

No.1 Trojans roll by Warriors

Written by Jim Ecker

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Iowa City West keeps winning state titles, they keep graduating top-notch players and they keep rolling right along with new stars.

Amazing.

The top-ranked Trojans strolled by Cedar Rapids Washington, 68-46, in a Mississippi Valley Conference boys basketball game at Washington Friday night with an impressive display of offense and defense.

Iowa City West has captured three state titles in a row and has a glittering 81-3 record the past four seasons, including a perfect 6-0 mark this year.

The Trojans cruised Friday night with five underclassmen in the starting lineup for Coach Steve Bergman's juggernaut. David DiLeo, a 6-foot-7 senior, is nursing a deep thigh bruise and has played only one game this season while trying to get healthy.

"When he's ready, it's going to be a nice boost," said Bergman. "We'll be much better when he's playing, there's no doubt."

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That's a scary thought for future opponents.

Devontae Lane, a sophomore, led Iowa City West with 20 points. Connor McCaffery, another 10th grader, ran the club like a coach's son and finished with 16 points and six assists. Tanner Lohaus, a 6-foot-6 junior, scored 14 points with some slick feeds from McCaffery. Wali Parks, a 6-4 junior with a long wing-span, added 10 points to the collection.

Iowa City West opened a 28-point lead in the third quarter and cruised from there.

"We have talent," Bergman acknowledged. "It's just a question of will we grow up a little bit and grow together as a team, develop some chemistry and a bench. Talent is not the issue."

The Trojans have great bloodlines. McCaffery's father is Fran McCaffery, the head coach at Iowa. Lohaus is the son of former Hawkeye and NBA player Brad Lohaus and the young brother of former Iowa City West star Wyatt Lohaus (now at Northern Iowa). DiLeo is the son of former Iowa assistant coach Frank DiLeo.

"We'll keep plugging away," said Bergman. "They're young and inexperienced guys. There's a little bit of nerves and a little bit of not knowing what to do. We need a better bench than what we have."

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