



Tribune File Photos by Chris Siers

Maggie Browning shot a 182 to finish 23rd overall in the Class A state girls golf tournament.

Browning, Mulliniks compete at state golf tourney

By Chris Siers
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SEVIERVILLE — Marshall County had plenty of representation at the Class A state girls golf tournament, held at Sevierville Golf Club earlier this week.

Maggie Browning and Annabelle Mulliniks, juniors who play for Forrest and Cornersville High Schools, competed well in the two-day event.

Mulliniks turned in a two-day total of 172, good enough for a 15th overall finish in the 46-player field, while Browning carded a 182, good enough for 23rd overall.



Annabelle Mulliniks turned in a 172 to finish 15th in the Class A state golf tournament.



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Katie Powers settles a possession for the Tigerettes.

Tigerettes' season ends in district tourney

By Chris Siers
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UNIONVILLE — The Marshall County Tigerettes never could get the offense rolling in a District 9-AA tournament loss

to Community on Monday night.

The 3-0 loss marked the end of the season for the Tigerettes.

Community jumped out to a 25-16 Set 1 lead and followed with another 25-16 win in Set 2.

The Viqueens put a cap on the

Marshall County season with a 25-13 third set victory.

Community eventually lost to Lawrence County, who won the tournament against Central Magnet.

Community 3, Marshall Co. 0
Set scores: 25-16, 25-16, 25-13



Autumn Sweatt (14) goes up tall for a block on a shot against Community.

Rested Vols now face true test in Heupel's 2nd season

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Sports Writer

Neyland Stadium is selling out again and fans already are trying to plan how to paint a visiting stadium orange and white to cap Tennessee's regular season.

That's how good things are going for eighth-ranked Tennessee in coach Josh Heupel's second season.

The true test of just how good these Volunteers might be this season starts Saturday at No. 25 LSU.

Then they host No. 1 Alabama. There's a final break from the usual Southeastern Conference juggernaut against UT Martin before hosting No. 13 Kentucky and then a trip to Athens to play defending national champ and No. 2 Georgia.

At a university where the men's basketball team won the SEC Tournament title in March, women's basketball reached their first Sweet 16 since 2016 and the baseball team spent much of the season ranked No. 1, it's about time the football program started pulling its weight around campus.

Heupel says success is breeding more success across the board.

"The passion of our fan base is obviously felt by our football program, but it is felt by everybody," Heupel said. "There is a ton of excitement that surrounds Knoxville, the state of Tennessee and Vol Nation. ...

When it's going good, your logo is in front of everybody all year long, 365 days out of the year."

Being ranked at all, let alone in the top 10, didn't seem possible in late January 2021. Heupel had just been hired shortly after the university chancellor announced she fired his predecessor and nine others over "shocking" recruiting violations. The Vols went 16-19 in Jeremy Pruitt's three seasons.

"The energy is different than when I first got here inside of the building," Heupel said. "You can feel that, and it is because of the atmosphere that has been created across all sports."

Tennessee is 10-6 since Heupel took over, and he is the first coach since the AP Top 25 started in 1936 to beat a top-20 team on the road in each of his first two seasons.

Helping Heupel get the Vols back on the track has been quarterback Hendon Hooker, a player Heupel persuaded to stick around after transferring from Virginia Tech. Hooker threw for 31 touchdowns with three interceptions and 2,945 yards last season.

Now Hooker is running the nation's top offense with 559.2 yards per game and the fourth-best scoring unit putting up 48.4 points a game. He is averaging 298.2 yards passing per game with eight TDs and no interceptions with three TD runs this season.

He threw for 349 yards and two TDs and ran for 112 yards

more with another score in Tennessee's 38-33 victory over then-No. 20 Florida on Sept. 24, only the Vols' second win in that series in 18 years. Heupel says there's room for Hooker to grow more.

"Sometimes it looks easy because we are playing at a really high level," Heupel said. "It is not easy, and he is just in so much command of what we are doing. He understands the why behind everything, and that is a big part of it."

How big a leap Tennessee makes in Heupel's second season depends heavily on a defense that is giving up 407 yards per game. The Vols' scoring defense has been better, allowing just 19 points a game in a stat padded with two wins over Mid-American Conference teams.

Heupel said the Vols know what they need to do better, starting with tackling, assignments and simply knowing what they're supposed to do.

The Vols are coming off an open date, when they worked on those issues and healed ahead of the meat of their SEC slate.

"To see how it's changed from when I first got here to what it is now is just crazy," defensive lineman Omari Thomas said. "It's something we want to just keep doing, honestly, and get better and better every week."

Titans hoping to streak into bye after back-to-back wins

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Titans have clawed their way back to .500 after an 0-2 start.

Thanks to playing in the AFC South, the two-time division champs no longer are sitting on the bottom looking up.

All they have to do now is find a way to win another road game and get to their bye without losing any more players to injuries.

"Well, this will be a huge week for us," Titans coach Mike Vrabel said Monday. "I mean, we can't look ahead. We have to focus on going into Washington and preparing this week and finding out who's available."

The Titans (2-2) held off the Indianapolis Colts 24-17 for their

fourth straight win in this division rivalry and fifth in the past six. Derrick Henry ran for 114 yards for his first 100-yard rushing game this season and finished with a combined 147 yards.

"There's plenty of things that we need to fix, and we will," Vrabel said.

What's working
The Titans have started each game by driving for a touchdown. Against the Colts, they topped themselves by scoring on each of their first four possessions. Veteran wide receiver Robert Woods, their offseason trade acquisition from the Super Bowl champion Rams, got his first TD catch this season.

Henry, the two-time NFL rushing champ, had his best game yet this season by halftime

with 99 yards rushing. He should have had a second rushing TD that was wiped out by a holding penalty on rookie wide receiver Treyton Burks.

What needs help
The second half. The Titans now have been outscored 64-7 after halftime and haven't scored a single point since the third quarter of their season opener. Their scoreless stretch has reached seven straight quarters in the second half of games.

The Titans' offensive struggles reached a new level against the Colts as they were outgained 199-28 in the second half. They opened the second half with three straight three-and-outs.

Stock up
Rookie Roger McCreary. The cornerback out of Auburn looked like a luxury pick at No. 35

overall with the Titans already having Kristian Fulton, a second-round pick in 2020, and 2021 first-round selection Caleb Farley along with third-rounder Elijah Molden.

McCreary has started every game this season. Against the Colts, he was one of four defenders to play every snap and ranked second in tackles.

Stock down
Farley. At least the 2021 first-round pick got on the field for 27 snaps against the Colts, a big improvement from the previous game. But he's coming off the bench with Terrance Mitchell and Andrew Adams, a pair of recent pickups off other teams' practice squads, both starting.

Injured
Burks was on crutches with his left foot in



Photo courtesy of the Tennessee Titans

After climbing back to .500, the Titans are hoping to string together their third-straight win on Sunday at Washington.

a walking boot after the game. Vrabel said Monday that they still were evaluating the 18th pick overall and he didn't know how long the rookie will be out. NFL.com reported Burks has turf toe, but wouldn't need surgery.

OLB Bud Dupree re-

turned after missing the previous game with an injured hip and lasted only nine snaps before leaving the game again. He did recover a fumble. ILB Monty Rice, who started the season on the physically unable to perform list, might return to practice this week.