

Saints draw Harlan in 2013 rematch at state tournament

Written by Metro Sports Report

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DEWITT - The Harlan Cyclones must have winced Tuesday night when they saw who they drew in the opening round of the Class 4A girls state basketball tournament next week.

Oh, no! It's those pesky Saints from Xavier again.

Xavier upset Harlan, 53-52, in the championship game of the Class 4A state tournament in 2013. Now they'll meet again on Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines in a rematch.

The Saints earned another trip to Des Moines by toppling Davenport North, 65-52, in the regional finals Tuesday night in DeWitt. The Saints did not reach the state tournament last year, falling on a buzzer-beater to North Scott in the regional finals.

"Emotions were really high," Xavier senior Lizzy Bailey told the Quad City Times. "Last year was a heart-breaking loss, so we had that in the back of our minds when we came out today. We just came out and played tough."

Harlan is ranked No. 1 in Class 4A with a 23-0 record. The Saints are ranked No. 8 with a 17-6 mark, but the Saints are battle-tested after facing Class 5A competition all season in the Mississippi Valley Conference.

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Xavier led 21-17 after a sluggish first half against Davenport North, but the Saints scored 19 points in the third period and poured in 25 markers in the fourth quarter to win comfortably.

Xavier made 22 of 36 free throws in the second half and was 26 of 43 for the game.

Bailey finished with 25 points for Xavier and Morgan Breitbach added 19. Davenport North (17-6) set a school record this year with its 17 victories. Paige Bradford scored 21 points for North.

The Class 4A state tournament will feature all eight of the highest-ranked teams in the state. The tournament begins Tuesday with No. 4 Carlisle facing No. 5 Waverly-Shell Rock, followed by No. 1 Harlan against No. 8 Xavier.

The first round will conclude Wednesday with No. 3 Ballard against No. 6 Sioux City Heelan, followed by No. 2 Western Dubuque against No. 7 Indianola.

Waverly-Shell Rock, Harlan and Western Dubuque all enter the state tournament with perfect 23-0 records.

DAVENPORT NORTH (52): Stowers 5 0-0 12, Houston 5 3-8 13, Hicks 0 0-0 0, Kirby 0 0-0 0, O'Brien 0 0-0 0, Wardlow 0 0-0 0, Jackson 0 0-0 0, Dillie 2 2-2 6, Bradford 7 7-9 21. Totals 19 12-19 52.

XAVIER (65): Bailey 6 10-13 25, Noonan 2 2-2 7, Andersen 0 5-8 5, Breitbach 7 5-8 19, Christianson 0 0-0 0, Dickes 0 0-2 0, Nelson 0 3-4 3, Stovie 0 0-0 0, Drahozal 0 0-0 0, Ivester 1 1-2 3, Joens 2 0-4 4. Totals 18 26-43 65.

Halftime - Xavier 21, Davenport North 17. 3-point goals - Davenport North 2 (Stowers 2), Xavier

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3 (Bailey 3).