

## Hobbs roasts Rhea County



### Senior drains eight 3-pointers in victory

BY JAMES CLARK  
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(McMinnville, Tennessee)

With much of the Midstate worried about getting buried under a snowstorm Monday night, WCHS senior Chance Hobbs buried Rhea County with his 3-point shot.

Hobbs unleashed a blizzard of 3-pointers to help Warren County ice an 80-67 win at Charlie Dalton Gym.

The victory improves the Pioneers to 16-3 overall and 2-0 in district. WCHS is scheduled to travel to Cookeville this Friday where first place in the district will be on the line against the Cavs.

Hobbs finished with a game-high 28 points behind eight 3-pointers. Five of those came in the second quarter when he was red hot. Isaiah Grayson added 17 points and Irving Espinoza scored 14.

"We knew we could get some open looks against their zone and Chance was feeling it tonight," said WCHS coach Chris Sullens. "It's been a long time since we've been 2-0 in the district."

Rhea County held a perceptible size advantage and did much of its dam-

age inside. Warren County didn't match up well in the paint, but the Pioneers more than compensated from the perimeter, draining 15 3-pointers for the game.

Warren County was up 39-29 at the half when Rhea County rattled off the first five points of the third quarter to cut the lead to 39-34. But that was as close as it would get.

Grayson scored a bucket at the rim then followed with a 3-pointer, part of a 10-point quarter for him. The Pioneers were up 58-49 entering the fourth.

Rhea County was forced to extend its defense and apply more pressure down 62-51 with 4 minutes left. That resulted in an untested layup from Caleb Newby and a wide open 3-pointer from Hobbs that all but put the game away.

Warren County hit 11-of-13 foul shots in the final 2:47 to ensure no Rhea County comeback was in store.

Other Pioneer scorers were Tyree Ladet with 7, Sloan Seymour and Newby with 6 each, and Bunker Brock with 2.

Jordan Wilkerson and Ricky Guthrie were the top scorers for Rhea County with 12 each. The Golden Eagles fall to 13-8 overall and 0-2 in district.

James Clark photo  
Chance Hobbs put on a shooting clinic to down the Rhea County Golden Eagles 80-67 Monday night at Charlie Dalton Gym. Hobbs scored a season-best 28 points, including swishing eight 3-pointers, to help the Pioneers improve to 16-3.

## Skid continues for Lady Pioneers

### WCHS drops fourth straight

BY JAMES CLARK  
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Rhea County was a little more than the Lady Pioneers could handle Monday night at Charlie Dalton Gym.

The Lady Golden Eagles were a little crisper with their passes, a little more tenacious with their defense, and a little sharper with their 3-point shooting.

Warren County couldn't keep pace and suffered an 82-59 loss. The Lady Pioneers are now 10-10 overall and 0-2 in district.

"We're averaging 65 points a game," said Rhea County coach Garvin Gill, whose team improves to 18-3 overall and 2-0 in district. "We got some good looks and we shot the ball well. We're averaging 8.2 made 3-pointers a game."

Tyra Wright was a towering force for the Lady Pioneers in the paint, finishing with a team-high 19 points. She was hard to stop when she caught the ball down low. Megan Patch and Grace Rains added 8 points each.

The Lady Pioneers were effective in scoring the basketball when they were able to shoot. The problem was the offense was hobbled by poor passing and turnovers, especially in the half-court set.

Rhea County was able to gain separation by playing aggressive defense, beating the Lady Pioneers down the floor, and by catching fire from 3-point range. Rhea County hit 3-pointers on four straight possessions late in the first quarter to build a 24-12 lead.

Warren County tried to rally in the second quarter but there were too many unforced errors. On one possession, a Lady Pioneer pass sailed over the head of its intended target for a turnover. Shortly thereafter, an inbounds pass was stolen.

Rhea County didn't experience the same ball-handling woes and finished a solid all-around game with 11 made 3-pointers and a 19-for-23 performance from the foul line.

Rhea County was up 41-23 at the half and led by at least 15 the rest of the



James Clark photo  
Bri Young tries to wrestle the ball away from Rhea County's Maddie Smith during Monday's match-up. The Lady Golden Eagles stayed atop the District 6-AAA standings with a 82-59 victory.

way. Micah Black was the top scorer for Rhea County with 25 points, followed by quick point guard Mallory Hampton with 20.

Other Lady Pioneer scorers were Callie Cathcart with 7, Rhealee Johnson with 4, Beth Vaughn and Emily Mikkola with 3 each,

Caylie Sherrell, Bri Young, and Hallie Pennington with 2 each, and Kam Nowlin with 1.

The Lady Pioneers look

for their first district win this Friday night when they're scheduled to face the Lady Cavs in Cookeville.

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