

Dowling Catholic is heading to the Class 5A semifinals and you'd have to say the Maroons earned it.

Dowling prevailed 76-70 in a tense, three-overtime marathon with second-seeded Waukee, getting the winning points with star Caitlin Clark on the bench.

Clark, who scored 42 points, fouled out on a charging call with 1:02 remaining and the score tied at 70. But the seventh-seeded Maroons found a way to survive thanks to Grace Gaber's clutch free throw shooting.

Gaber, who had shot only 22 free throws all season, stepped up and made five of six in the final 43 seconds. The first two put Dowling ahead. The final three secured the victory in a game in which neither team gave an inch.

Clark, a junior who is one of the nation's most highly touted recruits, needed 39 shots to get her 14 field goals. But she knocked down six shots in the overtime periods, including a pair of 3-pointers, and sank all three free throws after being fouled on a 3-point attempt. Her 42 points are the most ever in a 5A game.

Gaber finished with 14 points for the Maroons, who'll take a 17-7 record into a semifinal game at 11:45 a.m. Thursday.

Sophomore guard Katie Dinnebier was outstanding for Waukee, scoring 31 points on 10 of 14 shooting. She went 5-for-6 from 3-point range and made all but one of her seven free throws. Jori Nieman sank 13 of 18 free throws for the Warriors and finished with 20 points.

Waukee led 63-59 with 2:35 left in the second overtime after Lindsey Kelderman hit a 3 from the left corner. Clark's pull-up jumper tied it at 64 with 1:50 to play and Waukee worked for a final shot. Dinnebier banked in a driving shot that seemed to put Waukee ahead with 3.7 seconds left, but she was called for charging, negating the basket.

Gaber knocked down a 3 from the left corner to start the third overtime and Dowling never trailed again.

Waukee, in the tournament for the sixth straight year, finishes 18-5.