

Dogs on the rebound

David Johnson | Correspondent | Posted: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 12:00 am

After dropping its first five Region 8-A games, the George Walton Academy boys have reversed course by winning their past four league games.

But have they really improved or just taken advantage of a lighter schedule? The Bulldogs (5-12, 4-5 Region 8-A) will find out as the regular season winds down. Three of their final five games come against the region's top three teams.

"We're looking forward to a chance to gauge ourselves against those teams," first-year Bulldogs head coach Tommy Yancey said. "You've got to be able to compete against the best."

The Bulldogs were scheduled to travel to face Prince Avenue Tuesday, the team that leads GWA's side of the region. On Saturday, they'll travel to Gainesville to battle Lakeview Academy, the leader of the other subregion. They'll close out the season on February 2 at home against Riverside Military Academy, second to Lakeview.

Clearly, GWA has improved. Two of its league wins avenged earlier losses. The Bulldogs defeated Athens Christian 70-47, a team they lost to by one earlier. More recently, they defeated Athens Academy 47-46, a team they'd lost to by 12 earlier.

"I think the big thing for us is our defense," Yancey said. "We've really focused on that and played a lot better."

They are also adding to their offensive arsenal. Guard Brelan Holston and post Torey Zanders have carried most of the load, each averaging around 15 points a game.

But recently, Grant McDonnell has stepped up his game. He scored a career-best 21 points in a loss to Stratford last week, including draining five buckets from three point range.

Meanwhile, the Lady Bulldogs are still in good shape to make the Class A state tournament field of 24. But they are likely out of the race for the Region 8-A regular season title.

The GWA girls (10-7, 6-3 Region 8-A) lost a chance to move into their place in the league with a 39-29 loss to Athens Academy last week, giving the Lady Spartan's a sweep of the season series. Still ahead for the



Torey Zanders

George Walton senior Torey Zanders (5) is averaging 15 points a game for the Bulldogs this season from the post position.

Lady Bulldogs are games against Lakeview Academy and Prince Avenue, which are tied for first and two games ahead of GWA in the standings.