2026 WARRIOR FOOTBALL



Region 4-4A Champions

Special Commemorative Edition

November 2026
THE EXPOSITOR

What the fans have to say...

To all my warrior babies,

Grammie is so proud of all of you. It has been and absolute pleasure watching you show up and show out every game. I would like to acknowledge Ellieonna, Leah and Riley for their dedication.

Last but not least, my heart is so full of pride for you Trystin Scott #60 you set a goal this year and made it!! Can't wait to see what next year brings! Warrior fan in the stand.

Love all of you. Thank you coaches for all you have contributed to the success of the 2026 undefeated Warrior team.

- Lisa Scott

Congratulations Warriors! I know it takes a lot of hard work and dedication to have such a successful season and you absolutely did it! To be the best you have to beat the best! You made that statement true for White County. Congratulations again. God Bless you All.

- Sheriff Steve Page

Congratulations to the White County Warriors on an incredible football season! The team has worked hard all year and is proud to celebrate an outstanding 10-0 undefeated record, earning their spot in the playoffs!

A special shoutout to our #60! We are so proud of you and all the hard work, dedication, teamwork, and determination you have shown throughout this season. Watching you grow, learn, and compete has been such a blessing.

Your hard work is paying off, and this is just the beginning. Keep pushing, keep believing, and keep making memories. We are so proud to be cheering you on!

10-0! Undefeated! Playoff bound! Go Warriors! - Ashley Matz

Proud doesn't even begin to describe it! Once a Warrior, always a Warrior! Go White County! - Melody Matz

What an exciting year to watch our White County Warrior football team! These young men are giving our community plenty to cheer about, and one of the most impressive things is how they respond when adversity comes.

Even when they fall behind a touchdown or two, these Warriors never seem to waver. They trust the process, keep working, and continue pushing forward. That determination to finish strong says a great deal about their character and the foundation their coaches have built.

It has also been special to watch individual players develop into some of the elite players in our region. Their growth and success reflect hard work, commitment, and a team that helps one another succeed.

Our coaching staff deserves tremendous credit for preparing these young men each week. Their game planning, adjustments, and leadership put our Warriors in position to compete and overcome challenges.

This team is fun to watch and exciting for our entire community. Warriors, thank you for giving us so much to celebrate. Keep trusting the process and finishing strong. - Mayor Jerry Lowery

I am so proud of the hard work all of you have done this season. It has been fun to be able to watch from the stands and cheer on my favorite football player #60. Go Trystin! I'm excited to watch you guys finish strong. Go Warriors! - Christina Clark

My favorite moment has been watching Tate and Tucker play together and the love they have for their coaches, teammates, and community. Go Warriors! - David Pinion

We had such a fun Football Season especially going 10-0!!!! - Aubrie Trumbly

Great season guys! Keep pushing forward! Proud of all your hard work!!! Lots of fans in Arizona! #4 - Kay West

Some of the best times of my life have been spent coaching the young men who are members of the undefeated Warrior football team. Some of them I coached in youth league, the majority of them I coached as an assistant coach at the middle school.

This has always been a special group. Ministry sent me to the mission field of Kentucky but I have not missed a game on livestream or radio. I am so proud of them. Keep "going hard" on the field and in life. Love you boys.

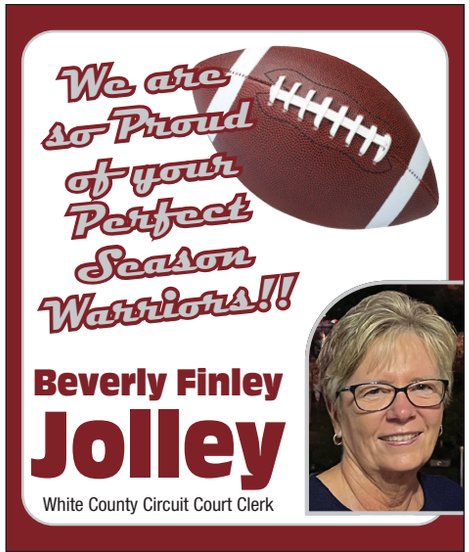
- Coach Jamie McCormack

My favorite memory of this season is of the most recent win over Stone Memorial. There was about 2 min left before the half and Stone's Quarterback was running the ball. Bryson Hogg ran after him- jumping arms wide open and tackling him down. My 7 year old started shouting "HE LOOKED LIKE SUPERMAN!" It felt like Hogg flew 5 feet in the air to tackle him. That is what you boys mean to these kids filling the stands. Real life Supermen.

Good luck, and keep being the inspiration you guys are to the generations to come

- Leslie Melton





Coach of the Year - David Foster

CASEY BOULDIN
Tri-Star Sports Network

SPARTA, TN — Some coaches build winning seasons. Others build winning programs. And occasionally, a coach comes along who helps change the expectations of an entire community. In 2026, David Foster has done just that.

Tri-Star Sports Network is proud to announce that White County High School head football coach David Foster has been selected as the inaugural recipient of the Jimmy Maynord Upper Cumberland Football Coach of the Year Award. In just his second season leading the Warriors, Foster has guided White County to a perfect 10-0 regular season and the program's first region championship under the current TSSAA playoff format.

It is a historic accomplishment for a program and community that have waited decades to experience this level of football success. But what makes Foster's selection particularly meaningful is the coaching journey that brought him to this moment — including his years working alongside the very man whose name is now attached to the award.

A Historic Season in Sparta

Ten games. Ten victories. One region championship.

The 2026 White County Warriors have delivered a regular season unlike any other in the program's modern history. Under Foster's leadership, the Warriors navigated their schedule without a loss, captured the Region 4-4A championship, and established themselves as one of the top football teams in the Upper Cumberland.

The accomplishments have transformed Friday nights in Sparta into something special. Warrior Stadium has become the centerpiece of a community energized by a football program that has embraced higher expectations. For TSSN founder Casey Bouldin, Foster's selection was about more than the numbers in the win column.

"What David Foster has accomplished at White County in just two seasons is absolutely remarkable," said Bouldin. "A 10-0 regular season is an incredible achievement, but winning the first region championship in program history under the current playoff format takes this to another level. David has helped change the expectations of White County football, and that's what great coaches do."

The Warriors have demonstrated that success comes from more than individual talent. It requires discipline, preparation, accountability, and a shared commitment to the program.

Those characteristics have become hallmarks of Foster's leadership.

More Than 20 Years of Preparation

While Foster's rise as White County's head coach has been impressive, his success is the product of more than two decades spent developing his coaching philosophy. A graduate of Tennessee Technological University, Foster played high school football at Balboa High School in Panama and Clarksville High School in Tennessee.

He began his coaching career at Upperman High School in 2004 and has spent more than 20 years working with student-athletes at schools throughout the Upper Cumberland. Before becoming the Warriors' head coach, Foster spent two seasons as White County's defensive coordinator, gaining valuable experience with the program and helping establish the foundation for its future success.

His coaching journey has included opportunities to learn from respected coaches, develop relationships across the region, and understand what it takes to build a competitive football program. Among those experiences, one stands out as particularly significant.

The Jimmy Maynord Coaching Tree — A Connection That Runs Deep

David Foster isn't simply receiving an award named after one of the Upper Cumberland's most respected football coaches. He is a product of Jimmy Maynord's coaching tree, having served on Maynord's coaching staffs at both Smith County High School and Cookeville High School. That connection makes Foster's selection as the inaugural recipient especially fitting.

Maynord's coaching legacy has reached across multiple programs and generations of student-athletes throughout the Upper Cumberland. His influence extends beyond the football field, reflected in the coaches who worked alongside him and carried lessons from those experiences into their own careers.

Foster is one of those coaches.

From his time working with Maynord at Smith County to their years together at Cookeville, Foster had the opportunity to experience firsthand the preparation, discipline, and commitment required to build successful football programs. Now, as the head coach at White County, Foster is applying lessons from a lengthy coaching career while developing his own identity as a program leader.

"When we established the Jimmy Maynord Upper Cumberland Football Coach of the Year Award, we wanted it to represent everything Jimmy stood for as a football coach," Bouldin said. "Preparation, discipline, accountability, and developing young men. What makes David Foster being our first recipient so special is that he actually coached under Jimmy at both Smith County and Cookeville. He's part of that coaching tree, and now he's making history with a program of his own."

The connection represents something that makes high school football special. Coaching knowledge, leadership principles, and traditions are passed from one generation to the next.

And sometimes, the impact of a coach can be measured just as much by the success of those who learned from him as by his own victories.

"I think Jimmy will appreciate the significance of this," Bouldin added. "Here's a coach who spent years working alongside him, learning the profession, and developing his own approach. Now David is leading White County to a season that people in Sparta will be talking about for generations. That's a tremendous reflection of the coaching legacy Jimmy established throughout this region."

Building a Championship Culture at White County

Football success rarely happens by accident. It requires a vision, a willingness to establish expectations, and the ability to convince young athletes that they can accomplish something greater than themselves. Foster has helped bring those elements together at White County.

The Warriors have developed a winning identity built around physical football, preparation, and confidence.

Perhaps more importantly, the program has created a sense of belief that extends throughout the school and community. Players have embraced the challenge. Coaches have worked to establish consistency. And the community has rallied around a team that continues to make history.

For Foster, the undefeated regular season represents a significant milestone, but the program's continued de-

CONTINUED ON 4B

COACH FOSTER FROM 3B

velopment will ultimately define his long-term impact.

"The thing that stands out to me about David is that he's not an overnight success story," Bouldin said. "He's spent more than 20 years in this profession. He's worked his way through different programs, learned from outstanding coaches, and invested countless hours in young people. Now he's getting the opportunity to lead a football program to heights it hasn't experienced before. That's what makes this recognition so deserving."

And while the regular season is complete, the Warriors still have more football to play. White County will enter the TSSAA Class 4A playoffs with an undefeated record, a region championship, and an opportunity to continue a season that has already secured its place in school history.

A perfect season for football stats

CALEB ANDREWS
Editor/Writer

The White County Warriors put together a historic 2026 football season, finishing the regular season undefeated at 10-0 and capturing the first regional championship in program history. While the team's success was the result of a complete team effort, several players turned in notable individual performances throughout the season.

The following player statistics highlight some of the Warriors' contributions.

The offensive production was led by senior running back and receiver Cole Sims, who averaged 125 rushing yards per game and finished with 18 total touchdowns. Sims recorded 16 rushing touchdowns and two receiving touchdowns, making him one of the Warriors' leading offensive contributors. He also had one passing touchdown.

Senior wide receiver and outside linebacker Bryson Hogg made an impact on both sides of the ball. Hogg averaged 54.6 receiving yards per game and recorded six receiving touchdowns. He finished with 11 total touchdowns, while also averaging 7.6 tackles per game. His defensive numbers included six sacks and one interception. Hogg also led the team with 411 total return yards.

Senior quarterback and free safety Tucker Pinion helped direct the Warrior offense. He completed 57.5% of his passes and recorded 13 passing touchdowns. Pinion averaged 28.7 rushing yards per game and added six rushing touchdowns, giving him six total touchdowns listed in the season leaders for that category.

Senior receiver and cornerback Ei Smith averaged 28.6 receiving yards per game and recorded five receiving touchdowns. Defensively, Smith led the team with three interceptions and also contributed three caused fumbles.

Several other Warriors made their presence known in the statistical categories. Freshman Tate Pinion averaged 34.8 rushing yards and 7.1 tackles per game. He also recorded five quarterback hurries. Sophomore Richard Foster averaged 6.8 tackles per game, while senior Jojo Dowell recorded an interception and averaged 32.75 yards per kickoff return.

On the defensive front, senior Lex Winfree recorded five sacks, two rushing touchdowns, two caused fumbles and a team-leading 11 quarterback hurries. Sophomore Azlan Mathurin added three sacks and led the team with four caused fumbles.

The Warriors also received important contributions from players in the defensive rotation. Senior Eli Sparkman recorded three fumble recoveries, while sophomore Gavvin Conley and junior Kaiden Clemons each recorded two. Clemons also contributed on the defensive line.

In the passing game, sophomore Grant Austin recorded a passing touchdown. The team's receiving leaders included Hogg, Smith, and Sims, while the rushing production was led by Sims, Tate Pinion, and Tucker Pinion.

These statistics reflect the individual leaders reported as of November 2, 2026. They represent only part of the work put in by the Warriors throughout the season. The team's 10-0 regular-season record and first region championship in school history were built through contributions from players at every position, including those whose work does not always show up in the statistics.

As the Warriors move into postseason play, White County has plenty to celebrate from a season marked by individual accomplishments and team success.

WARRIOR FOOTBALL QUICKFACTS

First Season:	1938	Region:	4-AAAA
Athletics Trainer:	Brent Ryan	Playoff Appearances:	2025, 2024, 2022, 2013, 2012, 2010, 2009, 2005, 1999, 1982, 1938
Head Coach:	David Foster		
Offensive Coordinator:	David Foster		
Defensive Coordinator:	Stephen Hogg		
Head Manager:	Dalilah Gateley	Playoff Record:	4-11

WARRIOR ATHLETICS QUICKFACTS

School:	White County High School	Facility:	Dee Harris Field
Location:	Sparta, Tennessee	Director of Schools:	Kurt Dronebarger
Founded:	1909	Principal:	Greg Wilson
Enrollment:	915	Athletics Director:	Terry Crain
Nickname:	Warriors/Warriorettes	Phone Number:	931-836-3214
Colors:	Maroon and Grey	Website:	wchs.whitecoschools.net





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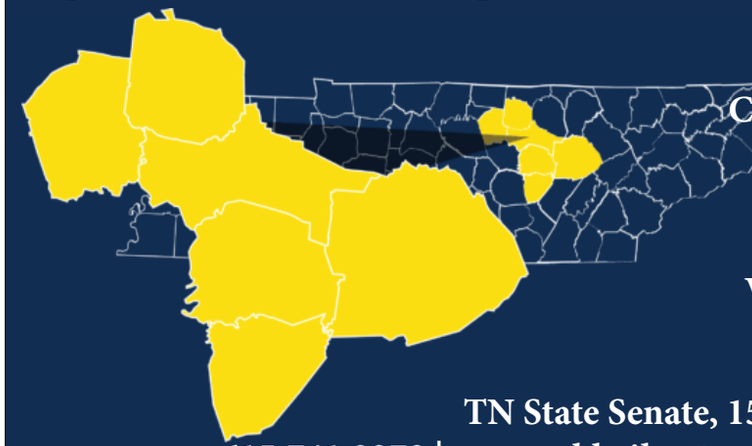






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2026 WHITE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE
FRIDAY, AUG. 21	SODDY DAISY	AWAY
FRIDAY, AUG. 28	YORK	[illegible]
FRIDAY, SEPT. 4	COOKEVILLE	[illegible]
FRIDAY, SEPT. 11	TULLAHOMA	AWAY
FRIDAY, SEPT. 18	LIVI[illegible]	HOME
FRIDAY, SEPT. 25	MACON [illegible]UNTY	AWAY
MONDAY, SEPT. 28	[illegible]MBERLAND COUNTY	AWAY
FRIDAY, OCT. [illegible]	WARREN COUNTY	HOME
FR[illegible] [illegible]. 9	DEKALB COUNTY	AWAY
FRID[illegible] OCT. 23	UPPERMAN	HOME
FRIDAY, OCT. 30	STONE MEMORIAL	HOME

10 - 0 SEASON



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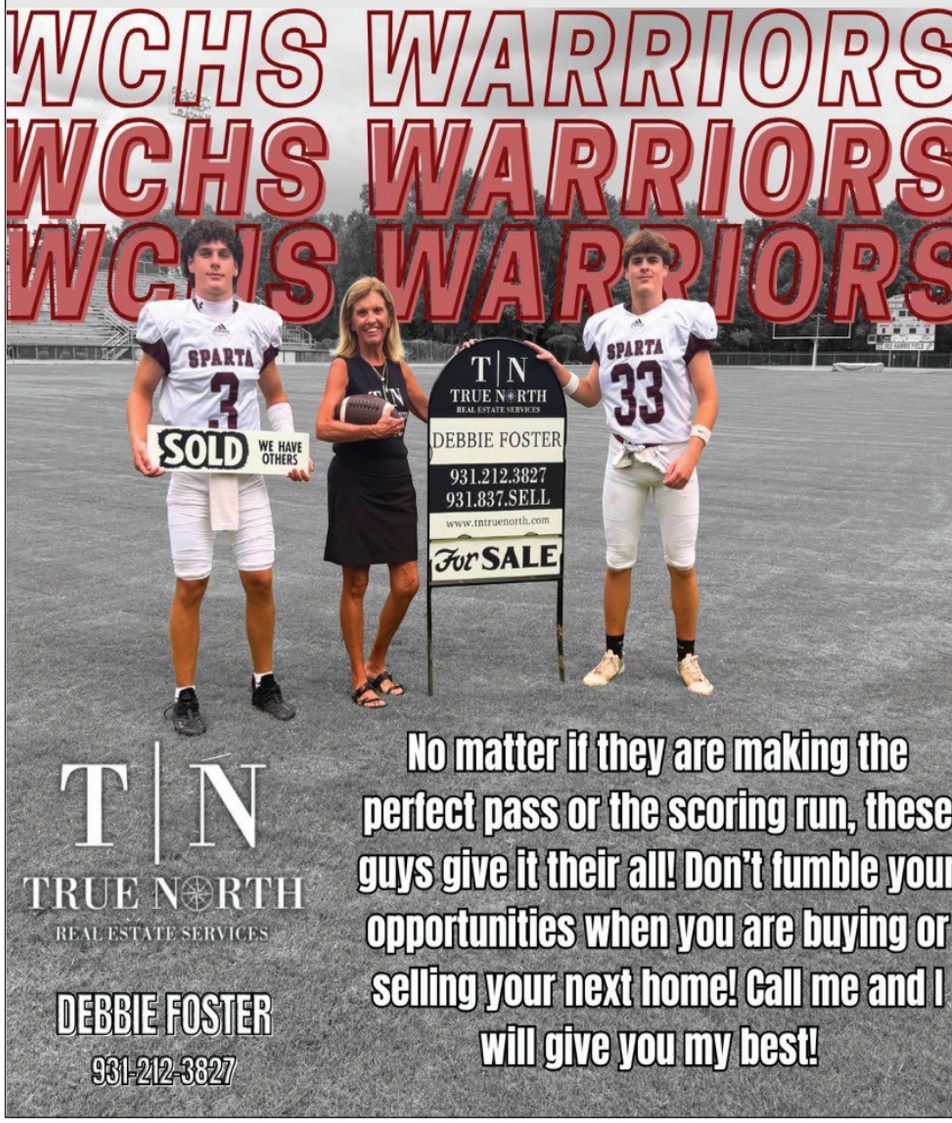
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Keep Up the Great Work, Let's Bring Home State!!!!







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2026 WHITE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY ROSTER

NO	NAME	GR
1	Tristan Cavanah	10
2	Eli Sparkman	12
3	Tucker Pinion	12
4	Bryson Hogg	12
5	JoJo Dowell	12
11	Eli Smith	12
12	Maddox Pratt	12
14	Cortez Sherrell	11
15	Cole Sims	12
16	David Goldenshteyn	12
17	Grant Austin	10
18	Brayden Cope	9
19	Bryson Burchett	11
20	Rick Foster	10
21	Clay Brewington	10
23	Azlan Mathurin	10
24	Marshall Phillips	11
27	Jack Foster	11
28	Lain Rogers	10
29	Matthew Rivera	10
30	Gabe Sweeney	10
31	Drayden Jackson	10
33	Tate Pinion	9
34	Jeremiah Bailey	12
39	Braden Adler	11
44	Jayce Goodwin	10
45	Mason Garland	10
51	Brody Pace	10
52	Alex Sweeney	12
53	Trenton Brown	12
57	Kaiden Clemons	11
58	Lex Winfree	12
60	Trystin Scott	10
62	Brayden Prater	10
63	Julius Davis	10
64	Noah Gardner	10
70	Lane Pryor	11
71	Jieseyn Suggs	12
75	Raider Wardlaw	10
77	Bubba Conley	10
78	Reddy Weldon	9
79	Brayden Qualls	10
80	Baylor Weston	10
82	Tyler Schoonover	10
83	Talan Phy	10
84	Anthony LaFevor	11
88	Ashton Thurman-Wilson	11

Head Coach: David Foster

Assistant Coaches: Jacob Sparkman, Cade Apple, John Armstrong, Jordon Bailey, Connor Brewington, Trey Brewington, Ken Clemons, Jake Edmonds, Stephen Hogg, John Ledford, Garrett Nash, Derrick Sparkman, Richard Starowesk

Follow the playoff games with your own fill-in bracket

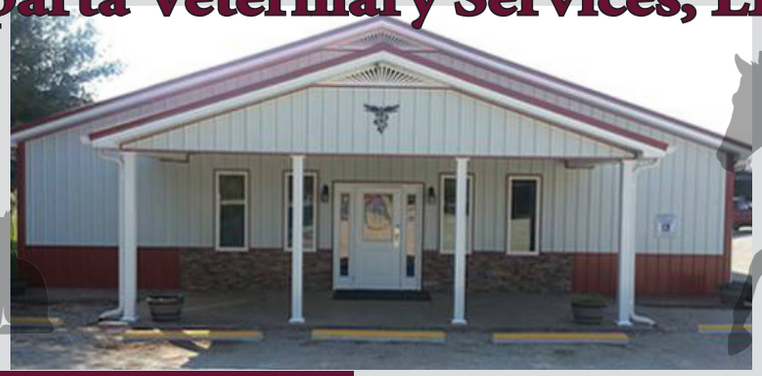


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