

the win.

“I mean, you can say it (we let it slip away) but you can also say it’s a good team that we played that’s as well coached as any team in the state,” he said. “Everybody knows what coach (Rodney) Woods has done. It’s hard to beat good programs and they’ve been pretty good for a long time.”

McKinney spoke about the Wayne County coach and what he means to the region and the state.

“I have so much respect for coach Woods. He’s one of the greatest of all time in Kentucky so it’s always an honor to compete against his teams,” he said. “For all of us who coach in the 12th, he’s the standard. And not just his teams, but the way he carries himself. He’s a class act and has been. So it’s an honor to be in the game with him.”

Up next, though, Danville faces a familiar foe in Somerset. The two faced off in a double overtime thriller in the All-A Regional tourna-

ment at Burgin, but when they met again on Somerset’s home court, the Briar Jumpers had no problem getting the win.

“We know they’ve been ranked one or two in the region all year long,” McKinney said. “They’ve got Division-I type athletes — maybe not in basketball, but they’ve got three guys who are going to play Division-I in something. They’re big and long and (Kade) Grundy is a load.”

McKinney also said that after watching Grundy in the first round game against East Jessamine — in which he scored 34 points — he’s not sure what a defense can do to stop him.

“If he gets on one of those rolls, they’re hard to deal with,” he said. “We have to figure out what we’re going to do with him — see if we can yell ‘Miss’ when he’s shooting or something. We might send out a tweet looking for ideas because that first game, I watched him thinking what in the world could East Jessamine do any different. He’s a heck of a player.”

Above right, Admiral Damion Givens-Ford (12) moves the ball ahead of Wayne’s defense. Below right, Aiden Slone (10) looks for the basket Thursday night. Below left, Trey Dawson (2) makes a move through the paint.

