

"There were more cars and they were running all of the classes together," explained Jones. "I qualified sixth and I had a great night the night before so was still pumped with adrenalin from my win. I made my way to the front in a few laps and waited before trying to get by the leaders. Late cautions made it a hustle to the checkers and I took the lead with five to go, but just got shuffled back on the green, white, checked. I got bumped and a little sideways in turn three, but was able to hold on to second overall."

Although Jones wasn't able

to capture back-to-back overall wins, his second-place overall finish did earn him the Young Lions division win.

"It's fun to race that hard and finish good. It was good to get the Young Lions win, but I really wanted to win the whole thing. We all do though."

Jones and his team will once again be racing on the west side of the country as they head to Belton, Texas, for the Hot Rod Truck & Tractor Pull with Legends Car Racing at the Bell County Expo Center.

From www.blakejonesracing.com