



Trey Warner celebrates after the Tigers recovered a fumble against Lawrence County.



Demari Braden ran for 63 yards and a pair of touchdowns against Lawrence County on Thursday night.

Tribune Photos by Chris Siers

Braden, Teat lead Tigers past Lawrence Co.

By Chris Siers
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LAWRENCEBURG — Following the off week, the Marshall County Tigers (6-0, 4-0) picked up right where they left off at the mid-way point of the season, steamrolling Lawrence County, 32-0, on Thursday night.

Junior quarterback Silas Teat threw two touchdown passes and senior Demari Braden made a triumphant return from an ankle injury with a pair of rushing touchdowns as well.

The Tigers came out of the gate featuring Braden on six of the first eight plays on offense.

"Definitely excited about getting Demari back going. I think he is back to 100% after being hampered the last month. He is no doubt crucial to the success of our team the rest of the way," Tiger coach Thomas Osteen said.

Braden carried the ball nine times for 63 yards and two, four-yard rushing touchdowns.

In total, the Tigers mustered up just 108 yards on the ground, but worked with short fields due to Wildcat turnovers and excellent starting field position.

Teat went to the air and connected with

Jayden Randolph for the game's first score, before Braden bumped the Tiger advantage to 14-0 by the end of the first quarter.

Lawrence County (4-3, 2-3) did manage to gain some traction early in the second quarter, but the Marshall County defense backed the Wildcats up to their own end zone and a snap over the punter's head resulted in a safety for the Tigers.

Braden capped the following drive with his second score of the night, giving Marshall County a 22-0 lead.

"Our defense really played well tonight. We gave up a little yardage between the 20's at various points but we bowed our backs every time it counted. It speaks volumes to shoutout a team like that that's so talented running the ball," Osteen said.

The Tigers notched one final touchdown of the half—a three-yard pass from Teat to sophomore Aja Jones to give Marshall County a 29-0 lead at the half.

In the second half, the Tigers were able to work the reserves from the bench onto the field and the only points of the half came off the toe of Wyatt Joyce on a 32-yard field goal.

He was also 4-for-4 on extra points for the Tigers.

In total, Teat connected on 12-of-18 passing attempts for 125 yards and two touchdowns.

"Silas is in great command of our offense. He has done a really nice job being efficient all year. He has been like a point guard getting the ball to multiple people every night," Osteen said.

Antomme Cowthorn and Randolph each hauled in a pair of passes, while Jones had five grabs for 24 yards.

Defensively, the Tigers were led by Jakavan Curry, who totaled 15 total tackles and a tackle for loss, while Darian Crenshaw added 11 tackles as well.

Thursday night's win sets up a huge, top-10 match up for the Tigers with another road challenge on deck.

On Thursday, the Tigers will travel to face No. 6 ranked Pearl Cohn, who also sits unbeaten in Region 5-AAAA.

Pearl Cohn enters Thursday's matchup after crushing Glencliff, 77-0, last week.

Marshall County has been good on the defensive side of the ball, allowing just 10.3 points



Jayden Randolph drags several Wildcat defenders into the end zone as he scores the game's first touchdown on an 11-yard pass from quarterback Silas Teat.

per game.

That defense will be tested against the Firebirds' offense that's averaging 41.4 points per game.

"Obviously huge challenge this coming week at Pearl. They are no doubt one of the most

talented teams in the state. I know our kids are excited about the opportunity and have earned the right to play in a big game of this magnitude this late in the year," Osteen said.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. on Thursday night

at Pearl Cohn.

Marshall Co. 14 15 3 0 — 32
Lawrence Co. 0 0 0 0 — 0

First Quarter
MC — Jayden Randolph 11 pass from Silas Teat, (Wyatt Joyce kick), 5:27.
MC — Demari Braden 4 run, (Joyce kick), :22.
Second Quarter
MC — Safety, 8:31.
MC — Braden 4 run, (2pt. conversion failed), 6:36.
MC — Aja Jones 3 pass from Teat, (Joyce kick), :31.
Third Quarter
MC — Joyce 32 yard field goal, 5:50.

AP POLL

The Associated Press' Top 10 teams in each of Tennessee's six Division I non-financial aid classifications and in the combined Division II financial aid classification as selected by Tennessee AP-member sportswriters and broadcasters. With first-place votes in parentheses, records through October 3, total points based on 10 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 10th-place vote.			
Division I - Class 5A			
School	Record	Points	Prv
1. Oakland (18)	6-0	180	1
2. Collierville	7-0	61	2
3. Ravenwood	5-2	131	5
4. Cane Ridge	6-1	122	8
5. Dobyns-Bennett	6-1	95	9
6. Maryville	5-2	84	3
7. Bradley Central	5-1	62	4
8. Blackman	5-2	51	6
9. Centennial	6-1	30	NR
10. Houston	5-2	21	7
Others receiving votes: Bartlett 14, Smyrna 11, Bearden 9, Lebanon 5, Farragut 4, Beech 3, Brentwood 3, Germantown 2, Nashville Overton 2, <			
Division I - Class 4A			
School	Record	Points	Prv
1. Knoxville West	(16) 7-0	178	1
2. Page (1)	7-0	162	2
3. Mumford (1)	7-0	140	4
4. Nolensville	7-0	128	5
5. Daniel Boone	6-0	91	6
6. Henry County	5-2	89	7
7. Mt. Juliet	6-1	69	9
8. Springfield	6-1	51	3
9. Powell	5-2	45	NR
10. Sevier County	-1	13	NR
Others receiving votes: Morristown West 10, White County 6, Karns 2, McMinn County 2, Franklin County 2, Portland 1, Southwind 1.			
Division I - Class 3A			
School	Record	Points	Prv
1. Greeneville (18)	7-0	180	1
2. Anderson County	7-0	160	2
3. Haywood County	6-0	138	3
4. Gatlinburg-Pittman	6-0	123	4
5. Marshall County	6-0	103	5
6. Pearl-Cohn	5-2	80	6
7. Stone Memorial	7-0	72	9
8. Uppermer	5-2	47	T10
9. Macon County	6-1	31	7
10. DeKalb County	6-1	14	NR
Others receiving votes: Raleigh Egypt 14, Sheffield 5, Kingston 4, Fairview 3, West Greene 2, McMinn Central 1.			
Division I - Class 2A			
School	Record	Points	Prv
1. Hampton (12)	6-0	173	1
2. Tyner Academy (5)	7-0	167	2
3. Huntingdon	6-1	135	4
4. Riverside	6-1	113	5
5. Fairley (1)	7-0	106	6
6. East Robertson	6-1	74	7
7. Westview	5-2	73	9
8. Freedom Prep	6-1	50	8
9. Union City	6-1	48	3
10. Lewis County	6-1	34	10
Others receiving votes: Westmoreland 9, Mt. Pleasant 4, Richland 2, Meigs County 2, Hall's 3, Lake County 3.			
Division II - Class 1A			
School	Record	Points	Prv
1. McKenzie (16)	7-0	178	1
2. Fayetteville (1)	7-0	162	2
3. Memphis Academy of Engineering (1)	6-0	146	3
4. Peabody	6-1	120	5
5. South Pittsburg	5-2	03	6
6. Dresden	6-1	80	4
7. Moore County	5-1	77	7
8. McEwen	5-1	56	8
9. Clay County	5-1	42	9
10. Coalfield	6-1	15	NR
Others receiving votes: Gordonsville 5, Halls 3, Lake County 3.			
Division II - Class 1A			
School	Record	Points	Prv
1. Friendship Ch. (17)	7-0	179	1
2. University-Jackson (1)	6-1	163	2
3. Mt. Christian	6-1	136	3
4. Jackson Christian	5-1	123	5
5. Grace Christian Acad	5-2	56	4
Others receiving votes: Nashville Christian School 12, Mt. Juliet Christian Academy 8, DCA 6.			
Division II - Class 2A			
School	Record	Points	Prv
1. Lipscomb Acad (18)	6-0	180	1
2. Knoxview Webb	7-0	161	2
3. Lausanne Collegiate	5-1	138	3
4. Chattanooga Christian	6-1	128	5
5. Franklin Road Acad	6-1	82	NR
Others receiving votes: Boyd Buchanan 31.			
Division II - Class 3A			
School	Record	Points	Prv
1. MBA (15)	7-0	177	1
2. Baylor (3)	6-0	165	2
3. Ensworth	6-1	132	4
4. McCallie	4-2	122	3
5. Brentwood Academy	5-2	128	5
Others receiving votes: Father Ryan 6.			
All Associated Press members in Tennessee are eligible to participate in the high school football poll. Those who voted for this week's poll are: The Daily Post-Athenian, Athens; Chattanooga Times Free Press, Chattanooga; The Leaf-Chronicle, Clarksville; Cleveland Daily Banner, Cleveland; The Daily Herald, Columbia; The Daily News Journal, Murfreesboro; The Tennessean, Nashville; Johnson City Press, Johnson City; Lebanon Democrat, Lebanon; The Lebanon Democrat; The Daily Times, Maryville; Citizen Tribune, Morristown; The Tennessean, Nashville; Shelbyville Times-Gazette; Union City Daily Messenger, Union City; WVLT, Knoxville; WCMT, Martin; The Daily Memphisian, Memphis; The Herald-Citizen, Cookeville; The Commercial Appeal, Memphis.			

MLB playoff picture all set to start on Friday

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Albert Pujols taking his final swings in October, Julio Rodríguez stepping in for the first time. Max Scherzer and Jacob deGrom facing Manny Machado and Juan Soto.

Bryce Harper, back at last. José Ramírez and his Cleveland teammates trying to break a long drought — with a new name.

And Aaron Judge, Mookie Betts and other top stars looming next week.

The entire Major League Baseball playoff picture came into focus Tuesday night. The matchups were finally set, right before the last day of the regular season.

The postseason, expanded from 10 teams last year to 12 this season, begins Friday with a newly created wild-card round. All four series are best two of three — three days in a row, no breaks, with the higher seed hosting every game.

In the National League, it's Padres-Mets and Phillies-Cardinals. In the American League, it's Mariners-Blue Jays and Rays-Guardians.

At Citi Field, New York figures to throw aces Scherzer and deGrom at San Diego, featuring big-hitting Machado and Soto. The Mets' bid to win the NL East ended when they were beaten out by the defending World Series champion Atlanta Braves, so New York wound up as the top NL wild-card team. "We have to go on the road and

play against a tough team and beat some of the best pitchers in the game," Machado said. "It is about going out there and enjoying the moment."

At Busch Stadium, soon-to-be retired St. Louis stars Yadier Molina and Pujols host Harper and Philadelphia. The Cardinals won the NL Central, but as the No. 3 seed don't get the benefit of an early bye.

A two-time champion with the Cardinals, the 42-year-old Pujols has looked like a 24-year-old version of himself down the stretch, topping 700 career home runs and passing Babe Ruth for second place on the all-time RBIs list.

A two-time MVP, Harper makes his first playoff appearance since 2017 with Washington. He missed two months in the middle of the season because of a broken thumb but is ready to swing away for the Phillies.

In Cleveland, Ramírez leads a young team that includes rookie sparkplug Steven Kwan and hard-throwing closer Emmanuel Clase as the AL Central champs host Tampa Bay.

This will be Cleveland's first postseason appearance as the Guardians. The team hasn't won the World Series since 1948. Randy Arozarena, already established as a playoff star, will try to boost the Rays to the first championship in franchise history.

The Guardians went 4-2 against the Rays this year, winning two

of three last week at Progressive Field. All three games in the series were decided by one run, with two going to extra innings.

"It will be a good environment," Tampa Bay second baseman Taylor Walls. "It's a good thing that we just went there. ... I know the guys are amped up. We're ready to be there."

In Toronto, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and the top AL wild-card Blue Jays take on Seattle and its rookie sensation, Rodríguez. The series also matches Robbie Ray, who won the Cy Young Award with Toronto last year, against his former team.

All four matchups are scheduled to end Sunday. The best-of-five Division Series in both leagues begin Oct. 11.

Judge, fresh off hitting his 62nd home run to set the AL record, and the Yankees will host the Tampa Bay-Cleveland winner in Game 1. Justin Verlander and the Houston Astros start at home against the Seattle-Toronto winner.

In the NL, Freddie Freeman, Betts and the Los Angeles Dodgers, who have set a franchise record for wins, host the Mets-San Diego winner in the opener. Ronald Acuña Jr., injured last fall when the Braves won the World Series, will start at home against the St. Louis-Philadelphia winner.