

The streak is now 23 and counting for Des Moines Christian.

Des Moines Christian turned back a late rally by Roland-Story and pulled out a 49-41 Class 3A quarterfinal victory to complete the first day of the 100th state tournament.

The Lions lost their first two games this season, but now have won 23 in a row heading into a semifinal game at 3:15 on Thursday. The 3A quarterfinals will finish Tuesday with Center Point-Urbana meeting West Marshall.

Emma Veenstra put together a solid game to lead Des Moines Christian, scoring 15 points, grabbing six rebounds and handing out three assists. Kalli Lawson added 14 points and seven rebounds for the Lions, while Megan Miller knocked down three 3-pointers and scored 10 points, more than double her 4.7 average coming in.

Freshman Regan Barkema and Susie Weaver led Roland-Story with 14 points each. The Norsemen finish 19-6 in their first trip to state since 2011.

Des Moines Christian appeared to be in control with a 40-29 lead early in the fourth quarter before Roland-Story stormed back with 10 straight points. Barkema sank a jumper and got inside for a bucket to cap the run, which drew the Norsemen to 40-39.

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But Des Moines Christian, and specifically Veenstra, had an answer. First she swished a 3-pointer from the left corner, then she slipped inside for a layup. She added a free throw with 51 seconds left to make it 46-39, a cushion that was more than enough for her team to hang on.

Both teams relied on 3-point shooting early. Six of Roland-Story's eight first-half field goals were 3s, while six of Des Moines Christian's nine baskets in the first two quarters came from long range. Des Moines Christian finished 9-for-16 on 3s, but Roland-Story cooled off in the second half and finished 8-for-25.