

Balanced scoring and a hustling, trapping defense has been a winning combination for Glenwood and it worked again in the opening game of the Class 4A state tournament.

The top-ranked Rams shot 62 percent with an efficient offense that produced numerous layups and close-in shots and beat Wahlert Catholic 79-57 to reach the semifinal round for the second straight year.

Six players scored at least nine points for Glenwood, led by Abby Hughes with 15 on 5-for-7 shooting. Emma Hughes scored 13 points, Coryl Matheny and Madison Camden each finished with 11 and Elle Scarborough and Brynlee Arnold scored nine apiece.

Matheny made all five of her shots and grabbed seven rebounds. Arnold, a 6-foot-3 junior who comes off the bench, collected eight rebounds and went 4-for-5 from the field, while Scarborough contributed six rebounds.

All that work on the boards led to a 38-28 rebounding advantage and the Rams enjoyed a huge 40-22 edge in points in the paint.

The defense, meanwhile, forced unranked Wahlert into difficult shots. The Golden Eagles shot just 32 percent and had to constantly chase Glenwood players down the floor because the Rams usually sent two players to the other end when Wahlert put up a shot.

Ana Chandlee knocked down 4 of 8 3-point shots and led Wahlert with 17 points. Mary Kate King scored 15 and Allie Kutsch had nine points and seven rebounds for the Golden Eagles, who finished 13-10. All nine of their regular-season losses were the Class 5A teams.

Glenwood never trailed after Abby Hughes and Emma Hughes hit 3-pointers in an 8-0 run that put the Rams ahead 12-6. They shot 67 percent in the first half (14-for-21) in building a 40-29 lead and continued to push the ball for close in shots as the lead grew throughout the second half.

The victory keeps Glenwood unbeaten against Iowa competition and sends the Rams into a semifinal game at 6 p.m. Thursday with a 20-3 record.