

Survive and advance

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By Barb Krohn

TURBOTVILLE—Come playoff time it's usually the underclassmen that say they are playing to help extend the season for their seniors.

Friday night in the District 4 girls basketball Class AA quarterfinal game pitting No. 2 seed Warrior Run against No. 7 Southern Columbia the reverse was true because of a very remarkable turn of events.

The Defenders seniors dedicated their play at the end of the game to their freshman point guard, Emily Webb, whose 3-pointer with two ticks left in regulation sent the game into overtime and then moments later, in a cruel twist of fate, was carried off the court by coach Jon Weaver after she buckled back-pedaling in the paint.

Wiping the tears from their eyes after an ensuing timeout, the Defenders vowed to win for Webb and made good on the promise beating the Tigers 45-36. Warrior Run, now 20-5, will play Central Columbia in the bottom half of the AA bracket semifinal at a date and time to be announced. Southern ended its season 12-11.

"It might have not been our best game starting out but by the end we wanted it," said senior Chloe Eisenhuth. "Not for ourselves but for Webb."

Indeed the game had been a rough one for the Defenders mainly due to an aggressive defensive effort from the Tigers. Although Warrior Run had beaten Southern twice in the regular season, Friday the visitors brought a more aggressive zone defense to the contest.

"I think they played hard," said senior captain Steph Shamburg. "They had nothing to lose."

The Tigers forced over 20 Defenders turnovers but Warrior Run's own defense limited Southern and so the game was a low scoring affair with the Tigers leading 22-21 after the third quarter. Things picked up offensively for the Defenders in the fourth but with just over 30 seconds the Tigers had a 33-30 lead.

As time was winding down Webb found herself outside the arc with the ball.

"I knew there was only a few seconds left and the team needed (the 3-pointer)," said the frosh who until then had not scored a point. "I just focused on the rim and shot it."

"It went in and I was so happy."

Warrior Run 45

Southern Columbia 36



District 4 Class AA Girls Basketball

Warrior Run freshman point guard Emily Webb missed this three-pointer but made one at the end of regulation to send her team into overtime against Southern Columbia. The Defenders won the District 4 Class AA quarterfinal 45-36 Friday night. Photo by Barb Krohn/Standard Journal.

On the bench senior Laura Bastian couldn't believe it.

"My month literally dropped open," she said.

"That shot she hit—that's a big shot," said Weaver.

Freshman Madi Welliver picked up where Webb had left off in the overtime period hitting a deuce and getting the and one. The shot sent senior Mackenzie Hays, who had been subbing in on defense for a foul-troubled Welliver, leaping into the air.

"It was a big bucket and it got us going," said Hays who had three boards on the night.

Just moments later Bastian was called in for the injured Web..

"It was hard going in," said Bastian. "But I knew I had to play hard for her."

Weaver said he was proud of his bench players.

"Both (Hays and Bastian), to come off the bench after what happened—they were in tears—they did a great job."

And the Warrior Run "biggs" - Shamburg, Abby Fisher and Welliver took control of the offense to seal the deal combining for nine of Warrior Run's 12 extra period points.

"When Webb hit the three to tie it up we got our act together and started playing like a team," said Fisher who finished with 14 points.

"Webb took us into overtime," said Shamburg, who led all scorers with 18 points. "We had to play for her."

District 4 Class AA quarterfinal at Warrior Run.

Warrior Run 45

Southern Columbia 36 (OT)

Southern Columbia (12-11) 8 6 8 11 3—36

Warrior Run (20-5) 7 8 6 12 12—45

Southern Columbia (36)

Haley Levan 3 1-2 7, Mackenzie Clark 2 1-3 5, Rebakah Lyash 5 2-5 12, Shannon Daubert 2 0-0 4, Teanna Shutt 1 0-2 3, Miranda Long 0 2-2 2, Christina Padpora 1 0-1 2, Jill Oley 0 1-2 1. Totals: 14 7-17 36.

3-pointers: Levan, Shutt.

Fouled out: Daubert.

Played but did not score: Mackenzie Chaundy.

Warrior Run (45)

Madi Welliver 2 0-1 4, Abby Fisher 5 3-4 14, Emily Webb 1 0-3 3, Chloe Eisenhuth 1 4-8 6, Steph Shamburg 7 4-8 18. Totals: 16 11-24 45.

3-pointers: Fisher, Webb.

Fouled out: None.

Played but did not score: Mackenzie Hays, Laura Bastian.