

With just one senior in the starting lineup, North Polk is built for the future.

But the eighth-ranked Comets are still going strong in the present, and they'll play in the Class 3A semifinals after beating perennial contender Davenport Assumption 64-47.

North Polk did it balance and defense, putting three players in double figures and holding the seventh-ranked Knights to 22 percent shooting.

Freshman Maggie Phipps led the winners with 13 points and eight rebounds. Junior Katie Brown added 12 points and Jaedon Murphy, also a junior, scored 12 for the Comets, who made the tournament for the first time since 2008.

Bailey Brown, one of a set of triplets on the Assumption roster, led the Knights with 18 points and seven rebounds. Hannah Wislander chipped in with 11 points and eight rebounds, while Brown's sister Carlye scored eight.

The two teams went back and forth throughout the first half until North Polk's Abi Zimmer stole the ball and took it in for a layup. Katie Brown then hit a 3-pointer at the halftime buzzer for a 26-22 lead and North Polk led the rest of the way.

The Comets eventually broke it open with a 15-2 run that spanned the end of the third quarter and beginning of the fourth. That made it 46-31 and assured the Comets of their trip to the next round. Phipps highlighted that burst when she stole the ball and flipped a behind-the-back pass to Katie Brown for a layup.

North Polk will face a major challenge in its semifinal game, taking on top-ranked and unbeaten Crestwood at 5 p.m. Thursday.

Assumption, a four-time champion, made its 15th trip to the tournament. The Knights finish 16-9, with all but two of those losses to teams ranked among the top 15 in Classes 5A and 4A.