

Waukee rode its 3-point shooting back to the state championship game.

The top-ranked Warriors connected on nine of their 12 field goals from beyond the arc to open a double-digit lead and beat Ankeny Centennial 50-29 to start the Class 5A semifinal round.

Katie Dinnebier scored 15 of her 20 points in the second half, including two key 3-pointers to help shake her team out of some offensive doldrums. Lindsey Kelderman added nine points on three 3-pointers for the Warriors, who lost to Johnston in last year's title game and won the state championship in 2015.

Megan Earney hit two 3-pointers and scored seven points for Waukee. Peyton Kelderman also scored seven and grabbed nine rebounds, while Reagan Bartholomew had six points and five rebounds.

Maggie Phipps led Centennial with 10 points, Cleao Murray scored nine and Jackie Pippett had eight. Phipps and Dinnebier will become teammates at Drake next season. Waukee led 18-13 after a fast-paced opening quarter, but both offenses stalled after that.

Centennial managed only two field goals in the second quarter as Waukee built a 28-18 lead, but the Warriors went 1-for-14 in the third period and Centennial clawed back to trail 30-24 entering the fourth.

But the Jaguars got no closer. Dinnebier buried a 3 from the deep left corner, Lindsey Kelderman knocked down a 3 and Dinnebier made another from well behind the arc for a 39-27 lead. With Centennial continuing its struggles to score, that was enough of a cushion for the Warriors, who finished it off with free throws, Dinnebier sinking 7-of-8 down the stretch.

Waukee, which beat Centennial 56-46 during the regular season, will take a 12-1 record into the championship game at 7 p.m. Friday.

Centennial beat Southeast Polk on a last-second shot in the quarterfinals, but never got close enough for any kind of dramatics in this one and finished 16-3.