

Josie Fleischmann has been Ballard's most reliable 3-point shooter all season, but she never made any as important as the ones she hit in her final high school game.

Fleischmann knocked down a tying 3 with 1:57 left, then sank the game winner with 37 seconds to go, lifting the Bombers to a 47-45 victory over Glenwood and the Class 4A state championship.

Second-ranked Ballard let an early nine-point lead slip away, then rallied from a nine-point deficit in the fourth quarter to claim its second state title and cap a 24-1 season.

Fleischmann, a 5-foot-7 senior, scored 19 points to lead the Bombers and hit five 3s -- three of them in the decisive fourth quarter. Brooke Loewe added 16 points and seven rebounds for Ballard and all-tournament captain Molly Ihle, a 5-foot-6 senior, led both teams with 13 rebounds and scored six points.

Madison Camden hit four 3-pointers and scored 20 to lead top-ranked Glenwood, while Jenna Hopp had 14 points and 11 rebounds. Ballard was the first Iowa team to beat Glenwood, which finished 21-4.

Ballard, the 3A state champion in 2009, opened a 15-6 lead before Glenwood began to hit its stride. The Rams ended the first half with a 14-1 run to lead 25-21 and were up 36-27 after Ballard suffered through a 1-for-14 third quarter.

But Loewe scored on a driving layup and again off a steal in the first minute of the fourth quarter and that rallied the Bombers, who pulled it off even after two starters fouled out. Fleischmann's 3 drew Ballard to 38-34 and when she connected from the left corner on a nice pass from Meg Rietz, the Bombers had pulled to a tie at 43.

Glenwood edged back ahead 45-43 with just under a minute to play and Ballard wasted no time at the other end. Fleischmann got the ball left of the key well behind the arc and buried the shot as she fell backward to the floor.

The Rams lost the ball out of bounds with 6 seconds left after missing two shots, Ihle sank one of two free throws and Hopp was wide of the rim on a half-court heave at the buzzer. Ballard had relied on its harassing defense throughout the season, but their shooting carried them in the game that mattered most.

Loewe, Camden and Hopp also made the all-tournament team along with North Scott's Ashley Fountain and Emma Miner of Dallas Center-Grimes.