



Submitted photos

Elks Hoop Shoot

The Lewisburg Elks Lodge #1990 held their annual Elk's Hoop Shoot on Nov. 5, at the Lewisburg Recreation Center. The local girls and boys are among over 1.6 million kids from 2,250 lodges throughout the United

States. **The winners in each division are as follows:**
Girls 8 - 9 years old: 1st place, Addyson Reed; 2nd place, Aleah Gentry
Boys 8 - 9 years old: 1st place, Hunter Meeks; 2nd

place, Weston King
Girls 10 - 11 years old: 1st place, Mary Ellen Scott; 2nd place, Nyloh Gentry
Boys 10 - 11 years old: Kayden Brocchini; 2nd place, J. T. Williams
Girls 12 - 13 years old:

1st place, Kacie Reed; 2nd place, Madison Mason
Boys 12 - 13 years old: 1st place, Keegan Brocchini; 2nd place, Jimmy Perkins
 All the first-place winners will be going to the district shoot off December 10. The

shoot off will take place at the Lewisburg Recreation Center. These winners will be shooting against the first-place winners from Pulaski, Columbia, Fayetteville, Lawrenceburg, Madison, Gallatin, and Nashville.

Deer season opens Saturday

NASHVILLE — Tennessee's 2022-23 statewide gun hunting season for deer opens Saturday, Nov. 19. The season traditionally opens each year on the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving. During gun season, sportsmen may also use muzzleloaders or archery equipment.
 "Deer hunting season is one of our state's most cherished traditions," said Jason Maxedon, Executive Director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. "We hope everyone will be able to get into the woods and have the opportunity to carry someone with you to continue the tradition."
 The statewide bag limit for antlered bucks is two. No more than one antlered deer may be taken per day, not to exceed two for the season. Hunters are allowed the following antlerless bag limits: Unit A-three per day, Unit B-two per season, Unit C-one per season, Unit D-one per season (Nov. 19-Dec. 4 only), and Unit E-one per season (Nov. 19-25 only).

In Unit CWD, there is a limit of three antlerless deer per day with no season limit. A bag limit of three antlered deer applies in Unit CWD, too. However, the bag limit of three antlered deer may be exceeded within Unit CWD if taken under the Earn-A-Buck Program or if taken under the Replacement Buck Program. Details on each of the programs are on page 31 of the 2022-23 Tennessee Hunting and Trapping Guide.

Anyone born on or after January 1, 1969 is required to carry proof of satisfactory completion of a hunter education class or be in possession of the Apprentice Hunting License (along with other required licenses) while hunting any species in Tennessee. [Hunter education can be completed online for free.](#)

For more information about Tennessee's 2022-23 deer hunting seasons, exact boundaries of deer units, and complete license requirements refer to the 2022-23 Tennessee Hunting and Trapping Guide available online at tnwildlife.org or the TWRA App. Physical copies can be picked up at an agency office or license agent retail location.

Banged-up Titans turn plug-and-play into stingy defense

By **TERESA M. WALKER**
 AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Titans keep swapping bodies in and out on defense, using 24 different starters alone midway through the season.

Now the Titans face another challenge Thursday night in defending four-time MVP Aaron Rodgers in Green Bay (4-6).

The way Tennessee is playing, someone will be ready.

"We're just a plug-and-play team where it's like everyone's held to the same standard," two-time All-Pro safety Kevin Byard said Tuesday. "Everyone's held to the same standard. Backups prepare like starters. They get asked questions in the meeting rooms like starters, so when they get in the game there's no drop-off."

The Titans (6-3) lead the NFL in third down defense, allowing 27.9% conversions on 34 of 122 chances. They rank second against the run, allowing 85.1 yards per game. They've been even better since Week 2, giving up an average of 61 yards per game.

Packers offensive coordinator Adam Stenavich said the Tennessee defense will be a huge challenge.

"Their linebackers are very aggressive, fill hard, very instinctual," Stenavich said. "Their safeties play in the box really hard as well, so they do a good job stop-



Photo courtesy of the Tennessee Titans

Mike Vrabel has pieced together a defense that continues to make plays, despite injuries at key positions.

ping the run and you can tell that's a big priority for them."

The Titans also improved to eighth in fewest points allowed at 18.7 points a game. Tennessee has held its past seven opponents to 22 points or fewer, including just 10 in three of the past four games.

The Titans did it again in a 17-10 win over Denver and Russell Wilson despite missing five defensive starters before kickoff. They lost three more defenders to injuries during the game. Jeffery Simmons, a 2021 Pro Bowl defensive lineman, watched the game from home resting his sprained left ankle.

Simmons noted the Titans have dealt with a bunch of injuries over the past two years. They set an NFL record in using 91 different play-

ers last season, most in a non-strike season, in winning the AFC's No. 1 seed. They lead the AFC South despite having 14 on injured reserve.

"Adversity hit, we don't fold out," said Simmons, who is hoping to play Thursday night. "I think that's kind of the motto and kind of I guess the way Vrabels try to build this team on next man up mentality and guys just being able to come in and step up."

"Vrabels" would be Titans coach Mike Vrabel, a 14-year NFL linebacker who won three Super Bowls.

The coach said this group plays extremely hard and has figured out how to get stops even after giving up big plays. They're getting turnovers and are allowing fewer explosive plays that plagued

them early.

The Titans coach likes seeing players seize their chances.

"It's cool to see them take advantage of them and then hopefully earn more opportunities and be ready to go if we need them," Vrabel said.

Even with all the replacements, the Titans had six sacks last week — most in a regular-season game under Vrabel. Their 16 sacks combined in their past four games lead the NFL in that span.

The defense also has the NFL's longest active streak, and the longest in franchise history since 1979, with six consecutive games with three or more sacks. Denico Autry leads the team with seven, and DeMarcus Walker, an offseason signee, has had at least a sack in three straight games.

They ended the game on Terrance Mitchell's interception, the seventh straight game with a pick for the franchise's longest streak since having eight such games in 2010. Only the Patriots have a longer active streak this season at eight consecutive games.

Only Byard, nose tackle Teair Tart, linebacker David Long Jr. and rookie cornerback Roger McCreary started against Denver after also starting the season opener.

"Guys are just buying into what we're doing first and foremost," Byard said. "Just playing hard is just the bare minimum, and I think we're getting better with the details."

Notes

The Titans made a slew of personnel moves Tuesday. That included placing CB Caleb Farley, their 2021 first-round draft pick, on injured reserve with a back issue. With K Randy Bullock on the injury report with a right calf issue and not practicing Tuesday, they signed Josh Lambo to the practice squad. ... C Ben Jones (concussion) did not practice for a second straight day. ... They also signed DL Larrell Murchison and LB Joe Schobert to the active roster. DBs Greg Mabin and Davontae Harris and LB Andre Smith signed with the practice squad.

Titans' timing for 1st Thursday night game couldn't be worse

By **TERESA M. WALKER**
 AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Titans face their first Thursday night game this season at the worst moment possible.

Yes, the Titans (6-3) are coming off a 17-10 win over Denver, their sixth in seven games. They also have 13 players on injured reserve and had to scratch five defensive starters before kickoff.

Then Tennessee lost three more to injuries during the game.

And oh yeah, Titans kicker Randy Bullock's calf on his right, kicking leg is hurt now too before a trip to Green Bay (4-6).

It's time for some Jedi mind tricks — beyond the usual NFL play of pretending Monday really is Wednesday and not the day usually spent recovering from playing a game 24 hours earlier.

"We have to tell ourselves that, we have to tell our bodies that, we have to tell our minds that," Titans coach Mike Vrabel said Monday.

"But we also have to try to do the best that we can to win the mental performance and the physical recovery battle here the next couple of days. Everybody deals with it."

The Titans (6-3) have battled through plenty of injuries to climb back atop the AFC South after an 0-2 start. Patching together a lineup for the next game is nothing new for a franchise that set an NFL record using 91 different players last season while earning the AFC's No. 1 seed.

They also got quarterback Ryan Tannehill back from a sprained right ankle that cost him two straight starts.

"No doubt it is a challenge," Tannehill said. "It is a challenge each and every Thursday night game that comes around. We have to get past this one quickly."

What's working

The defense. Somehow, somehow the Titans plug and play and don't skip a beat even when they sat 2021 Pro Bowl defensive lineman Jeffery Simmons (left

ankle), safety Amani Hooker (left shoulder), outside linebacker Bud Dupree (hip) and cornerback Kristian Fulton (hamstring) with linebacker Zach Cunningham put on IR.

They're tied for fourth in the NFL with 29 sacks, lead the league in allowing the fewest third down conversions and rank eighth for fewest points allowed.

What needs help

The offense. Yes, Tannehill had his third-best passing performance this season with 255 yards, and they scored a rare touchdown in the third quarter. But Tennessee has scored two fewer points (166) than the defense has allowed (168).

The Titans rank last in averaging 281.7 yards per game.

Derrick Henry, second in the NFL with 923 yards entering Monday, remains their biggest weapon. He's also the biggest focal point for opposing defenses to stop first and foremost. That's why his five-game streak of 100-yard rushing performances was

snapped with 53 yards against Denver, his second-worst performance this season.

Stock up

WR Nick Westbrook-Ikhine. The guy who went undrafted out of Indiana in 2020 is coming off a career-best performance with 119 yards receiving and two touchdowns, including a 63-yarder off a flea-flicker play. That tripled the number of TD catches by Tennessee receivers, which had been one by Robert Woods.

Stock down

CB Caleb Farley. The 2021 first-round pick dropped from a potential top 10 selection to Tennessee at No. 22 because of a second surgery on his back weeks before the draft. He left the Denver game with a back injury. But he hadn't played a defensive snap in the past four games, contributing only on special teams.

Injured

17 — That's the number of Titans on Mon-

day's estimated injury report, though Henry and defensive lineman Denico Autry were limited not by injury. Center Ben Jones had a concussion and was among seven who did not practice. LB David Long (neck), CB Roger McCreary (calf) and Tannehill — who all finished Sunday's game — were limited. S Amani Hooker, who missed the past two games with an injured left shoulder, was listed as practicing fully.

Key numbers

7 and 6: The Titans have intercepted at least one pass in seven straight games. They also have at least three sacks in six straight games.

Next steps

Heal up enough to go to Green Bay and find a way to end a couple of skids. The Titans are 0-2 in prime-time games this season and have lost their past two at Lambeau Field by a combined score of 95-21. Then the Titans can get a long weekend off before hosting Cincinnati on Nov. 27.