

The fifth-ranked Lakeview Lady Gators will host the 28th-ranked West St. John Lady Rams in the first round of the Division IV non-select basketball playoffs Thursday night at 5:30 p.m.

The Lady Gators (23-3, 9-1 in district 3-2A) finished the season as co-district champions with Mansfield (19-8, 9-1 in 3-2A). LHS enters the postseason winners of 10 of their last 11 games under head coach Dewaskie Fuller.

Lakeview will be looking to get back to the State Championship game as they were edged in last year's Division IV title game by Oakdale, 53-48.

The Lady Gators are led by one of the top players in the state, junior guard Timberlyn Washington. While standing just 5-foot-4 inches tall, Washington dominated this season on both ends of the floor helping set a tone for Lakeview throughout the season.

West St. John (9-21) started off the season 1-10 before rallying to salvage a playoff opportunity. The Lady Rams have struggled offensively this season, scoring under 35 points in 21 games this season.

The winner of this game will face the winner of 12th-ranked Merryville and 21st-ranked Franklin.