

A big run in the second half kept North Scott in the running for a three-peat in Class 4A.

Using a starting lineup that mixes youth with experience, the sixth-ranked Lady Lancers broke open a close game in the fourth quarter and beat Mississippi Athletic Conference rival Central DeWitt 59-45 for their 10th straight victory in state tournament play.

North Scott has won the last two Class 4A titles and also captured the crown in 2017. The Lady Lancers and Sabers split their two regular-season games, but when it mattered most, North Scott prevailed in the rubber match.

Seniors Ashley Fountain and Samantha Scott and sophomore Hattie Hagedorn scored 16 points each to lead North Scott. Fountain grabbed 10 rebounds for a double-double, while Scott scored 11 of her points in the game-turning run. She collected eight rebounds and knocked down 4-of-8 3-point shots.

The Lady Lancers also got a solid contribution from freshman Makayla Farnum, who had seven points and five rebounds.

Taylor Veach led fourth-ranked Central DeWitt with 20 points and seven rebounds and Allison Meadows scored eight points.

North Scott led 25-24 after a back-and-forth first half and the lead changed hands six times in the third quarter before the Lady Lancers made their move, outscoring the Sabers 17-2 over a 6-minute stretch to put the game out of reach.

Farnum scored five points in the run, including two straight buckets inside the start to the fourth quarter. Scott then took over with her long-range shooting.

The 5-foot-9 senior hit a 3-pointer to make it 58-48 and buried back-to-back 3s 38 seconds apart to cap the burst, leaving the Lady Lancers ahead 55-40 with 3:11 left. She also gave her team a big lift heading into the final quarter, running down the ball after she missed a shot and tossing in a jumper at the buzzer.

North Scott will take a 16-2 record into a semifinal game at 6 p.m. Thursday against top-ranked Glenwood. Central DeWitt finishes 16-3 in its first state tournament appearance since 2010.