

Warriors dumped by No. 1 Trojans

Written by Tom Fruehling

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Cedar Rapids Washington's 6-foot-7, 300-pound mountain man Julian Good-Jones, scholarship-bound to Iowa State next fall to play football, knows top talent when he sees it.

And he saw plenty of it Tuesday night at the U.S. Cellular Center as his Warrior basketball team was steamrolled by unbeaten and top-ranked Iowa City West, 79-50, in a Class 4A substate final.

"They've got five Division I players," a worn-out Good-Jones said with admiration afterward. "And all of them are very athletic.

"It's hard to compete against dudes like that. They just run and gun and keep on going."

Washington Coach Adam Sanchez thought he had a good game plan against the 23-0 Trojans, who have won three straight state championships and seem to be the team to beat again in the tournament that starts next week.

"We wanted to go to a zone defense and force them to beat us with jump shots," he explained. "But we got behind very early, and it's hard to play a zone when you're trying to catch up.

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“They run their stuff so well that they mostly got layups and post-ups (close to the basket).”

Indeed, when substitute Alex Henderson nailed a 3-pointer two minutes into the second quarter, they were West’s first points from beyond the foul line. The Men of Troy were up 26-8 by that point, with every other score coming on free throws or bunnies under the boards.

“They’re very disciplined,” said high-energy Washington reserve guard Keion Wills, one of few Warriors able to keep up with Iowa City’s thoroughbreds. They don’t take any bad shots. And they’re real aggressive on offense and on defense.

“They’re like dogs out there.”

Despite being MVC Mississippi Division co-champ with Dubuque Hempstead, Sanchez admitted his 13-10 underdog squad came out with the jitters. They made four turnovers in the first three minutes while West raced ahead 9-2 and never let up.

If they happened to miss a close-in shot, the Trojans used their their quickness and agility to get second and third chances.

Other than David DiLeo’s 3-pointer later in the second quarter and his short jumper toward the end of the game, the rest of Iowa City’s points were from the line or underneath the rim.

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