

Comeback kids

BY **JEFFERY SIMMONS**
Sports Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Obstacles kept stacking up for the Pioneers. The deficit reached double figures. Tyree Ladet was hit with a technical foul. Isaiah Grayson fouled out amidst a career night.

None of it mattered. Warren County used a 20-3 run in the final 3:30 to come back and defeat White County 66-61 Tuesday night at Charlie Dalton Gym, its largest fourth-quarter comeback this season.

“This group never stopped doing what was asked of them. They just made winning play after winning play down the stretch,” said coach Chris Sullens. “We had guys stepping up late – (Caleb) Newby hit two big free throws and drew a charge, Sloan (Seymour) hit two big free throws and, at the end, Chance Hobbs said he wanted the ball in his hands to ice it.”

Warren County (17-4) trailed 58-46 with 3:30 left when Grayson began the comeback with a 3-pointer. It came on a night when the senior scored a season-high 31 points, but watched the final minutes after fouling out.

“White County basically left it to Isaiah to get as many points as he could,” said Sullens. “Defensively, they made it tough for our guards to get open looks. Isaiah had a great game to counter.”

Even with Grayson’s big night – he scored 18 of his team’s 26 points in the second and third quarters – the Pioneers seemed destined for a letdown. Ladet being hit with a technical foul in the final two minutes seemed to make matters more difficult, but it turned out to be the turning point for the Pioneers.

White County missed both of the ensuing free throws and was called for a charge on the inbound pass on the ensuing play, swinging the momentum to the home team.

The Pioneers scored soon after, then got a gift when White County

BOX SCORE

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	F
PIONEERS	18	14	12	22	66
WARRIORS	18	19	13	11	61

WARREN SCORING - Isaiah Grayson 31, Sloan Seymour 10, Chance Hobbs 9, Caleb Newby 8, Irving Espinoza 4, Tyree Ladet 2, Raven Lewandowski 2

WHITE SCORING - Masyn Winingham 25, David Kinser 15, Dyson Reese 8, Kade Clark 5, Micah Webster 4, Austin Burchett 4

missed two free throws – part of a fourth-quarter swoon where the Warriors went 3-for-12 from the charity stripe.

Hobbs brought a raucous crowd to its feet when he finally got loose for a look and buried a 3-pointer with 1:30 to play to cut the lead to 58-54.

Following a Warren County foul, the Warriors were back on the line. Both shots clanked and Newby was fouled on the rebound, leaving the senior to make the long walk to the other end for a one-and-one situation. Newby sank both to cut the lead to two.

White County responded with two more missed free throws, the second snatched by Seymour. He wasted little time pushing upcourt, stopping just short of the rim to shuffle a pass to Newby, who was wide open for the game-tying layup with 1:10 left.

Newby continued his late heroics by drawing a charge on White County’s next possession, giving the Pioneers the ball and a chance to take the lead.

It was fitting the ball found Newby once again. Irving Espinoza, limited to four points with White County’s defense designed to stop the smooth-shooting sophomore, went into a crowd and spotted Newby unguarded under the rim. His layup fell with :46 to play, giving the Pioneers a 60-58 lead.

Continued on **2B**



Isaiah Grayson looks for the block during Tuesday's game against White County. Grayson scored a season-high 31 points to help the Pioneers come back to defeat the Warriors 66-61.

Jeffery Simmons photo

WEEKEND SCHEDULE



FRIDAY, JAN. 26 7:30 P.M.
STONE MEMORIAL
(9-10, 0-2)
@
WARREN COUNTY
(17-4, 3-1)



SATURDAY, JAN. 26
3:30 P.M.
SHELBYVILLE (1-18)
@
WARREN COUNTY (17-4)



Callie Cathcart scored 16 points in Tuesday's 70-57 loss at home.

Jeffery Simmons photo

Lady Pioneers let lead slip away

BY **JEFFERY SIMMONS**
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After Tuesday, there is no debate on how valuable Tyra Wright is to the Lady Pioneers.

Without their talented junior post for the majority of the second half, the Warren County girls gave away a 13-point half-time lead and fell 70-57 to visiting White County.

Warren County (11-11) led 35-22 at the break, but things turned swiftly when Wright went to the bench with her fourth foul 28 seconds into the third quarter. Without Wright to protect the paint and clean the glass, the Warriorettes began to score at will.

White County started with a 10-2 spurt after Wright sat down.

Megan Patch briefly slowed the pace by hitting one of her five 3-pointers for the Lady Pioneers, but the Warriorettes responded with seven straight.

Patch sank her final 3-pointer with :35 left in the third to give Warren County a 48-45 lead, but the Warriorettes took the lead on Kanden Reeves’ floater at the buzzer.

The Warriorettes started the fourth quarter on an 8-1 run before Wright entered with 6:17 to play. The Lady Pioneers were outscored 35-14 during Wright’s absence and never recovered.

Patch brought the Lady Pioneers within six on two free throws with 3:24 to play, but two missed free throws by Wright with 2:04 left proved pivotal as the Lady Pioneers weren’t able to slice into a 62-56 deficit.

Wright fouled out on the ensuing possession and White County closed by scoring nine of the game’s final nine points.

The Lady Pioneers stunned White County early with sizzling shooting from the outside. Warren County scorched the nets with six 3-pointers in the first half, with Patch doing the heavy lifting. Patch scored 13 of her 22 points and hit three 3-pointers before halftime.

Patch went on a personal 10-0 run bridging the first and second quarters. Patch hit a floater, went coast to coast after a steal and finished the first with a corner 3-pointer to give the Lady Pioneers an 18-9 lead after one. The junior then started the second quarter with a 3-pointer.

Continued on **2B**

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