

Same matchup, same results. Newell-Fonda is the Class 1A state champion for the third consecutive year.

The Mustangs got some clutch play and free throw shooting from all-tournament captain Macy Sievers in the closing minutes and beat Bishop Garrigan of Algona 66-52 for its fourth title overall.

Sievers finished with 17 points, seven rebounds and three steals as the Mustangs closed out another memorable season by defeating the same team they beat in last year's championship game and avenging a 66-45 loss to Bishop Garrigan back in December.

Bailey Sievers added 14 points for Newell-Fonda (26-1), which became the eighth school to win three consecutive championships. Maggie Walker scored eight points and Ella Larsen had seven points, nine rebounds and seven steals.

It wasn't a typical game for Newell-Fonda, which averages 81 points and usually scores on a series of fastbreaks and layups off steals. But against a team that had 6-foot-3 sophomore sensation Audi Crooks in the middle, the Mustangs did what they needed to win it.

Crooks was outstanding as usual, finishing with 23 points on 8-for-10 shooting and grabbing 10 rebounds. But the Mustangs did a good job defensively against the Golden Bears' two other scoring threats, Molly Joyce and Kaylyn Meyers. Joyce went 2-for-11 from the field and scored eight points. Meyers went 1-for-6 and finished with six points. Freshman Abbie Capesius scored seven points for the Golden Bears, who made a good run at Newell-Fonda in the fourth quarter but never got closer than five points.

Newell-Fonda, which also won the 1A title in 2015, finished with 14 steals and scored 26 points off turnovers.

Bishop Garrigan (25-2) whittled away at the lead after trailing by 15 in the first half. The Golden Bears got it down to 43-36 after three quarters, fell behind by 11 over the next 2 1/2 minutes, then closed to 51-46 on Meyers' two free throws with 3:44 left.

Newell-Fonda then went into a delay game and forced Garrigan to foul, making sure Macy Sievers had the ball when the foul was called. She made 8-of-9 free throws over the next 1:31 and got the rebound on the one she missed. She also stole the ball and fed Larsen for a layup that made it 59-46 with 2:07 remaining and Larsen set herself up for two free throws with a steal of our own.

After sinking a final free throw, Sievers stole the ball back and the Mustangs dribbled out the final seconds.

Bailey Sievers also made the all-tournament team along with Crooks, Meyers, Montezuma's Elise Boulton Exira/Elk Horn-Kimballton's Quinn Grubbs.