

The top-ranked Lakeview Gators advanced to the quarterfinals of the Division IV non-select basketball playoffs with a 78-72 win over the Ferriday Trojans Tuesday at home in the second round.

The Gators (25-6) had to fight as the Trojans (16-14) battled every step of the way for 32 minutes. Lakeview seemed to be in control in the first half as they led 25-12 after the first quarter and 38-26 at halftime.

However, Ferriday refused to throw in the towel as it scored the first seven points of the third quarter to cut the Gators' lead to 38-33. The Trojans continued to fight back as they cut the lead to four, 47-43 with 2:00 left in the third quarter.

But in the fourth quarter, Lakeview's Alonzo Driver took over as he scored 10 of his team-high 20 points to help Lakeview clinch the win. Dereon Joseph was also key for the Gators as he had 16 points and was 6-for-6 from the free throw line. Andre Sowell and Taylen Phillips also chipped in with 15 and 12 points, respectively.

"I do not like us having a bye game the way we did," said Lakeview head coach Brian Williams. "We went 10 days without playing so I felt like we were shaking off rust. It's just too long to go without playing so I want to see that change. But as for the game, I thought Ferriday came in and played hard. We had 20 point leads twice and those kids didn't quit. They are going to be a tough team because most of their team will be returning. But we are looking forward to getting a chance to get back to Marsh Madness because we barely missed it last year."

Lakeview advances to Friday's quarterfinals where it will face the eight-seeded Welsh Greyhounds at home at 7 p.m. Welsh defeated ninth-ranked Arcadia, 78-71, Tuesday in the second round.