

Lady Gators set for rematch with Arcadia Friday in title game

HAMMOND, La. - One final hurdle remains for the Lakeview Lady Gators' basketball team as they take on the reigning Division IV non-select state champion Arcadia Lady Hornets Friday at 4 p.m. in the Division IV State Title game at the University Center.

It's been a dominant stretch for the top-ranked Lady Gators (29-4) as they enter Friday's game on a 21-game winning streak under head coach DeWaskie Fuller. Lakeview's last loss was to Division I non-select top-ranked Parkway, 49-41, back on Dec. 10 on the road.

After a bye in the first round, the Lady Gators won convincingly in the second round over 17th-ranked Franklin, 60-24, and ninth-ranked Homer 50-13 in the quarterfinals. However, Lakeview as pushed Monday in the semifinals against Midland as they held on for a 48-44 win. But Lakeview's Timberlyn Washington provided just enough fire power as she scored 23 points to push the Lady Gators into the title game.

The second-ranked Lady Hornets (30-4) are looking for a second straight ring as they have won 14 of their last 15 games. Arcadia defeated White Castle 55-47 in the other semifinal Monday, but the Lady Hornets were in control the whole way. Arcadia led for all but 23 seconds of the game and led by as many as 21 points going to the fourth quarter before WCHS closed the gap late.

The Lady Gators and Lady Hornets have been on a collision course for months now as the two have occupied the top two spots in Division IV non-select for most of the season.

Lakeview will be looking for some pay back to add to the possibility of a crowning moment. The Lady Gators were defeated in last year's semifinals by Arcadia, 60-29.

"We are going to leave it all on the court," said Fuller. "It's that simple. God has blessed us to get to this point and we are going to trust him. Now it's time for us to go out there and leave it on the floor."

Fans can follow the play-by-play of the game locally on 100.7 KZBL or KZBLradio.com. Live updates and photos will be posted at the Inside Natchitoches Sports Facebook page throughout the game as well.