

Kennedy, LM girls draw No. 1 seeds

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Kennedy, Linn-Mar, Washington and Marion have drawn opening-round byes in the girls regional basketball tournament this month and will need to win only two games to reach the state tournament.

Kennedy and Linn-Mar drew No. 1 seeds in the Class 5A regionals. Washington was assigned a No. 2 seed in Class 5A and the Marion Indians drew a No. 2 seed in Class 4A.

Jefferson, Prairie and Xavier will play in the opening round of the regional tournament on Wednesday, Feb. 17. Kennedy, Linn-Mar, Washington and Marion will swing into action in the regional semifinals on Saturday, Feb. 20 and the regional finals will be played on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

The highest remaining seeds will get to host the regional finals.

The sixth-ranked Kennedy Cougars will host Muscatine or Davenport Central in the Class 5A Region 4 semifinals. The other half of the bracket features 12th-ranked Davenport North and Bettendorf. If the seeds hold true to form, Kennedy will host Davenport North in the regional finals.

The 10th-ranked Linn-Mar Lions will host Prairie or Marshalltown in the Class 5A Region 5 semifinals. The other half of the bracket features eighth-ranked Dowling Catholic and Des Moines East. If the seeds hold true to form, Linn-Mar will host Dowling in the regional finals. Dowling is ranked higher than Linn-Mar in the latest IGHS AU poll, but Linn-Mar is seeded higher.

The 15th-ranked Washington Warriors will host Davenport West in the Class 5A Region 2 semifinals. If the seeds hold true, Washington will play at second-ranked Johnston in the regional finals.

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The Jefferson J-Hawks will visit 14th-ranked Iowa City West in the Class 5A Region 8 semifinals. The other half of the bracket features fifth-ranked Waukee.

The Marion Indians will host DeWitt Central or Maquoketa in the semifinals of the Class 4A Region 4 tournament. The other half of the bracket features sixth-ranked North Scott, which would host the regional finals if the seeds hold true.

The Xavier Saints will face Vinton-Shellsburg in the opening round of the Class 4A Region 3 tournament, with the winner facing 13th-ranked Grinnell in the semifinals. The other half of the bracket features second-ranked Western Dubuque.

The state tournament will be held in Des Moines from Feb. 29 through March 5.