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McMinnville, **Tennessee**



Tyra Wright turned in a 16-point, 10-rebound performance Friday to help Warren County down Cookeville 52-

BY JEFFERY SIMMONS

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Cookeville's coaches had to be thinking Shea Panter discovered the secret to cloning. How else could Tyra Wright be everywhere at one time?

Wright dominated the fourth quarter of Friday's play-in game of the District 6-AAA tournament, helping the Lady Pioneers rally from a six-point deficit to defeat Cookeville 52-42, ending their rivals' season in a matchup at Rhea County High School.

"They had pure joy on their faces in the locker room," said coach Panter. "I thought we made the shots when we needed to and played tough when we needed to."

It helps to make all the winning plays when the Lady Pioneers had Wright and Cookeville

Before the game, Wright was given a plaque in honor of her all-district selection. She showed why she took home the hardware in the final three minutes.

The junior post, who finished with 16 points, controlled action on both ends of the court, making every big play Warren County needed. Wright gave her team its first lead of the second half with 2:24 to play when she muscled through fellow all-district selection Chloe Grace Savage, hitting the layup and adding a free throw following a foul.

The and-one put Warren County ahead 44-42 and was part of a 14-0 run to end the game. On the other end, Wright stuffed Savage in the post on a game-tying attempt, then was able to corral the rebound long enough to bank it off Cookeville to give the Lady Pioneers possession.

The Lady Cavaliers were able to force a turnover to get a second chance to tie, but Wright was waiting again. Cookeville once again tried to go at Wright, but she stepped in and took a charge.

Emily Mikkola followed with two clutch free throws, giving Warren County a four-point lead with 1:05 to play.

The Lady Cavaliers missed on two front ends of 1-and-1s on the other end, but were able to grab the rebound each time. Wright secured a steal though, then hit two free throws on the other end.

Wright pulled in her final rebound with 6.6

seconds to play – securing a double double in the process - and ended the game with two free

Megan Patch, who also was recognized before the game for earning honorable mention all-district status, led the Lady Pioneers with 17 points. Patch hit a critical 3-pointer in the fourth quarter, getting a great feed from Grace Rains for an open outside look that jumpstarted Warren County's dominant finish.

Patch also had a clutch 3-pointer in the final seconds of the first quarter, when her triple from the corner gave Warren County a 15-14 advantage.

Continued on 2B



42 in the opening round of the District 6-AAA tournament.

Above, Megan Patch scored a game-high 17 points in Friday's win over the Lady Cavaliers.

At right, Callie Cathcart works her way past Olivia Shipman during Friday's game. Cathcart, a senior, will get to play at least two more games this season after Warren County qualified for the region tournament with its 12th win this season.



Jeffery Simmons photos



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