Written by Mike Kelly
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9:50 a.m. - The West Caldwell High men's basketball team marched its way into the Class 2A state finals Saturday night by staving off Smokey Mountain 57-53 in the regional finals down in Greensboro.

The Warriors (26-2) will play Kinston in the state championship game Saturday at the Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh. Kingston advanced by beating Clinton in the Eastern Finals 83-52 in Greenville. Saturday's state championship game will tip off at 2:30 pm.

This will also be West Caldwell's fourth appearance in the state finals. The Warriors also captured their first regional title since 1999. Kendall Jones was named the regional's most valuable player. He finished with 23 points.

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In Class 3A, Concord defeated Hibriten 72-53 in the West Regional championship game. The Panthers, who saw their 12-game winning streak come to an end, finish the year at 20-10.

Concord had four players in double figures. The Spiders (27-5) also shot 54% from the floor for the game, and 65% from the floor in the second half.

Josh Dula led the Panthers with 17 points; Darius Lipford, who didn't score in the first half, finished with six points and four rebounds. The Panthers only shot 33% from the floor.

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In the women's Class 1A western final, Bishop McGuinness, which has won four Class 1A titles in a row, blasted Mitchell 68-48 in the West Regional championship game.

Lakin Norris, playing her final high school game for the Mountaineers, finished with 10 points. She was 2-7 from the field, and only scored four points in the second half.

Despite the disappointing effort, Norris finished her career with 2,234 points, and she is only the seventh player in the history of western North Carolina to score 2,000 points or more in her career.

Mitchell finishes the year at 24-5.