

The top-ranked Lakeview Gators basketball team defeated the eighth-ranked Welsh Greyhounds, 63-52, Friday night at home in the quarters finals to advance to the semifinals for the sixth time in 10 years.

The Gators (26-6) stormed out to a 13-0 lead in a first quarter that included a shattered backboard by senior Andre Sowell after a thunderous dunk. The game was delayed by nearly 30 minutes to replace the rim. When play resumed, the Gators kept their foot on the gas as they led 33-13 at halftime.

The Greyhounds (18-13) mounted a comeback in the third quarter as they outscored the Gators, 20-13, to trim the lead to 46-33 at the end of the quarter. Welsh continued to inch its way back into the game in the fourth quarters cutting the Gators' advantage to 53-46.

But it was too much of Lakeview's Alonzo Driver who exploded for 36 points with 20 of them coming in the second half. The Gators' senior made 15 field goals including two three-pointers and converted six free throws. Sowell added 16 points along with his highlight reel dunk.

"We are glad to be able to have the success that we had," said Lakeview head coach Brian Williams. "But we want to go down there and win it and not just be satisfied with making it. We don't just want to make it which is why we didn't even cut the nets down. As far as the players are concerned, they made it clear after the game that if we don't win two more then we have won nothing."

Next up, the Gators will take on fourth-ranked Pickering in the semifinals at Burton Coliseum in Lake Charles, Louisiana at a date and time to be determined.