

Defending state champion Marion is making another move toward the Class 4A title game.

The top-ranked Indians got solid production from all five starters in rolling past Cedar Rapids Xavier 70-35 to open the quarterfinal round.

Marion went 12-for-24 from 3-point range and shot 53.5 percent overall to win for the 22nd time in 23 games. The lone loss was to Class 5A Iowa City West, a setback the Indians have followed with six straight one-sided victories.

Kayba Laube led the way with 25 points and Riley Wright scored 15 to go with seven rebounds. Both shot 6-for-9 from the field, with Laube going 5-for-8 from 3-point range. Ella Van Weelden scored 10 points for the Indians, while Randi Wright contributed eight points and eight rebounds.

Emily Jasper led Xavier with 11 points and Caitlyn Daniels scored eight. The Saints jumped to a quick 5-0 lead but struggled to make shots after that and never threatened once Marion got rolling.

Three-pointers by Laube and Ella Van Weelden erased Xavier's early lead and a 14-2 run that included seven points by Riley Wright put the Indians in control.

They held Xavier to seven field goals through the first three quarters and continued to pull away by draining six 3-pointers in the fourth quarter. Laube had three of those long distance baskets, the last two splashing in from well beyond the top of the key.

Marion will play its semifinal game at 5 p.m. on Thursday. Xavier finishes 14-9 in its 13th state tournament trip. All of the Saints' previous losses were to Class 5A schools.