

The fifth-ranked Lakeview Lady Gators basketball team punched its ticket to the Top 28 for the second straight year after it defeated the fourth-ranked LaSalle Lady Tigers, 41-28, Thursday night on the road in the quarterfinals of the Division IV non-select playoffs.

The Lady Gators (26-3) got off to a slow start as LaSalle (26-3) led 4-0 through the first three minutes of the game. However, junior Timberlyn Washington caught fire as she scored 12 of the 14 points in the first quarter to give Lakeview a 14-8 lead at the end of the first quarter.

In the second quarter, both teams came out stone cold as neither team scored through the first four minutes of the quarter until Lakeview's Nahaje Davis scored on a lay-up at the 3:53 mark. The Lady Gators stretched their lead to double digits at halftime as they led 21-11.

Lakeview began to inch away from LaSalle in the third quarter as Washington took control of the game again. The Lady Gators' guard scored all 10 points for Lakeview in the quarter as they led, 31-15 at the end of the third quarter.

The Lady Gators continued their defensive dominance as LaSalle struggled to get clean looks while Lakeview pulled away to a 41-21 lead with 3:02 to go as they cruised into the semifinals. Washington finished with 30 points while LaSalle was led by Kenzie Nino with 15 points.

Lakeview advances to the semifinals in Hammond, Louisiana and the University Center on the campus of Southeastern Louisiana University where they will face top-ranked Arcadia (31-3) at time and date to be determined. Arcadia advanced after beating eighth-ranked Oak Grove 55-51 Thursday in the quarterfinals.