

Montezuma's best player asserted herself in the second half and that was just what the Bravettes needed.

Shateah Wetering, an athletic junior who has committed to play basketball at Iowa, scored 14 of her 17 points after halftime and Montezuma overcame a terrible start to beat CAM 59-45 in the Class 1A quarterfinals, completing the opening round of the 100th girls state tournament.

Third-seeded Montezuma missed eight of its first nine shots in falling behind 16-4, but got some key 3-pointers from sophomore Elise Boulton and junior Shelby Conger, then broke it open behind its star in the second half.

Boulton knocked down three 3-pointers to draw the Bravettes to 20-19 and Conger closed the first half with two more from beyond the arc to give the Bravettes a 25-22 halftime lead and they stayed in front the rest of the way. Before hitting those two shots, Conger had been 5-for-34 on 3s for the season.

Then it was Wetering's turn. She sat out most of the second quarter after picking up her second foul, but with a quick flurry at the end of the third quarter, she showed everyone what the Bravettes had been missing.

First she got an easy layup off an inbounds pass. Then she stole the ball and sailed in for a layup. Less than half a minute later, she stole the ball again and went in for another layup. That made it 43-32 and Montezuma was in control the rest of the way.

Boulton finished with 13 points, Conger scored nine and Riley Gatton added eight after a scoreless first half. Gatton, the team's No. 2 scorer for the season, also made seven steals and handed out five assists.

Madison Gettler's 19 points led CAM, which made 7 of 11 shots in a first-quarter flurry but struggled after that. Zoey Baylor added 12 points for the Cougars and Paige McAfee scored 11.

Montezuma will take a 22-2 record into a semifinal against North Mahaska at 3:15 p.m. Friday. CAM, in its first trip to state since 1997, finishes 21-3.