

4A Sub State Finals - Holton Girls Return to State With 49-game Win Streak
Class 4A Sub-State Championship Game Recaps and Players to Bank on from Citizens State Bank and Trust Company of Hiawatha.

GIRLS

Holton 70 - Wamego 53

The defending Class 4A State Champion Holton girls responded to an early 8-7 deficit to score 9 consecutive points before Wamego battled back, hitting five trifecta's and tying the game at 31 just before halftime. The Cats took a two-point lead into the locker-room and stretched the margin to 6 entering the fourth quarter. The intense pressure tenacious defense and finally took its toll in the final quarter when Holton went on a 9-0 spurt to put the game away and secure a sixth straight trip to the Class 4A State Tournament. Holton made a season high 7 three's including 3 each for **seniors Jayna Smith and Ryann Bowser** who combined for 22 points in the second half. Smith ended with 18 points while Bowser scored a season-high 17, and Kyrstie (12) and Kylie Miller (10) also scored in double figures. Wamego, who had lost to Holton by 34 to start the season, ended their campaign at 18-5. Kaylee Page scored 19 and Laykn Rowden added 16 for the NCKL champion Red Raiders, who did not have a senior on the roster. Meanwhile, the seven-time undefeated Big 7 Champs (98 in a row) head to Salina for the fourth straight year with an undefeated record and have the top seed with a 49-game win streak intact. Their closest game this year has been 14 points.

BOYS

Abilene 42 - Holton 36

In a game of big runs and momentum changes, Abilene posted a 17-5 third quarter and held on to secure their first state basketball tourney appearance since 1997. The Cowboys led 12-5 after a 10-0 run, but Holton answered scoring 17 straight to take the biggest lead of the contest 22-12. Abilene scored the initial 13 points in the second half and saw a 7 point lead nearly vanish in the final minutes as they missed a pair of one-and-one free throws and Holton got a trey from senior **Jacob Tanking** (9 points) to make it 38-36 in the final minute. Andy Wilson hit four late free throws to seal the deal and scored a game-high 16 points for the 22-1 NCKL boys champs. Tyler Burdick led Holton with 12 and missed a go-ahead three in the final :35, while Trent Tanking added 10 before fouling out with 2:30 remaining. The three time Big 7 League Champion Wildcat boys were denied a third consecutive trip to the state tournament and ended the year with a 19-4 mark.