



# Millard West Boys Basketball Wildcat Report

December 4, 2023, Vol. 15 No. 2

## Wildcats Win Season Opener in Overtime

The Millard West Boys Basketball Team traveled to Columbus for their season opener and came away with a 54-47 overtime victory.

Reece Carson led the Wildcats with 15 points. Cooper Fortune added 14 points and 7 rebounds. Jordan Gassen scored 13 points and grabbed 6 rebounds.

Both teams struggled on the offensive end of the court early in the first quarter. Columbus tied the score 2-2 on a basket by Preston Hastriter and took the lead on the next possession on a Quinn Freshour field goal.

West tied the game 7-7 on two free throws by Jayden Kozney at the end of the quarter.

West's defense was able to shut down the Discoverer attack in the 2nd quarter. Columbus only scored one

field goal in the quarter until they made a 3-pointer from the corner as time ran out in the half. West took a 19-15 lead into the break.

Columbus came out of the half with more energy and was able to create more offense. Two consecutive "And-1's" gave the Discoverers a 23-20 lead.

Both teams exchanged baskets over the next four minutes of play. Columbus made their third 3-pointer of the quarter to take a 36-30 lead with 2:21 left in the quarter. Neither team was able to the rest of the quarter as Columbus took a six point lead into the half.

Carson had a three-point play to draw the Wildcats to 35-38 and had another basket after a steal to make the score 39-41 with 3:19 left in the game.

Columbus scored on a lay up with 2:48 left in the game to take a 39-43 lead. But, the Wildcats would not allow another point for the rest of the 4th quarter.

Gassen scored and was fouled on a tip-in with 1:18 left in the game. He then made one of two FT's to tie the game with 1:01 left in the game. Neither team was able to score as the game went into overtime, 43-43.

Fortune scored five points early in overtime to give West a 48-43 lead. Cade Walker grabbed three rebounds and scored two points in overtime to help preserve the victory. West was 7 for 7 from the foul line in the period.

"Other than not shooting the ball well, I thought we did a lot of good things. We had a lot of inexperienced players on the floor and I think their were a lot of nerves present," Coach Bill Morrison said. "We did a lot of good things defensively down the stretch and in overtime."



MW	7	12	11	13	11	54
Col	7	8	21	7	4	47

West – Carson 15, Gassen 13, Frohliff 4, Fortune 14, Kozney 2, Walker 4

Col. – Messersmith 4, Esch 7, Hastreiter 9, Nelson 7, Micek 11, Kapels 1, Freshour 8

## Scores

Junior Varsity (1-1)		Varsity (1-1)	
Columbus	W	Columbus	W 54-47 OT
Pap South	L	Pap South	L 56-69

# Titans' Long Range Shooting Defeats Wildcats

Papillion South beat Millard West 69-56 in the finals of their season opening pod tournament. Papillion South was 8 of 12 from the three-point line in the first half and made xx 3's in the game.

R Kircher led the Titans with 19 points. B Bahl added 18 points, all in the 2nd half. Jacob Young scored 10.

Reece Carson led the Wildcats with 15 points. Jordan Gassen and Cooper Fortune added 12 and 11 points respectively for West.

The Wildcats jumped out to a 5-2 lead early in the first quarter. The Titans tied the score at 5-5 with 5:06 left in the first quarter. West would go on a 5-0 run to build a 10-5 lead with 3:07 on the clock.

Three consecutive turnovers by West and a couple 3-pointers by South gave the Titans an 11-10 lead. South finished the quarter with four more points and led 15-10 at the end of the first quarter.

The Titans started the 2nd quarter with three consecutive 3-point baskets to take a 24-15 lead with 6:35 left on the clock. West was able to stay in the game by scoring on their next four possessions to make the score 26-21.

Gassen and Carson made back-to-back three pointers in the last minute of the period for West to draw to within 31-27, but South answered with another '3' of their own. The Titans led 34-27 at the half.

Coach Bill Morrison was happy with his team's performance in the first half. "We were 5 of 10 from behind the arc and we held Bahl to 0 points in the half."

Papio South's Bahl led Class A in scoring last season and scored 25 points in their season opener.

South scored on their first two possessions and spread their lead to 38-27. The Wildcat defense put together four consecutive defensive stops and cut the lead to 38-33. But the Titans answered again by scoring on their next five possessions to take a 50-38 lead into the final period.

Papillion made two three's in the first minute of the 4th quarter and looked to put away the Wildcats, leading 56-40 with 6:57 left in the game.

West scored 16 points on their next seven possessions and cut the lead to 56-63 with just over two minutes remaining. The Wildcats would be held scoreless for the rest of the game.

"Our guys battled hard," Morrison said. "I was really proud of our effort today. We played much better than we did Thursday night."

"Every time we got the score to five or six points, something would happen," Morrison said. "The ball didn't bounce our way tonight."

MW	10	15	11	15	56
PLVS	15	19	16	16	69

MW — Carson 15, Abara 2, Gassen 12, Frohloff 2, Carmichael 9, Fortune 11, LaBorde 3, Walker 2.

PLVS — Jelinek 3, Frost 5, Youth 10, Bahl 18, Kircher 19, Beckenhauer 6, Herrera 5, Larsen 3.

## Junior Varsity

The JV Boys basketball team traveled to Columbus for their first game of the year. After shaking off some nerves, the team was able to get the lead by the end of the 1st quarter.

They continued to play with energy on the defensive end to increase their lead to 14 by halftime.

The 2nd half was pretty even between the 2 teams to get to the final score.

Carter LaBorde led the team with 14 points. Vincent Long contributed 10 points along with Jayden Kozney's 8 points.

MW	13	17	16	4	50
Col	11	5	14	2	32

The JV Boys traveled to Grand Island to take on the Titans from Papio South as part of the opening weekend pod.

The boys were down by 1 after the 1st quarter, but were able to eventually take a double digit lead during the 2nd quarter. The Titans made a slight comeback to cut the Wildcats lead to 7 by halftime.

During the 3rd quarter, the Titans played with more energy and outscored the Wildcats, 16-4.

Being down 5 going into the 4th, Millard West needed to get after it defensively. Papio South's lead eventually grew to double digits but the Wildcats were not done. After some defensive stops and getting some scores in transition, the lead was only 3 for Papio South. The Titans made some 3 pointers and Free throws to hold off the comeback and win by 9.

The Wildcats were led by Vincent Long's 14 points. Colvin Zimmerman contributed 12 points.

MW	12	20	4	16	52
PLVS	13	12	16	20	61

# Weekly Practice / Game Schedule

## Monday, Dec 4

### Practice

JV/V 3:40-5:40

Res 3:40-5:10

### Games

9th A @ Burke 5:00

(No B Game)

Bus: 3:45

## Tuesday, Dec 5

### Practice

Res 6 a.m.

JV/V 3:40-5:15

9th 5:15-6:45

### Games

No Games

## Wednesday, Dec 6

### Practice

Res 6:00 a.m.

JV/V 3:40-5:10

9th 5:10-6:30

### Games

No Games

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## Thursday, Dec 7

### Practice

JV/V 3:40-5:10

9th 5:00-6:30

Res 5:10-6:30

### Games

No Games

## Friday, Dec 8

### Practice

9th 6:00 a.m.

Res No Practice

### Games

JV vs Bel East 5:30

Var vs Bel East 7:15

*MBA Night*

## Saturday, Dec 9

### Practice

JV/V 11:00 a.m.

Res 3:00-4:00

### Games

9th A at Bel East 9:00 a.m.

9th B at Bel East 10:15 a.m.

Bus: 7:40 a.m.

JV vs Fremont 5:30

Var vs Fremont 7:15

**Deadline extended. We are more than half way to our goal.**



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December 4, 2023



# mha2mw

**HARD WORK \* INTEGRITY \* TEAMWORK**  
**FUNDAMENTALS \* SPORTSMANSHIP**



**WILDCAT**  
**BASKETBALL**



# **MBA**

## **Recognition Night**

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**Friday, December 8**

**Millard West**

**vs.**

**Papillion-LaVista**

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**Family Social 5:30—6:30**

**Tunnel Walk 7:05**

**Varsity Game 7:15**

**Open Gym After Game**



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**Players Get In Free**

**Tunnel Walk**

**Halftime Recognition**

**Meet the Players**

**Autographs**

**Open Gym**

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*mba2mw*