

## Record

vs Valley L 61-64	vs Linn-Mar (Substate Second Round) W 83-47
@ Waukee W 49-48	vs Cedar Rapids Kennedy (Substate Final at Marshalltown) W 65-63 OT
vs Southeast Polk W 61-42	vs Dowling Catholic (State Quarterfinal) W 49-43
vs Dowling Catholic W 58-43	vs Cedar Falls (State Semi-Final) W 64-51
@ Mason City W 70-23	vs Waukee (State Championship) L 50-61
@ Valley W 56-43	
@ Urbandale W 51-38	
@ Marshalltown W 62-56	
vs Waukee L 40-58	
vs DSM Lincoln W 67-29	
@ Dowling Catholic L 51-64	
@ Ames L 46-53	

Making his way to the basket and splitting the Dowling Catholic defenders during the state quarterfinal matchup is sharpshooting junior Trey Lewis. Lewis put up 12.6 ppg and was lethal behind the arc as he knocked down 42 threes (2nd in Class 4A) and shot 39.3% from 3-point range. Not only was Lewis dangerous on the offensive side, but he was a pain to go up against on the defensive side. Playing lots of in your face defense he caused multiple turnovers including 23 steals. Lewis earned All-Conference 2nd Team, All-Substate and All-State 2nd Team honors. Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti



Soaring high through the air to slam down a lob in the state quarterfinals vs Dowling Catholic is junior Steven Kramer. The 6'5" forward was electric on the floor all year long especially on the offensive side. Kramer finished the year averaging 13.1 ppg, 4.9 rpg and 2.8 apg. He also shot 54% from the floor which was second on the team. Kramer had his best three-game stretch during the state tournament as he put together performances of 16, 23 and 16 points and was named the All-State Tournament Team Captain. Other honors for Kramer included All-Conference 2nd Team, and All-State 2nd Team. Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti



Fighting inside for a tough layup is senior Max Roquet during the season opener vs Valley. The 6'6" forward was a monster on the glass all year long hauling in 9.7 rpg and extended multiple offensive possessions averaging 4.5 org. He also led Class 4A in rebounds, (165) offensive rebounds, (77) and steals (28). Roquet chipped in 8.2 ppg and shot a team high 60.4% from the floor. Roquet earned honorable mention All-Conference and will end his basketball career with over 590 points, and 450+ rebounds. Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti



Down on the left block is Waukee's Tucker DeVries. He was then immediately swarmed by a trio (junior Trey Lewis and seniors Max Roquet and Carter Borwick) of Dragon defenders. A major key in the Dragons run to the championship game was through their defense. They led the state in steals per game (7.9) and held their opponents to just 48 points a game which was second in the state. Along with the great defense, they outscored their opponents by 9.8 ppg. Two of their best defensive performances came at the Well, holding Dowling Catholic to 33 points which was a season low for the Maroons, and holding Cedar Falls to 51 points. Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti



Driving into the lane, with Waukee's Wyatt Heston trailing him, is senior Carter Borwick. In his first year as a starter, Borwick provided a big spark for the Dragons in every aspect of the game. He was one of the Dragon's top defenders, forcing 20 steals and multiple charges. Not only was he a huge presence on the defensive side of the ball, Borwick shot 41% from the field. He also earned honorable mention All-Conference. Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti

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Job # 3292 School Johnston High School

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# 40% chance 4%

## Team defies odds to make state

Few gave the Dragons a chance.

“We went into it with an underdog mentality, and I don’t think anyone really picked us to beat Kennedy, Dowling (Catholic), Cedar Falls or Waukee,” head coach Brian Frick said. “I think some of that is ok, and I told the guys multiple times that the only people we need are the ones that are in this room.”

Underdog mentality was an understatement. In an article written by the Des Moines Register, they listed their predictions for who would walk out of Wells Fargo as state champs. The Dragons sat at 4%, and ready to prove everyone wrong.

Following a couple of cancellations in early December and a season-opening loss to the Valley Tigers, the Dragons went into Waukee looking for a kickstart to their season. Things were not looking good as they entered the second half down 11 points following a three point second quarter. A couple quick buckets to start the third quarter and the Dragons were down 16 points. But when faced with adversity, this team never gave up. Outsourcing the Warriors by eight in the third, they had cut the lead down to three points. Water flying everywhere in the locker room, the spark had been lit for Johnston after escaping with a one-point victory.

Ripping off six more wins, the Dragons were torching opponents and playing lockdown defense. But a second regular season matchup with the Warriors snuffed out the fire. Falling 58-40, it was a huge blow to the team’s morale as they would go 1-2 over the next three with losses to the Maroons and Little Cyclones. “It was a reality check,” senior Reid Grant said. “We had a players’ only meeting, and we all talked about how we could be better and what we could do. Then we really just came together as a team.”

Turned out calling that players’ only meeting was the right call, because after that Johnston clicked phenomenally.

They opened postseason play with a statement win over Linn-Mar, beating them by 36, and having four players finish in double figures, led by Grant with 19, juniors Steven Kramer and Trey Lewis with 16 and 15 and senior Max Roquet finishing with 11.

Fast forward four days, Johnston matched up against Cedar Rapids Kennedy looking to clinch a spot in the state tournament. The Dragons had a slow start to the contest, but ended the half with a bang after Grant’s half court splash. Leading by three with the clock dwindling down, sophomore guard Kenzie Reed nailed a 3 pointer for the Cougs trying the game at 54. With an opportunity for one final shot, Johnston got it inside to Roquet who would be fouled at the buzzer. After discussing the play, the referees overturned the foul sending the game into overtime. “Losing to some tough teams earlier, it would have been easy to bow out, and be ok with making the substate final, but our guys were focused and locked in,” Frick said. Right out of the gates in OT, the Dragons jumped out to a seven point lead and never looked back.

4 percent. “It was our motto throughout the state tournament, everyone counted us out, they thought we had no shot in winning it all,” Grant said. The second the Dragons stepped foot on the court in Wells Fargo Arena, they were mentally ahead of the competition. Opening up with Dowling Catholic, the Dragons did not look like a four seed, lighting it up from all over, winning their first state tournament game since 2009. Now it was on to the undefeated Tigers of Cedar Falls. Once again the Dragons lit it up from the field, leading by as much as 20, sending home the first seeded Tigers and moving on to a 4A state championship appearance.

“I think we played probably about as good as we could for the first two-and-a-half quarters,” Frick said. From the jump, the Dragons were left out to a 12 point lead. But Waukee slowly eased their way back into the game. During the fourth quarter Roquet made an incredible play blocking a shot. The ball fell right into the lap of senior Payton Sandfort who knocked down a triple extending the game to nine points and putting it out of reach.

“I love this group of guys, it meant everything, we didn’t get what we came here to do but we definitely opened some eyes,” Grant said.

With the lights shining bright, junior guard Trey Lewis awaits his name to be called during the starting lineups of the state championship. “Making state was just an unreal feeling, and the best part about it was just proving everybody wrong that didn’t think we could get there.” Lewis said. He scored 13 points behind his 50% shooting from behind the arc, and brought in four rebounds. Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti



Throwing up a tough floater over Valley’s 6’9” Ruot Bijek is star senior point guard Reid Grant. The four-year varsity player put together his best season as a Dragon, finishing with 12.5 ppg, 3 rpg and 4 apg. He also shot 49% from the field and a team high 47.1% from behind the arc. Grant earned 1st Team All-Conference, All-Substate team, 3rd Team All-State and was selected to play in the IBCA All-Star game. Grant will leave Johnston as one of the best, finishing his career with 600+ points, 250+ rebounds and over 230+ assists. He is committed to the University of North Dakota. Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti

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