

Former basketball star shares story of hope and healing

Angela Reighard Mon 6:41 PM, Nov 28, 2016

PERRY COUNTY, Ky. (WYMT) - Months ago, former M.C. Napier basketball star, Kristie Combs, found out she had a brain tumor.



Combs said she noticed something was wrong in February when she started to lose her hearing.

"I was refereeing a ball game and I could tell something different happened," she said. "It went out and my hearing never did come back on my right side."

Doctors in Cincinnati discovered Combs had an acoustic neuroma, a

brain tumor.

"You can't explain," Combs said. "You're thinking ... Oh my God, there is a tumor there. If it is cancer, where is it at?"

Luckily, the tumor was not cancerous. After an eight-hour surgery, doctors were able to remove the tumor. Combs spent three days in the hospital, but when she returned home, things got worse.

"I knew something was wrong," she said. "My neck started hurting."

Doctors said Combs had bacterial meningitis and MRSA. Still, she never lost faith.

"Everything was against me and I reached out in my faith in the Lord and he saved me," Combs said. "There is a purpose for me. Somewhere for somebody."

Combs said she is recovering each day. On Monday night, she did something she did not think would be possible a few months ago: she officiated opening night of the high school basketball season.

"I will say, it's probably a blessing being a referee and being deaf in one ear, you don't have to hear everything that they say," Combs joked.

She told WYMT she will return to Ohio every three months for a checkup.