

The North Union School District is still relatively young, but the program is making some noise in girls basketball.

Following up on its dramatic upset of defending state champion Western Christian in the regional finals, North Union held on in the closing seconds to beat third-ranked Panorama 47-46 in the final game of the Class 2A quarterfinal round.

Chloe Lofstrom sank a free throw for the game-winning point with 17.2 seconds left. She also grabbed nine rebounds, none more important than the one she gathered in after Panorama's Bailey Beckman missed a jumper with seven seconds left.

North Union inbounded the ball after Lofstrom was fouled, only to see Beckman intercept the pass. But her long 3-point try grazed the front of the rim and fell short, enabling the 10th-ranked Warriors to escape with a victory in their first ever state tournament game.

North, now in its sixth year, is a combination of the North Kossuth, Sentral and Armstrong-Ringsted school districts. The Warriors earned their trip to state when Hallie Reese hit an off-balance desperation shot at the buzzer to stun Western Christian.

Reese scored eight points against Panorama, which had won 22 straight, and Samantha Hagedorn had 13.

Beckman led Panorama with 13 points, while Hope Wilderman and Morgan Johnk each scored eight. Johnk also grabbed 10 rebounds.

The second half had four lead changes before Hagedorn drove for a bucket to put North Union up 46-44 with 1:57 left. Panorama tied it on Johnk's putback 21 seconds later.

With North Union working for a shot as the clock wound down, Lofstrom was fouled on a putback attempt and made one of her two free throws. It turned out to be just enough.

North Union takes a 23-1 record against Cascade in a semifinal game at 11:45 a.m. Friday. Panorama finishes 23-2, its only other loss coming to defending Class 1A champion Springville in the second game of the season.