

The Class 1A state tournament will end with a familiar sight. Newell-Fonda is back in the championship game -- again.

Top-ranked Newell-Fonda played its usual harassing defense and raced past Marquette Catholic of Bellevue 81-56 to reach the title game for the fifth time in seven years and the eighth time overall.

They did it by following their season-long formula: Run, press, trap and generally cause havoc for the opponent. The Mustangs came up with 30 steals in forcing 39 turnovers, giving them a whopping 67 steals in their two games at state.

And for the second straight game, a Newell-Fonda player broke the 1A tournament record for steals. Macy Sievers recorded 10, along with 16 points, six rebounds and five assists. Teammate Olivia Larsen had set the record with nine in a quarterfinal victory over Springville. The previous record had been eight.

Larsen also reached a milestone in this game, scoring 10 points to become the school's career leader with 1,465. Megan Morenz scored 12 for the Mustangs and Emma Stewart had 11.

Newell-Fonda led from the start, scoring the game's first five points and building a 45-28 halftime lead. The Mustangs led by as many as 30 in the second half as coach Dick Jungers made liberal use of his bench. All 15 Newell-Fonda players who suited up got into the game and 11 of them scored.

Tori Michel led Marquette Catholic with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Macey Kremer scored 12 for the Mohawks, while Teona Richman had nine points and eight rebounds.

Newell-Fonda, now 26-0, will go for its second state championship at 7 p.m. Saturday. The Mustangs won their only title in 2015. They lost to Springville in last year's championship game.

Marquette, in the tournament for the seventh time, finishes 22-3.