

Moving on: St. Mary's girls advance to state with win over WEM

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ARLINGTON - After falling short of the state tournament last season at the hands of Waterville-Elysian-Morristown in the Section 2A finals game, Sleepy Eye St. Mary's was able to right its wrong this season and take down WEM 64-59 in the Section 2A girls' basketball finals at Sibley East High School.

With the win, the undefeated Knights (24-0) move on to the Class A State Girls' Basketball Tournament. The state quarterfinals will be played on Tuesday and Wednesday, and who and where the Knights will play will be determined Saturday.

The Knights were led by Madison Mathiowetz's 27 points, while Sydney Windschitl added 16 points and Reagan Severson had 12.

With the Knights ahead by 5, WEM got a quick basket under the hoop with 4.4 seconds left and had to burn a timeout down 62-59. After Windschitl got the ball and was fouled for double-bonus free throws, she calmly sank both with 2.9 seconds left to put things out of reach.

Thursday's win was the toughest win the Knights have pulled off this season since the last time they defeated WEM in a regular-season matchup in Sleepy Eye three weeks ago by a score of 62-58.

Knights head coach Bruce Woitas said that the second matchup this season with WEM was another battle.

"Our kids battled," Woitas said. "We played them earlier, which was a great nonconference game - we're going to go play them next year, too, in a nonconference game. It was just back and forth. Obviously, two teams that are very strong defensively - we saw that in the first half. We're used to scoring