Kenny Howell

Managing Editor

The Mt. Juliet girls capped off their 2013-14 season by reaching the state semifinals.

The Lady Bears beat Jefferson County in the first round, 65-37 before falling to eventual state champion Blackman, 55-46.

In the opening game, Mt. Juliet dominated from start to finish. Jefferson County had a severe height disadvantage, and the Lady Bears exploited it. Only one bucket came from outside the paint in the first half, as Mt. Juliet led 36-8 at the break.

Mt. Juliet shot 71 percent from the field and had a 30 to eight rebound advantage in the game.

Sally McCabe led the way with 20 points, and Ronjanae DeGray finished with 18.

Mt. Juliet 65 Jefferson Co. 37

J - 6 2 13 16 - 37

M - 16 20 23 6 - 65

J - Dodson 9, Alder 5, Bales 5, Woolard 3, Doane 3, Griffin 2, Jennings 2, Diaz 2, Codispoti 2, Brooks 2, Fawbush 2. M - Sally McCabe 20, Ronjanae DeGray 18, Rae DeGray 7, Skye Riggan 6, Tyia Waller 5, Summer Adams 4, Ashley Roby 3, Tavie Bell 2.

Friday, the Lady Bears ended the season to the No. 1 team in the nation, Blackman.

The Lady Blaze have two of the top recruits in the nation in former Lady Bear MeMe Jackson and sophomore point guard Crystal Dangerfield.

The Lady Bears fell behind early, 13-8 after one, but came roaring back in the second. The run was sparked by Tyia Waller off the bench who got two steals from Jackson on back-to-back possessions, and Ronjanae DeGray gave the Lady Bears the lead late in the half. It was 20-19 Mt. Juliet at the break.

Blackman controlled the second half, outscoring the Lady Bears 16-8 in the third, and holding the lead in the fourth.

Ronjanae DeGray scored 18 points, and Rae DeGray finished with 13.

Blackman went on to win the AAA State Championship easily over Ridgeway, 65-44.

Blackman 55 Mt. Juliet 46

B - 13 6 16 20 - 55

M - 8 12 8 18 - 46

B - Dangerfield 22, Jackson 14, Johnson 10, Bond 7, Williams 2. M - Ronjanae DeGray 18, Rae DeGray 13, Sally McCabe 9, Ashley Roby 3, Tyia Waller 3.

Wilson Central opens State Tourney Wednesday

The Wilson Central Wildcats knocked off Hunters Lane, Tuesday, March 4, 54-38, to earn another trip to the state tournament.

The Wildcats last went to the state tournament in 2012.

Central (26-6) will open Wednesday with a familiar postseason foe in Brentwood (31-2). Central played Brentwood in 2012 and 2013 in the sectional game to reach the state tournament.

Central won the game in 2012 and Brentwood won in 2013. The State Tournament game at the Murphy Center will tip off at 11:45 a.m.