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Westhill boys blow past Syracuse Academy of Science with third-quarter run (video)

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By Nolan Weidner | nweidner@syracuse.com on February 18, 2014 9:37 p.m.

The Westhill boys basketball team knows its going to get everyone's best shot throughout the playoffs.

The state's No. 1 team got all it could handle in the first half of tonight's **Class B sectional quarterfinal** against Syracuse Academy of Science, a team it had beaten twice by a total of 57 points.

Up 27-25 going into the third quarter, the Warriors (20-0) put the hammer down by outscoring the Atoms 27-6 and turning a close one into a rout on its home floor.

Top-seeded Westhill won, 68-48, to advance to a semifinal at 8 p.m. Friday at Onondaga Community College against fourth-seeded IT Syracuse Central, which eliminated Cazenovia.

Junior Jordan Roland scored 12 of his game-high 28 points in the decisive third, and Tyler Reynolds added 10 of his 17 in an eight-minute burst of offense. Ryan Roland, Jordan's younger brother, scored the other five points in the quarter to finish off SAS. Ryan Roland finished with 15.

"The problem was a mental breakdown for the last three minutes of the third period," said SAS coach Onur Gokce, whose team finishes its season at 11-9.

Gokce said his team tired out, and that was all the space Westhill needed to sprint away.

After SAS tied the score at 29-29 early in the third, Westhill showed why its perhaps the area's best team in any class.

02/18 - 7:00 PM Boys Basketball	Final
Syracuse Academy of Science	48
Westhill	68

[Complete Box Score >](#)

Jordan Roland and Reynolds hit five straight baskets, then sophomore Ryan Roland drained a three and added a pair of free throws for a 44-29 Warriors lead.

After Jesse Murray scored for SAS, Jordan Roland showed why he's a leading contender for boys player of the year.

Roland hit one 3-pointer to make it 47-31. Then moments later launched another when an SAS defender failed to get out to guard him.

On the next Atoms' possession, Roland knocked the ball loose, saved it from going out of bounds with a behind-the-back pass to a teammate, then ran to the basket to take a return pass which the 6-foot-1 guard sprang up and dunked.

A Reynolds bucket at the end of the quarter made it 54-31 Warriors, and that was that.

"I think we were a little on our heels in the first half," Westhill coach Kevin King said. "We haven't been in very many close games. They came after us.

"I think we needed to sort of collect ourselves, and I give our guys credit, they did," he said.

Jordan Roland and Reynolds said King told the team at halftime they needed to be more aggressive, and play harder.

"Teams are going to come at us," Reynolds said. "We have to come out ready to play every night."

SAS was led by Jayson Brower, who had 21 points, and Murray, who added 19.

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