



Warren County Board of Education
Sarah Cantrell, Communications Coordinator
2548 Morrison Street, McMinnville, Tennessee 37110
Telephone: (931) 668-4022, EXT 11102; Fax: (931) 815-2703

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Warren County High School to Retire CJ Taylor's Pioneer Jersey

McMinnville, Tenn., September 16, 2026 - Warren County High School will honor former Pioneer standout CJ Taylor by retiring his football jersey on Friday, September 25, during the Pioneers' home game against Stone Memorial.

The recognition celebrates Taylor's extraordinary contributions to Warren County athletics and the success he achieved throughout his collegiate career at Vanderbilt University. The school will retire Taylor's jersey in his honor.

Taylor established himself as one of the most accomplished student-athletes in WCHS history. As quarterback, he led the 2020 Pioneers to an 8-3 record, the program's best in 40 years, and a third-place finish in Region 3-6A. That season, he rushed for 1,767 yards and 23 touchdowns while also contributing on defense with 57 tackles, three interceptions, three forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries.

His senior campaign earned him the 2020 Tennessee Titans Mr. Football Award for Division I, Class 6A, making him both Warren County's first Mr. Football finalist and its first winner. He was also named Region 3-6A Most Valuable Player and earned first-team Tennessee Sports Writers Association Class 6A All-State honors.

"CJ Taylor left an undeniable mark on Warren County athletics through his talent, leadership, and commitment to excellence. Retiring his jersey is a fitting way to honor a legacy that will continue to inspire future Pioneers," said WCHS Athletic co-Director Anthony Lippe.

Taylor's impact extended beyond the football field. A standout member of the Pioneer basketball program, he surpassed 1,000 career points and became the first WCHS student-athlete to record both 3,000 career yards in football and 1,000 career points in basketball. As a junior, he hit the buzzer-beating three-pointer that secured the Pioneers' first district championship in 43 years and earned district tournament MVP honors.

Following graduation, Taylor continued his football career at Vanderbilt University, where he became a team captain and played in 42 games with 29 starts across four seasons. He concluded his Commodore career with 181 tackles, 17 tackles for loss, five interceptions, four forced fumbles and two touchdowns. His collegiate honors included All-SEC recognition, a place on the Bednarik Award Watch List and selection as the Thorpe Award Player of the Week.

"We are proud to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of CJ Taylor. Beyond his extraordinary football career, capped by winning the TSSAA Mr. Football award his senior year,

CJ was also a standout difference-maker on the basketball court. Having watched him excel alongside my own children and serving in the press box during his senior season, I had a front-row seat to his exceptional talent and leadership. Watching him transition that success to a remarkable collegiate career at Vanderbilt has been a point of pride for our entire community. We are thrilled to officially honor CJ and celebrate his lasting legacy in Warren County football history,” WCHS Athletic co-Director Phillip King added.

“I am truly honored and grateful to have my jersey retired by Warren County. I want to thank my late brother, who I know is looking down and smiling. I also want to thank my mom, Brandy Pinegar. Without you, this wouldn’t even be a conversation, so thank you for always believing in me.

“And to Coach Turner, Coach Bond, Coach Sullens, and Coach Elrod: thank you for believing in me, pushing me, and helping me become who I am today. This honor means more to me than words can say. Thank you, Warren County,” Taylor said.

The jersey retirement ceremony will take place September 25 as Warren County hosts Stone Memorial at Nunley Stadium. Additional details regarding the ceremony will be shared closer to the event.

###

For additional information, please contact:

Sarah Cantrell
Communications Coordinator
Warren County Schools
cantrells2@warrenschoools.com
931-668-4022 Ext. 11102