

Cougars fall short against No.1 Trojans

Written by Jim Ecker

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The Kennedy Cougars slowed Iowa City West down a little, got them in foul trouble and made them sweat at the Kennedy gym Friday night.

The top-ranked Trojans won anyway, 64-54, with a balanced attack that saw all five starters score in double figures.

Coach Steve Bergman's club has won three Class 4A state titles in a row and could be heading for a fourth this season. The Trojans boast a phenomenal record of 90-3 the past four years and are standing at 15-0 this season and 11-0 in the Mississippi Valley Conference.

Kennedy (10-5, 7-3) pulled within 45-42 early in the fourth quarter and drew within 54-50 midway through the stanza, but the smaller Cougars were not able to finish the job.

"Too many lows. That's kind of been the story of our season," said Kennedy Coach Jon McKowen.

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"There's times every single game where we play the way we feel we can play, but then we have too many down times. You can't play 16-minute games. I don't care who you're playing.

"I felt like we played a 16-minute game tonight."

The Cougars had a slow start and a slow finish, helping Iowa City West escape with the victory.

"We're happy to get out of here," said Bergman. "I don't think we played awful, but I don't think we played great. I'm sure they feel they left a few points out there, too.

"It's a tough place to play," he said. "They do some unique things. They change defenses a lot."

All five Iowa City West starters scored 13 or 11 points. Tanner Lohaus and Devontae Lane had 13 apiece, while Wali Parks, Connor McCaffery and David DiLeo had 11 each.

Kennedy could not match that. Zach Daniels scored 15, Brendon Manning had 11 and Bryton Heisler finished with 10 points.

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