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RECORDS ARE MADE TO BE BROKEN. And that's exactly what they did.

On Jan. 23, with a 80-47 victory over rival City High, West won its 80th straight home game, something no other Iowa team had done before.

"It was a really fun game, even though it wasn't because of us. It was every team before this year. We acted like it was because of us and just went crazy," forward Seybian Sims '18 said.

West's last lost at home was Dec. 21, 2010, the same year Ke\$ha's *Tik Tok* was No. 1, President Obama gave his first State of the Union address and Lindsey Vonn won Olympic gold.

"It is really an amazing accomplishment that was helped by eight classes of West High boys basketball players," Coach Steve Bergman said of the 81-game streak. "When [the record] was broken, though, there was a sense of relief. I thought if it was on our players' minds, it wouldn't need to be anymore."

Those players have learned the road to success.

"When a capable group of guys really push each other, and hold each other accountable to be as good as they can be, the result is really rewarding," shooting guard Jake Anderson '18 said "In practice, we really get after each other about doing things right."

Playing at home offers an automatic advantage, which served them well, at least most of the time.

"If we have a big crowd at any game, that will always help," guard Brayden Adcock '19 said.
"However, we know how to win without a crowd, because not many people show up to the games. It seems like school spirit diminishes every year."

Still, the boys appreciate the support they got.

"The crowd always helps me play better," Patrick McCaffery '19 said. "Just having that extra external energy helps me have more adrenaline."

And it's not just the home crowd that motivates players. The fans' energy can work both ways.

"People that play basketball hate the Cedar Falls student section because they're loud and very disrespectful," Sims said. "But I like when student sections are like that."

Between practice, lifting and travel, they spent a lot of time together. Traveling to away games, especially if it meant a hotel, helped them to bond.

"We get to know each other a lot better on those trips," Anderson said. "It really turns into a brotherhood in that time."

West, who was in the championship for the sixth time in seven years, lost to Cedar Falls, 45-65.

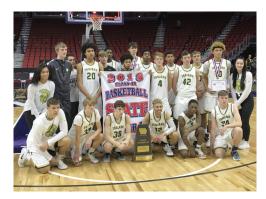
—By Allie Hambright

06 boys basketball

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CR Kennedy
Dubuque Senior
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Waterloo West
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T2-35
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CR Kennedy
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CR Jefferson
CR Xavier
Cretin Durham (MN)
CR Kennedy
Muscatine*
Waukee**
Cedar Falls***
45-65









ON THE LINE Jake Anderson '18 eyes the back of the rim before shooting a free throw. "It was more emotional than I thought it would be," he said. "I've dreamed of playing basketball at West since I was a little kid, so it was weird to be out there for Senior Night already."

STATE RUNNER-UP The team poses with their second-place trophy March 9 at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines after being defeated by Cedar Falls, 45-65.

EYEING THE COURT Point guard Evan Flitz '18 looks for an open teammate. "The Senior Night game was a great experience to celebrate our careers as West High basketball players."

ON THE RISE Seybian Sims '18 goes for a dunk, exciting the crowd. "The student section definitely makes a huge difference," he said. "I like when students are [into the game.]"

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