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# Millard West HOOPS

## Scrap Book



# Metro Expected to Regain Crown

BY STU POSPISIL  
 (WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER)

Five seasons have passed since a Metro Conference basketball team won the Class A boys state championship. Lincoln Northeast won four in a row before Grand Island claimed the 1999 crown as the tournament's lowest seed.

This season's forecast is for the championship to return to the Metro.

It could be Bellevue West, which lost few players from its state runner-up team. Or Millard West, which has 6-foot-9 Kyle Bakker, the only returning All-Nebraska player, who led Class A in scoring at 24.6 points per game.

"I think there will be a lot better basketball all over the state in Class A, just starting with our own conference," Millard West Coach Rick Hook said. "The Metro will be a lot better. A lot will have better teams. In Lincoln, all the schools will be good."

Hook's Wildcats will start the season at No. 1 in The World-Herald Nebraska high school Top 10, Bellevue West, which will play a

much quicker style of offense than Millard West, is right behind. Coach Doug Woodard's team returns six of last season's top nine players.

Lincoln High, with the threesome of Richard Ross, Ty Graham and Jeremy Parks, ranks third in the preseason. Lincoln Southeast, Omaha Central, Lincoln Northeast, Omaha Benson, North Platte and Grand Island complete the Top 10. Prep, Lincoln East and Omaha Westside are others that could put together state-tournament seasons.

The high school season begins tonight. Millard West opens with a road game at Millard South. A new event for opening weekend is the Islander Tipoff Classic in Grand Island, where Norfolk, Westside and Millard North join the 1999 champions in a two-day tournament that could become a popular format as teams are challenged to fill schedules.

Preseason No. 1 teams in other classes are Grand Island Northwest in Class B, Columbus Lakeview in Class C-1, defending champion West Point Central Catholic in Class C-2,

defending champion Falls City Sacred Heart in Class D-1 and defending champion Loomis in Class D-2.

## MILLARD WEST

- **Coach:** Rick Hook, fifth year, 1998-99; 14-7, state qualifier.
- **Lettermen—Seniors:** Kyle Bakker, 6-9; Ben Mussman, 6-3; Chris Sepiak, 6-5; Jason Johnson, 6-2. Juniors: Dan Bruce, 6-2; Sean McLaughlin, 6-5; Jed Hartigan, 6-1.
- **Outlook:** Great things are expected from a team with height and shooters. Georgia Tech baseball recruit Bakker averaged 24.6 points and 8.8 rebounds in an All-Nebraska season. Mussman, Bruce and McLaughlin are expected to start, with a wild card being sophomore shooter Zac Robinson from Kearney.

## WH Boys Basketball Ratings By Stu Pospisil



■ Preseason rankings, with teams' 1998-99 records and final ranking last season:

Team	Top 10	
	1998-99 Record	Prv. Rnk.
1. Millard West	14-7	1
2. Bellevue West	21-4	2
3. Lincoln High	11-9	NR
4. Columbus	15-7	5
5. Lincoln Southeast	12-8	NR
6. Omaha Central	7-12	NR
7. Lincoln Northeast	16-7	4
8. Omaha Benson	10-10	NR
9. North Platte	7-12	NR
10. Grand Island	16-9	1

## Basketball Teams Looking For Big Things This Year

Skye Petersen

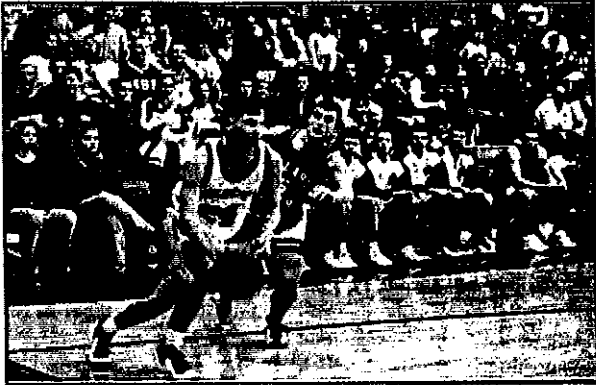
The 1999-2000 season is going to be a season of promise and improvement for both boys and girls Wildcat basketball teams.

The boys team is returning four starters, point guard Matt Person is the only regular starter to graduate from last year's team, and 13 lettermen. The Wildcats are returning starting shooting guards junior Dan Bruce, and senior Ben Mussman. Junior forward Sean McLaughlin, who shared time on the court with senior Chris Septak, is also returning at

high with the Wildcats, and they are anxious to start the season.

"We have a ton of talent coming back, we should be really good this year," said junior Jed Hartigan.

The girls' team is also loaded with talent and experience for the upcoming season. Last year's leading scorer, senior, Laura Ferguson is coming back for a run at the State tournament this year. Senior point guard Kelli Lentz and center Val Sluyter are coming back, and junior forward Kelli Parmenter is also coming back.



forward. Kyle Bakker, returning All State and All Metro center, will back to dominate the paint again this year.

The boys team had a record last year of 14-6, but the bitter taste of defeat from the early exit from the State tournament last year against Columbus is still fresh in many of the returner's minds.

"Last year's end was very disappointing, but I definitely think that we are going to be a force to be reckoned with this year. We have a lot of talent, and good team chemistry," said Bakker

Excitement is running

"We have a lot of talent and experience coming back for this year. I am really looking forward to this season. It is time to put Millard West basketball on the map."

The combination of talent and experience are getting many Wildcats excited, but is also raising expectations for this year. The Wildcats are hoping to improve on their 11-7 regular season mark.

"I am very optimistic about this year's team. We have a lot of talent, and I will be disappointed if we don't improve on last year's record," said girls Head Coach Kip Colony.

# Millard West Rolls to Sweep Of Millard South

BY STU POSPISH  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Millard West's boys and girls basketball teams dealt Thursday night with tough games against rival Millard South while wearing the biggest ratings targets ever put on the Wildcats.

Coach Rick Hook's boys team, ranked No. 1 for the first time, went to the final minute against the Indians before winning the Metro Conference season opener 65-56.

"I thought our team handled all the situations it faced very well," Hook said. "We'll learn so much from this day to Saturday to the rest of December."

Coach Kip Colony's No. 7 girls opened the doubleheader at Millard South, attended by a school-estimated 2,000 spectators, with a 57-41 victory after leading by only three late in the third quarter.

Colony's team is ranked sixth in Class A; Millard South seventh.

"When the ratings came out," Colony said, "I told them, 'Congratulations. Now get over it because we're playing (the next team) in the Class A ratings.'"

Millard West's two premier players — Georgia Tech baseball recruit Kyle Bakker and Creighton University-bound Laura Ferguson — picked up where they ended last season.

Bakker, a 6-foot-9 returning All-Nebraska selection in basketball and baseball, had 19 of his game-high 31 points and six of his 12 rebounds after halftime against a much-improved Millard South front line.

Ferguson scored 22 points despite a scoreless second quarter. She had seven of the Wildcats' nine points in the third quarter.

Millard West's boys never trailed against the Indians, who lost their 19th consecutive game over two seasons.

The Wildcats led 30-24 at halftime and doubled the lead on back-to-back 3-pointers by Dan Bruce and Ben Mussman to open the second half, but Coach Larry Ribble's Indians never led the margin grew beyond 13.

Millard South was within 49-42 on a 3-point play by 6-7 junior Ryan Curtis in the fourth quarter. Millard West came back with a 7-point run on Sean McLaughlin's basket off a Bakker assist, a steal and basket by Jed Hartigan and McLaughlin's tip-in with 4:40 left.

A 3-pointer by Millard South's Matt Schieber with 1:04 left brought the Indians within 61-55. Mussman made two pairs of free throws to seal the victory.

"Millard South's big guys are more athletic than I had thought," Hook said. "That team has improved a bunch."

Ribble started Curtis with 6-7 sophomore Patrick Bryan and 6-6 junior Adam Briley. They combined to block four of Bakker's shots, three in the first half when Bakker was 6 of 12 from the floor.

Bryan picked up his fourth foul midway through the third quarter, lessening the ability of the Indians to put two defenders on Bakker when he touched the ball.

"At times I thought we moved the ball well and rebounded pretty well," Ribble said.

Millard West (1-0) ..... 15 15 17 19-45  
At Millard South (0-1) ..... 8 18 15 17-56  
MW—Hartigan 1-4 0-0 2, Mussman 2-5 6-7 11,  
Bryce 2-7 2-2 0, Se. McLaughlin 2-3 0-1 4, Bakker  
11-18 9-13 3, Robinson 3-4 0-0 0, Sluyter 1-1 0-0 2,  
Johnson 0-0 0-0 0, Se. McLaughlin 0-1 0-0 0. Totals  
27-44 17-21 45.  
MS—Schieber 2-4 2-3 7, M. Turner 3-7 5-6 13,  
Bryan 4-5 0-0 0, Curtis 6-13 1-3 13, Briley 3-4 0-1 7,  
Christensen 1-1 0-0 2, Clatterback 0-5 0-0 0, E. Turner  
2-4 0-3 4, Havin 0-0 0-0 0, Marlan 0-0 0-0 0. Totals  
22-46 8-16 56.  
3-point goals—MW 4-9 (Hartigan 0-1, Mussman  
1-2, Bryce 1-3, Robinson 2-2, Se. McLaughlin 0-1),  
MS 4-10 (Schieber 1-5, M. Turner 2-7, Briley 1-2,  
Clatterback 0-3, E. Turner 0-1). Total fouls—MW 13,  
MS 17. Fouled out—Curtis, Bryan.  
Technical fouls—none. Turnovers—MW 12, MS 11.  
Rebounds—MW 32 (Bakker 12), MS 25 (Curtis 8).  
Field-goal percentage—MW .380, MS .478.  
Free-throw percentage—MW .739, MS .398.  
Officials—Mor, Pence. A—2,000 (school est.).

# Wildcats' versatility dooms FHS

BY BRETT ELLIS  
 "REBUNE STAFF  
 defend," Fremont coach Joel Parks said.

into halftime.

In the second period, the Tigers made just 2 of 11 shots from the field. FHS connected on only 16 of 50 shots (32 percent) during the game.

preht pulled the Tigers to within 22 points with 6:45 to go, but Fremont would get no closer.

Millard West opened the game by scoring 13 straight points, including five by Bakker and a pair of 3-pointers by Zac Robinson.

Remont cut the lead to eight on Adam Lamprecht's second 3-pointer of the game, but the Wildcats built their lead back up to 13 at the end of the quarter.

Millard West extended its lead to as much as 30 points in the third quarter before the Tigers closed the gap to 49-23 entering the final eight minutes.

Another 3-pointer by Lamprecht led Fremont with 12 points, and Kevin Meier, Brennan Lehman and Matt Huffman all scored six.

Millard West's defense held a variety of weapons in check on Monday night.

Our execution was producing the shots," Parks said. "We just couldn't get them down."

Lehman grabbed a team-high eight rebounds - seven in the second half.

Fremont faces Bellevue West Tuesday.

Millard West's defense held a variety of weapons in check on Monday night.

Ben Mussmann joined Bakker with 16 points, and Robinson scored 14. Bakker led all players with 14 rebounds.

Millard West won the junior varsity game 52-31. Josh Meyer and Anton Meigoza had eight points apiece for the Tigers.

Fremont 10 5 8 16 - 39  
 M. West 23 16 10 13 - 62

Millard West's defense held a variety of weapons in check on Monday night.

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FREMONT - Meigoza 8, Weakard 2, Gal-koway 5, Churchill 2, Weber 3, Meyer 6, Huffman 2, Legend 1.

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Millard West 62, Fremont 30  
 Strong defense in the first half and a 20-point lead in the second half helped the Millard West boys' basketball team improve on Saturday night with the home victory.

Kyle Bakker scored 20 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for Millard West.

Fremont	10	5	8	16	39
At Millard West	23	16	10	13	62
Meigoza	8	2	2	2	14
Weakard	2	3	4	3	12
Gal-koway	5	2	3	2	12
Churchill	2	1	1	1	5
Weber	3	1	1	1	6
Meyer	6	1	1	1	9
Huffman	2	1	1	1	5
Legend	1	1	1	1	4

## Basketball Teams Start Strong With Victories Over Indians and Tigers

Bill Knust

The Millard West boys basketball team successfully defended its number one ranking through the first week, with a 65-56 victory over Millard South and a 62-39 victory over Fremont.

The girls basketball team started the season with a overall ranking of seven and a Class A ranking of six. It defeated Class A number seven Millard South 57-41, and then defeated Fremont 42-31.

Both teams were led in scoring by their go to players, seniors Kyle Bakker and Laura Ferguson. Bakker scored 31 points and had 12 rebounds against Millard South, and had 16 points against Fremont.

Ferguson scored 22 points against Millard South, despite sitting much of the second quarter due to foul trouble. She added 16 more the next night in the victory over Fremont.

With Ferguson on the bench, the Wildcats found other means of scoring, including freshman Catherine Anderson. Anderson scored all seven of her points in the second quarter, as the Wildcats took a 34-28 lead into the half.

With a 43-35 lead after three quarters, West took over in the fourth quarter with a stingy press defense. Senior Kelli Lentz added eight points, and junior Kelli Parmenter scored seven.

"It was great to beat Millard South for the first time. We played really

well and it showed on the scoreboard," said Lentz.

The boys team led from the get go, as senior Ben Mussmann took the tip off, was fouled and converted the free throw for the three point play.

The Indians kept it close all night, by triple teaming and hacking Bakker down low. Bakker struggled early, making six of twelve from the floor and having three shots blocked.

With Bakker being triple teamed down low, sophomore Zac Robinson hit two three pointers and added another jumper for eight points on the night.

West led by six at the half 30-24. The Wildcats started the third quarter with a 9-2 run that included a three pointer by Mussmann and junior Dan Bruce. The Indians pulled within seven at 49-42 before junior Sean McLaughlin had a lay-up off an assist from Bakker, junior Jed Hartigan stole a pass out front and took it in for the lay-up, and McLaughlin capped the run with a tip in off a missed shot.

The Indians had no answer for Bakker in the second half as he rattled off 19 points and six boards. Fighting through double and triple teams Bakker continually converted on entry passes, and soon the Indians post players ran into foul trouble.

"I got some good looks at the basket the second half, and was fortunate enough to get some shots to fall. Early on I kind of struggled but I shook some rust off as the game went along," said Bakker.

Mussmann put the Indians away down the stretch sinking four free throws, to dash the hopes of an Indian comeback.

## LOCAL SPORTS

### BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

# Prep Steamrolls No. 1 Wildcats

BY CLIFF BRUNT  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Omaha Creighton Prep's basketball team made more than a statement Thursday night in its 74-57 win over top 10 No. 1 Millard West — it sent out a warning.

Before a reporter-estimated crowd of 200 at Millard West, the Junior Jays hammered the state's top-ranked team with a roster that includes seven juniors and three sophomores.

The unranked Junior Jays went 7-12 last year.

"For where we've come from, we don't put a lot in ratings," first-year coach Reggie Morris said. "But when you're talking about somebody being No. 1 . . . For a young team that's a big win. It proves if you go out and practice hard and play together, good things will happen."

Prep epitomized playing together. Eleven players scored, and they all played at key points in the contest.

Sophomore Nedu Onyeuku led the way with 14 points — seven in the first quarter and seven in the fourth. Senior Eric Thompson scored 13 points and junior Titus Adams added 10.

"Everybody just came in and did what they were supposed to do," Morris said.

Prep took control of the game in the second quarter. Adams scored six points in the period as the Junior Jays connected on 8 of 16 shots from the field and took a 38-31 halftime lead.

Junior guard James Berry hit two

3-pointers early in the third quarter, and Kourtlin Jimmerson and Joe Pietro came off the bench to hit 3s in the period — with Pietro's basket giving Prep a 54-44 lead at the end of the quarter.

Millard West never got closer than 10 points in the fourth quarter. Prep stopped the Wildcats' comeback hopes by forcing eight turnovers in the final period.

Returning All-Nebraska first-teamer Kyle Bakker, West's 6-foot-9 post player, scored a game-high 23 points, including 18 in the second half. He earned every point because Prep switched 6-8 sophomore Roy Enright and the agile 6-4, 270-pound Adams on him.

Prep's quickness at guard neutralized Millard West's perimeter shooters, who missed all nine of their 3-point attempts in the second half.

"We were out of synch all night," Millard West Coach Ray Hook said. "They really did a good job on defense."

West cannot dwell on its loss. The Wildcats play Lincoln Northeast on Saturday.

"In athletics, you don't get to win every game," Hook said. "We have to come back, stay focused and look to win games."

Omaha Creighton Prep (2-1)..... 74 28 14 20-25  
At Millard West (2-1)..... 57 18 11 15-37  
OCP—Pietro 5, Povondra 2, Onyeuku 14, Horne 1,  
Jimmerson 6, Burns 2, Thompson 13, Berry 1,  
Lindberg 2, Erickson 6, Adams 10.  
MW—Roy 10, Enright 10, Minkowski 11,  
Bruce 2, McLaughlin 6, Steyer 2, Bakker 23.

# Lincoln NE Tops Millard West

BY STU ROSENTHAL  
WORLD HEADLINE WRITER

Lincoln — Lincoln Northeast's Luke Hansen handed preseason No. 1 Millard West its second loss of the week, making a 12-foot shot at the buzzer Saturday night to give the No. 7 Rockets a 62-60 victory.

Millard West (2-2) had rallied from a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit to forge a 60-60 tie on Sean McLaughlin's basket with 7.5 seconds left.

Northeast (3-0) took a timeout with 3.2 seconds left. With Kyle Bakker — Millard West's 6-foot-9 center — guarding the inbounds passer, the Rockets got the ball to Hansen.

"I thought I'd have time to take a few dribbles," Hansen said. "The play was supposed to go to Jimmy Motz, but he was covered."

Hansen had 15 points, with Motz leading the Rockets with 16 points.

Motz also guarded Bakker the entire game. Backup forward Matt Eybel added 11 points. Coach Chip Bahe's team shot 50 percent on 3-pointers (13 of 26).

"We played excellent basketball," Bahe said. "Millard West then showed the character they have in their athletic program, scratching and clawing to get back into the game."

"I'm awfully proud of our 13 guys. We played hard to get the lead and hang in there to get the win."

A crowd estimated by reporters at 1,100 watched the game at Northeast's Ed Johnson Gym.

Millard West was coming off a turnover-filled loss at home Thursday night to unranked Omaha Creighton Prep. Coach Rick Hook saw more of the same as the Wildcats trailed 36-25 at halftime. The Wildcats scored just one basket in the final 5:24 of the first half.

"We just looked clumsy out there," Hook said. "How we came back, we hope, is the springboard to understanding that's how we have to play. If we play like that, we're going to beat people."

Hansen gave Northeast its largest lead at 57-43 with 4:28 left. Bakker, who had game highs of 29 points and nine rebounds, scored the next six points and added another basket to the

comeback.

"You have to experiment sometimes," Bahe said. "With the ball-handlers we have, we thought we could hold the ball, get a few easy baskets or go to the free-throw line. We just happened to miss three one-and-ones."

Millard West (2-2)..... 18 7 16 19-40  
At Lincoln Northeast (3-0)..... 19 17 16 10-42  
MW—Hartigan 0-1 0-0 0, Mussmann 2-5 0-1 0,  
Bruce 4-6 0-0 12, Se. McLaughlin 3-5 0-0 6, Bakker  
12-16 5-6 29, Robinson 2-7 1-2 6, Johnson 0-0 0-0 0,  
Steyer 0-2 0-0 0, Se. McLaughlin 0-0 0-1 1  
NE—Svensen 17 4-6 7, Jiles 2-7 0-1 8, Motz 6-13  
0-0 14, Hansen 6-13 0-1 15, Cruise 2-4 1-4 5, Eybel 4-6  
0-1 11, Steizer 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 22-51 5-13 62.  
2-point goals—MW 5-13 (Hartigan 0-1, Mussmann  
0-1, Bruce 4-6, Robinson 1-5), NE 13-26 (Svensen  
1-3, Jiles 2-3, Motz 4-6, Hansen 2-7, Eybel 2-5), Total  
16-39—MW 12, NE 13. Fouls—MW 20—Mussmann,  
Technique, Bruce, Turnover—MW 15, NE 17.  
Rebounds—MW 36 (Bakker 9), NE 38 (Cruise 6).  
Free-throw percentage—MW 50, NE 43.  
Officials—Wolf, Wells.  
A—1,100 (est).

# Hansen lifts Rockets past Millard West

BY RYLY JANE HANSEN  
Lincoln Journal Staff

Luke Hansen knew he had time once he got the ball, but there was none to spare when Hansen fired.

Hansen took an inbounds pass at mid-court with 22 seconds left in Lincoln Northeast's game with Millard West, dribbled a few times and pulled up to shoot. His 10-foot jumper bounced once and then dropped through after the buzzer to give the Rockets a 60-55 victory over Millard West Saturday at Ed Johnson Gym. With the win, the sixth-ranked Rockets improved to 3-0 while the No. 2 Wildcats dropped to 2-2.

"It's a set play, a regular out-of-bounds play. They got to Jimmy (Motz), so then I get the ball. I curled, took a few dribbles and shot," said Hansen, who finished the game with 15 points. "I knew I had the time to take a few dribbles and get a decent shot. I was leaning a bit, but I felt it was good from the minute it left my hand."

Hansen's heroics were necessary after Millard West charged back from a 14-point deficit with 4:20 left in the game. Kyle Bakker, a returning first-team Super-State player, scored eight of his game-high 20 points in the next three minutes. Sean McLaughlin cut the margin to 57-55 with just under a minute left but Seth Svendsen made a pair of free throws. Daniel Bruce answered with a three-pointer and after Svendsen made one free throw, McLaughlin tied the game off a feed from Zac Robinson with six seconds left.

"Early in the year, you do some experimenting. When we got the big lead, I had a choice," said Northeast Coach Chip Bahe. "You can continue to attack. Or, with the ball handlers we have, I thought we could take some time off the clock. It backfired because we just happened to miss three one-and-one free throw opportunities. It's a catch 22 and it got close."

"But we played excellent basketball. Millard West showed their character and scratched and clawed their way back in. I'm awful proud of all 13 of my guys."

The Rockets stretched a one-point lead at the end of the first quarter to 38-25 at halftime, connecting on five three-pointers — two by Matt Eybel and one each from Svendsen, Vernon Jiles and Christian Northeast finished the game hitting 13-of-27 from three-point range.

"In the first half, we didn't extend our defense enough and they got some wide-open threes," said Millard West Coach Rick Hook. "We knew they all would shoot threes, but we didn't know they'd hit that many. They were at home and it was a good atmosphere."

"Because of that, we didn't know who would get the ball on the last play. We put Kyle on the inbounds pass hoping he could tip the ball. I don't know how they ran that curl and got a perfect catch."

Motz led the Rockets with 16 points and Eybel added 11. Northeast outrebounded the taller Wildcats 20-28, with a 20-11 halftime advantage.

"All week, we were working on boxing out, boxing out, boxing out," said Hansen. "We wanted to get bodies on them and get position on them."

Bahe said the 6-foot-3 Bakker caused matchup problems for the Rockets.

"We know we'll be outsized, but we never want to be out-hearted. The kids worked hard on the boards," Bahe said. "Bakker causes it because it forces you to guard him with a couple and then you have someone shorter on another taller kid."

## Lincoln Northeast 62, Millard West 60

Millard West ..... 18 7 16 19 — 60  
Northeast ..... 19 17 18 10 — 62  
Millard West — Hartigan 0-1 0-0 G. Mussman 2-5 2-4 B. Bruce 4-0 0-0 12. Sean McLaughlin 3-5 0-0 B. Bakker 12-15 5-8 28. Robinson 2-7 1-2 B. Johnson 0-0 0-0 G. Slayter 0-2 0-0 0. Sean McLaughlin 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 23-42 9-14 60.  
Northeast — Svendsen 1-7 4-6 7. Jiles 3-7 0-1 8. Motz 6-12 0-0 16. Hansen 6-11 0-1 15. Cruise 2-3 1-4 5. Eybel 4-7 0-1 11. Stelzer 0-1 0-0 G. Totals 22-50 8-13 62.  
Three-point goals — MW 5-13 (Hartigan 0-1, Mussman 0-1, Bruce 4-5, Robinson 1-5), LNE 13-27 (Svendsen 1-3, Jiles 2-3, Motz 4-9, Hansen 3-7, Eybel 3-5). Total fouls — MW 12, LNE 13. Fouled out — Mussman. Rebounds — MW 26 (Bakker 8), LNE 28 (Cruise 6, Eybel 5). Turnovers — MW 13, LNE 13.





# Rebounding Proves Key In Millard West Victory

BY STU POSPISIL

## Millard West 62, Northwest 44

Millard West (3-3) broke a three-game losing streak as 6-9 senior All-Nebraska center Kyle Bakker had 20 points, on 9-of-12 shooting, and nine rebounds.

The Wildcats scored the game's first 10 points, but Northwest (0-5) trailed only 28-21 at halftime. Marcus Lawson's 10 points led the Huskies.

Millard West (3-3)..... 18 19 15 18-42  
 Ontario Northwest (0-5)..... 5 14 4 17-42  
 # MW—Harrison 0-1 0-0 0, Nantilo 0-0 0-0 0, Johnson 1-1 0-0 2, Robinson 3-10 0-0 8, Mussman 2-3 0-0 4, Bruce 4-12 0-0 14, Se. McLaughlin 4-0 0-0 0, McIntyre 0-0 0-0 0, Eddy 0-0 0-0 0, Steyer 1-2 0-0 2, Se. McLaughlin 1-1 0-0 2, Bakker 9-12 2-6 20. Totals 27-51 41-87.  
 # NW—Davis 3-13 0-0 8, Rosca 0-0 0-0 0, Sasser 0-0 0-0 0, Suss 2-4 0-0 4, Banie 1-7 0-0 2, Sellers 0-1 0-0 0, Stevenart 1-2 0-0 2, Christian 1-6 5-6 7, Lawson 3-7 2-3 10, Steckler 1-3 0-0 2, Walker 0-0 0-0 0, Probst 1-3 0-0 2, Drinnin 3-4 1-2 7, Bird 0-3 0-0 0, Totals 16-57 8-31 45.  
 # 3-point shots—MW 4-15 (Robinson 2-1), Bruce 2-4, W. 0-10 (Davis 2-6, Rosca 0-2, Banie 0-3, Sellers 0-1, Lawson 2-4). Total fouls—MW 11, NW 11. Fouled out—none. Technicals—none. Turnovers—MW 15, NW 16. Rebounds—MW 38 (Bakker 9), NW 34 (Christian 6). Field-goal percentage—MW .529, NW .271. Free-throw percentage—MW .264, NW .725. Officials—Walker, Suffer.

Unlike the other three teams that are in tonight's Metro Conference boys basketball semifinal, Millard West did not win its quarterfinal game Tuesday with ease.

The Wildcats (4-3) held Omaha Benson scoreless for nearly four minutes of the fourth quarter, turning a 54-50 deficit into a 59-54 lead, for a 67-63, quarterfinal victory at the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Sapp Fieldhouse.

On seven possessions in those four minutes, Benson Coach Terry Shelsta's team had multiple shots three times and had only two turnovers.

"We had good looks at the basket and good shots at the basket," Shelsta said. "I don't know if it was our legs getting tired or that they're pretty big inside. It wasn't that we were doing anything different on offense or they doing anything different. The shots just didn't go down."

Millard West Coach Rick Hook would like to think that his rebounders had some part in the dry spell, allowing his Wildcats to advance to tonight's 8 o'clock semifinal against undefeated Omaha Westside.

"We were giving up too many rebounds, not hitting the defensive glass hard enough," Hook said. "We harped and harped that you have to keep Benson off the boards. That's how they got the four-point lead."

"If we check out and get the basketball, we're fine. And we did a better job in that stretch."

Westside stayed unbeaten through seven games with a 77-53 victory over Omaha South.

The Metro's other two unbeaten—Omaha Burke and Bellevue West—are in the other semifinal at UNO at 6:15. Burke (7-0) defeated Omaha Central 76-51 and Bellevue West (5-0) rolled to a 95-52 victory over Millard South.

The day's schedule of six games begins with consolation games at 11:15 a.m. The semifinals of the Metro's girls tournament will be played at 2:45 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for students. Tuesday's five games drew crowds that tournament officials estimated at 4,100.

Millard West took the lead for good against Benson (4-3) with a 5-point flurry consisting of two Zac Robinson free throws and a Kyle Bakker 3-point play.

Omaha Benson (4-3)..... 18 18 18 17-49  
 Millard West (4-3)..... 5 14 4 17-42  
 # B—Boult 9-23 0-0 17, Onda 1-5 2-3 4, Francini 5-11 1-0 11, Lollar 4-7 1-2 7, Davis 0-2 0-0 0, Bisco 1-2 0-0 2, Cain 5-11 2-12 12, Jackson 4-9 3 9, Totals 28-64 5-23.  
 # MW—Harrison 0-1 0-0 0, Nantilo 0-0 0-0 0, Johnson 1-1 0-0 2, Robinson 3-10 0-0 8, Bruce 4-12 0-0 14, Se. McLaughlin 4-0 0-0 0, McIntyre 0-0 0-0 0, Eddy 0-0 0-0 0, Steyer 1-2 0-0 2, Se. McLaughlin 1-1 0-0 2, Bakker 9-12 2-6 20. Totals 27-51 41-87.  
 # NW—Davis 3-13 0-0 8, Rosca 0-0 0-0 0, Sasser 0-0 0-0 0, Suss 2-4 0-0 4, Banie 1-7 0-0 2, Sellers 0-1 0-0 0, Stevenart 1-2 0-0 2, Christian 1-6 5-6 7, Lawson 3-7 2-3 10, Steckler 1-3 0-0 2, Walker 0-0 0-0 0, Probst 1-3 0-0 2, Drinnin 3-4 1-2 7, Bird 0-3 0-0 0, Totals 16-57 8-31 45.  
 # 3-point shots—B 6-15 (Boult 1-5, Francini 1-2, Cain 1-2, Jackson 1-2), MW 4-15 (Robinson 2-1), Bruce 2-4, W. 0-10 (Davis 2-6, Rosca 0-2, Banie 0-3, Sellers 0-1, Lawson 2-4). Total fouls—B 11, MW 11. Fouled out—Lollar. Technicals—none. Turnovers—B 14, MW 16. Rebounds—B 33 (Boult 10), MW 39 (Bakker 11). Field-goal percentage—B .406, MW .529. Free-throw percentage—B .714, MW .601. Officials—Suffer.

# Three Undefeated Teams In Metro Boys Semifinals

BY SU POSPISH

Tonight's semifinals of the Metro Conference boys basketball tournament mark the first time this decade that three of the final four teams are undefeated.

Bellevue West (5-0) will play Omaha Burke (7-0) at 6:15 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Sapp Fieldhouse. At 8, Omaha Westside (7-0) will take on preseason No. 1 Millard West (4-3).

"There are four real good teams left," Westside Coach Dan Schinzel said Tuesday night. "Burke is playing so well."

A Westside win would provide the first finals matchup of undefeated teams since Omaha Benson beat Omaha Creighton Prep for the title in 1990-91.

"We must figure out how to stop Kyle Bakker," Schinzel said, referring to Millard West's 6-foot-9 senior center. "I'm not alone. There's 13 other coaches in the Metro trying to figure that out."

Bakker had 16 points and 11 rebounds in a 67-63 victory over Benson, the closest of Tuesday's four quarterfinals.

"Cameron Lollar (of Benson) is a player," Schinzel said. "He did a nice job on Bakker. I thought Benson played Millard West very well."

"Millard West's perimeter players are playing better than at the beginning. Zac Robinson is gaining confidence, and Dan Bruce is playing well for them."

Westside stayed undefeated with a 77-53 victory over Omaha South. Burke defeated Omaha Central 76-51 and Bellevue West rolled to a 95-52 victory over Millard South.

Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for students. Tuesday's five games drew crowds that tournament officials estimated at 4,100.

Millard West held Benson scoreless for nearly four minutes of the fourth quarter, turning a 54-50 deficit into a

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## METRO BOYS

### Millard West Joins 3 Unbeaten Teams In Semifinals

(Continued from Page 27)

59-54 lead.

On seven possessions in those four minutes, Benson Coach Terry Shelsta's team had multiple shots three times and had only two turnovers.

"We had good looks at the basket and good shots at the basket," Shelsta said. "I don't know if it was our legs getting tired or that they're pretty big inside. It wasn't that we were doing anything differently on offense or they doing anything differently. The shots just didn't go down."

Millard West Coach Rick Hook would like to think that his rebounders had some part in the dry spell.

"We were giving up too many rebounds, not hitting the defensive ones hard enough," Hook said. "We harped and harped that you have to keep Benson off the boards. That's how they got the four-point lead."

"If we check out and get the basketball, we're fine. And we did a better job in that stretch."

Millard West took the lead for good with a five-point flurry consisting of two Robinson free throws and a Bakker 3-point play.

Benson's drought ended on a high bouncing shot by Lollar, playing with a broken nose, at the 1:56 mark. The Bunnies (4-3) trailed by seven points until Juan Francini's 3-pointer and two free throws by Joe Ogba on a three-shot foul brought them back to within 66-63 with 6:1 seconds left.

After a timeout, Benson had Ogba try to make the final free throw. It missed, with Sean McLaughlin rebounding and making the second of two free throws to put the game out of reach.

Bruce had 14 points, Robinson 12 and Adam Steyer 10.

Arthur Boult's 19 points and 10 rebounds led Benson, which got 15 points from junior guard Lamar Latin from off the bench. Francini finished with 11 points.

Omaha Benson (4-3)	12	16	19	17	44
Millard West (4-3)	19	19	22	22	62
B. Boult 9-20	19	Ogba 2-2	Francini 5-11		
Latin 5-11	2-15	Jackson 1-2	0-4	0	Bisco 1-2
Latin 5-11	2-15	Jackson 1-2	0-4	0	Totals 26-44 5-7 fcs
MW—Hartman 2-4	2-4	Robinson 4-3	3-4	11	Bruce
6-10	14	Se. McLaughlin 1-4	1-3	Bakker 7-12	2-3
16	Mussmann 1-3	2-4	4	Steyer 3-7	0-4
10	McLaughlin 0-1	0-0	0-0	Totals 23-48	16-31
3-point goals—B 6-13	Bault 1-3	Francini 1-3			
Latin 2-5	Jackson 1-2	MW 3-10	Hartman 0-1		
Robinson 1-4	Bruce 2-4	Mussmann 0-1			
Totals	15-33	10-22	1-1		
Technical—none	Turnovers—B 14	MW 14			
Rebounds—B 33	(Boult 10)	MW 33	(Bakker 11)		
Field-goal percentage—B .466	MW .479	Free-throw			
percentage—B .714	MW .561	Officials—Culver,			
Peters.					

Millard West 62, Om. Westside 43  
 Millard West contributed to Omaha Westside's 23.3 percent shooting. The Warriors were 14 of 60 from the field.

"The last time we shot that poorly was when we played them last year," Westside Coach Dan Schinzel said. "They did a good job of taking shots away."

The Wildcats took control of the game in the second quarter, scoring seven straight points for their first 10-point lead of the night. Adam Steyer had five of his seven points and Kyle Bakker two of his game-high 27 points. The 6-9 Bakker also had a game-high 15 rebounds.

"I said it last night and I'll say it again. Adam Steyer plays harder than anybody," Hook said. "He plays every minute in practice hard and every minute in a game. If everybody would follow suit, we'd make it look easy."

"Tonight, our defense got after it and we pounded the glass. That's two things we did outstanding and we'll need to do it again against Bellevue West."

Millard West owned a 46-27 advantage in rebounds, helping to overcome 20 turnovers.

Westside (7-1) was within 37-30 early in the fourth quarter, but had scoring leader David Goeschel foul out as Bakker made a three-point play with 4:43 left in the game to increase the lead to 47-35 and seal it was up to a

53-35 lead.  
 Goeschel's 12 points and eight rebounds led the Warriors.

"Our players let not shooting well affect their whole game," Schinzel said. "How we played defense and how we handled the ball."

Omaha Westside (2-1) ..... 11 11 11  
 Millard West (2-1) ..... 11 11 11  
 ■ W—Sauer 0-1 0-0, Baldwin 1-4 0-2, Hauptman 1-14 4-11, Goeschel 2-18 4-12, Smart 2-11 0-0, Knust 4-11 0-0, Hansen 0-1 0-0, Saper 1-5 0-2, Totals 14-60 8-33 4.  
 ■ MW—Harrison 0-1 0-0, Robinson 0-6 7-8 7, Bruce 1-7 0-0 8, Se. McLaughlin 4-4 0-1 0, Bakker 11-17 5-7 27, Mussmann 1-2 1-3 3, Steyer 3-3 1-2 7, McLaughlin 0-1 0-0, Johnson 0-0 0-0 0, McIntyre 1-0 0-2, Eddy 0-0 0-0, Sestak 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 25-41 14-21 4.  
 ■ 3-point goals—WS 7-27 (Baldwin 0-2, Hauptman 1-7, Goeschel 2-6, Smart 1-5, Knust 1-7), MW 2-10 (Robinson 0-5, Bruce 2-5), Total fouls—WS 22, MW 16. Fouled out—Goeschel, Baldwin.  
 Technical—Baldwin (profanity), Turman (profanity).  
 ■ MW 29, Rebounds—WS 27 (Goeschel 8), (Bakker 15), Field-goal percentage—WS .233, MW .409, Free-throw percentage—WS .615, MW .667.  
 Officials—Williams, Walker.

# Boys Metro Final Features Preseason No. 1 Against No. 2

af.

BY STU POSPISIL  
 WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Millard West and Bellevue West have upheld their preseason billings in making it to tonight's finals of the Metro Conference boys basketball tournament.

Millard West was first and Bellevue West second in The World-Herald's preseason Top 10 ratings. Bellevue West is undefeated after six games, but Millard West is 5-3.

The Wildcats won their first two games, then lost the next three. They lost by 17 points at home against Omaha Creighton Prep, by 2 at Lincoln Northeast and by 9 at home against Omaha Burke.

They have played better in the conference tournament, beating Omaha Northwest, Omaha Benson and Wednesday night, previously undefeated Omaha Westside 64-47.

"We're in the mood," Millard West Coach Nick Frohman said. "We know we'll be a good team in March and I hope we're playing games in March."

Bellevue West has great athletes and plays a style nobody is used to playing. "We'll accept the challenge."

# Bellevue West Jumps Out Early To Blast Wildcats

BY STU POSPISIL  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Bellevue West's starters took a well-deserved break for the final 5½ minutes of Thursday night's Metro Conference boys basketball championship game.

They had turned the final against Millard West into a yawner, scoring the first 18 points and 28 of the first 30 in a 72-54 victory over The World-Herald's preseason No. 1 team for the Thunderbirds' second straight Metro title.

"Coach wanted us from the opening gun to jump on them, play like we were behind all the time," said senior Zach Fortune, whose 27 points included a 12-point first quarter.

Fortune said Bellevue West considered its situation entering the final differently than last season before the Class A state-championship game. The Thunderbirds, he said, remembered how they thought the state title was theirs after a two-overtime victory over Lincoln Northeast only to be blown out by Grand Island.

Against Millard West, the T-birds were coming off a hard-fought, 54-52 semifinal victory over previously

undefeated Omaha Burke.

"That helped us come out here with a much better mental focus," Fortune said.

West (7-0) is the first team to repeat as Metro champion since Omaha Burke won in the 1994-95 and 1995-96 seasons.

A crowd of 2,600, part of a tournament-estimated final-day turnout of 3,600, watched the blowout at the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Sapp Fieldhouse.

Bellevue West didn't even resort to its best full-court presses to rattle the Wildcats' hopes in their first Metro finals appearance.

"I couldn't ask for much more," Bellevue West Coach Doug Woodard said. "They missed some easy shots, to be honest, but I think our defense got to them. The first quarter, we can't play much better than that."

The Thunderbirds held Millard West scoreless on its first 11 possessions while they scored on eight.

Fortune had two of his five 3-pointers in the quarter. He finished 9 of 14 from the field, including 5 of 8 shooting on 3s, and made all four of his free throws to push his scoring average

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## METRO BOYS

### Bellevue West Tops Millard West To Win Tourney

Continued from Page 23

into the mid-20s. The 6-foot-2 senior had 15 3s in his three tournament games.

"He was in a little bit of a shooting zone," Woodard said. "Especially Wednesday night against Burke, when we didn't have anybody else to help."

Millard West's 6-9 center, returning All-Nebraska senior Kyle Bakker, had minimal impact on the first half. Bakker missed two first-quarter shots and had two free throws and a basket in the second quarter.

He finished with a team-high 17 points, making his last six shots, but had a season-low three rebounds.

"We just tried to pressure their perimeter people and not give them good vision to slip it inside," Woodard said. "He's a great high-school player, one who's going to score about every time he gets the ball."

Millard West was 1 of 13 from the field in the first quarter, 19 of 31 after that.

"We have to find a way to score more points on second shots and control the game better," Wildcats Coach Rick Hook said. "They're not going to sit and wait for you to set your defense."

Only once in the second half did Millard West appear capable of launching an improbable comeback. They were within 42-47 and had possession, only to miss a shot that Bellevue West turned into a basket by Shuan Wisdom. Bellevue West closed the third quarter with a 40-35 lead and the starters left with the game at 66-37.

An immediate rematch for these teams comes Jan. 7, when the Thunderbirds visit Millard West.

"For me, personally, it's great to have it this way," Hook said. "For my team, I hope they feel the same way."

Bellevue West (7-0)	25	15	20	12-3
Millard West (4-1)	11	14	14	2-4
Fortune 27, Pospisil 25, 22, 6, Wisdom 2-4 22, 4				
1-1 13, Bumrie 3-4 10, Mitchell 2-5 0, 5, Langabe 0-2 0-0, Cobb 0-2 2-2, Anderson 0-2 0-0, Stancil 0-0 0-0, Tantis 25-24 16-17, 2				
MW - Hartigan 1-1 1-2, Robinson 1-4 0-1 2, Bruce 3-10 1-4 14, McLaughlin 0-1 2-2 2, Bakker 7-2 2-17, Musmann 1-4 2-5, Steyer 3-5 0-2 6, Johnson 0-1 0-0 0, Sc. McLaughlin 0-1 0-0 0, McIntyre 2-2 0-0 5, Tantis 20-44 9-17, 2				
3-point goals - BW 6-18 (Wisdom 0-2, Fortune 5-13, Levinson 0-3, Mitchell 1-1, Cobb 0-3, Anderson 1-1), MW 5-17 (Robinson 4-3, Bruce 3-7, Musmann 1-1, Johnson 0-1, McIntyre 1-1). Total fouls - BW 16, MW 15. Penalties - none. Technicals - none.				
Turnovers - BW 10, MW 16. Rebounds - BW 37 (Severson 8), MW 22 (Steyer 3). Field-goal percentage - BW 47, MW 45. Free-throw percentage - BW 94, MW 52. Officials - Smith, Wells.				

# Wildcats Run Stopped in Finals

## Boys Take Second Place

Bill Knust

Sports Editor

Millard West got back on track last weekend with a second-place finish in the Metro Holiday Tournament. West was defeated in the finals by number-one ranked Bellevue West, but defeated previously unbeaten Westside in the semi-finals and Omaha Benson in the quarter final.

The Wildcats held Westside to 23 percent shooting, which was its worst percentage since last years game with

West. The Wildcats took a 10-0 lead in the second quarter with a seven point run, which included five points by junior Adam Steyer, and two of senior Kyle Bakker's 27.

"That run pretty much distanced us from them the rest of the game. They got close again in the fourth, but we took care of business," said Bakker.

West held a 31-22 lead at half time and Westside pulled to within seven before the Wildcats went on another run.

The Wildcats sealed the deal when Bakker converted on a three-point play, fouling out Westside senior David Goeschel. With the free throw the Wildcats took a 47-35 lead and the game ended with the final score of 62-43. West out rebounded the Warriors 46-27 to offset 20 turnovers.

The Wildcats had a tougher time in the quarterfinal though, pulling out a four point victory over Omaha Benson.

The Wildcats trailed 54-50 then held the Bunnies scoreless for nearly four minutes to take a 59-54 lead. The Bunnies had numerous second and third chances during the dry spell but were unable to convert.

"We gave up some easy boards in that stretch but they couldn't knock the second shots down. We did a good job of shutting them down so we could take the lead late in the game. It was a good win to get, they aren't a bad team," said Bakker.

Millard West and Benson each had 14 turnovers and 33 rebounds.

Bakker led the way for the Wildcats scoring 16 points and grabbing 11 rebounds. Junior Dan Bruce chipped in 14 points to help the Wildcat cause.

West played Bellevue West again Friday but results were not available as of press time.

# Wildcats Aim to Snap Bellevue West Streak

BY STU POSPISIL  
WORLD HERALD STAFF WRITER

Millard West gets another chance tonight, this time at home, to try to beat the last unbeaten boys basketball team in Class A.

Top 10 No. 1 Bellevue West (7-0) is the 7:45 p.m. opponent for the No. 7 Wildcat (5-4), who lost 72-54 to the Thunderbirds last week in the Metro Conference tournament final. Millard West trailed in that game 28-7 after the opening basket of the second quarter.

"We expect to get their best game and best effort of the year," Bellevue West Coach Doug Woodard said. "You know they're going to get the ball to Kyle Bakker, and that we'll try to create an uptempo pace."

Said Bellevue West senior Marty Levinson: "We're not going to change much, just go out and maintain our intensity level. I don't think we showed much of our defense. Millard West missed some early shots and we were able to run that way."

Omaha radio station ESPN (1620 AM) will broadcast the Metro Conference game, beginning with a 7:30 p.m. pregame show.

No. 3 Omaha Burke (7-1) has a pair of interesting weekend

assignments, playing host tonight to Omaha Creighton Prep (2-4) and playing Omaha Central (4-3) Saturday night at Norris Middle School. Roy Enright, a 6-foot-8 sophomore who was starting for Prep, has enrolled at Burke.

Saturday night's schedule also includes a pair of high-ranking interstate matchups for Council Bluffs Abraham Lincoln's boys and girls. The undefeated Lynx boys visit Nebraska Top 10 No. 6 Lincoln Southeast, with their girls playing host to Top 10 No. 1 South Sioux City.

Woodard said Bellevue West appears to be handling its status well. The Thunderbirds were in a similar situation last year, when they were Metro champions and won their first 16 games before losing.

"We don't have to win all of our games, but we want to play well by the end of the season and in districts," Woodard said.

Bellevue West's offense has yet to fully click, although the Thunderbirds lead Class A in scoring with a 78-point average. Zach Fortune, who averaged 27.3 points in three Metro tournament games, is their scoring leader.

LOCAL SPORTS

# T-Birds, Lincoln NE Top Ratings

Belleve West and Lincoln Northeast have emerged as the last unbeaten teams in Class A, but their last opponents are out this week for revenge.

Top 10 No. 1 Belleve West (7-0) visits No. 7 Millard West (5-4) on Friday night, two days after No. 2 Northeast (7-0) visits No. 4 Lincoln East (5-1).

Belleve West won the Metro Conference tournament with a 72-54 rout of the Wildcats. Northeast defeated East 72-66 to claim the Lincoln Public Schools invitational on the Rowker home floor.

Millard West will be the first of three consecutive road games against winning opponents for Belleve West, which has games Jan. 14 at 4-3 Omaha Central, played at Norris Middle School and Jan. 15 at 4-3 Omaha Benson.

The Thunderbirds' opening schedule was not demanding. Their first five games were against teams that remain winless or have won just once. They went to the wire with Omaha Burke in the Metro semifinals, winning 54-52, before blasting Millard West with a 38-2 start to the conference title game.

## W-H Boys Basketball Ratings

By Stu Pospisil



### Top 10/Class A

Rank	Team	Record	Avg. O.D.
1.	Belleve West	7-0	79-55
2.	Lincoln NE	7-0	73-58
3.	Omaha Burke	7-1	65-46
4.	Lincoln East	5-1	66-58
5.	Columbus	6-1	60-54
6.	Lincoln SE	5-2	62-54
7.	Millard West	5-4	56-55
8.	Om. Westside	7-1	66-53
9.	North Platte	6-4	60-54
10.	Lincoln High	4-3	59-54

that easily clinched a repeat championship.

"It's not the end-all, be-all for the rest of the season," Belleve West Coach Doug Woodard said.

Belleve West only gave a small taste of its full-court pressure to Millard

West, which fell behind quickly because it missed 12 of its 13 first-quarter shots. Only two of the Wildcats' 10 turnovers came as they brought the ball upcourt, although several turnovers came soon after breaking what pressure there was.

"We can't move (the pressure) up a whole lot higher," Woodard said. "I thought we were better on the press the second half against Burke."

Four of Northeast's past five games have been against teams presently in the Top 10. The Rockets beat Millard West 62-60 and No. 10 Lincoln High 61-56 before Christmas and topped No. 6 Lincoln Southeast 58-49 in the Lincoln semifinals before beating East.

Burke's 7-4 heart has the Bulldogs at No. 3 after being unranked in the preseason. Also in that category are Lincoln East at No. 4 and Omaha Westside at No. 8.

Burke has to rank as the biggest surprise of those three teams. The Bulldogs graduated four starters from a 13-9, state-tournament team, but they appear to be improved over last season.

They start 6-foot-8 Danny Lund and 6-6 Tola Decks and 6-8 junior Chris Despain comes off the bench.

Lincoln East (5-1) reached the Lincoln finals with a 21-point comeback to edge No. 9 North Platte 56-53.

No. 5 Columbus (6-1) has won six straight since an opening loss to Lincoln High. The bulk of the Discoverer's schedule strength lies in the final month of the regular season.

No. 6 Lincoln Southeast (5-2) averaged one loss by beating North Platte 81-74 for third place in Lincoln. The Knights also own wins against preseason-rated Benson and Grand Island.

Preseason No. 1 Millard West falls to seventh. The streaky Wildcats opened with two wins, lost their next three games, won three straight at Metro and then bombed out against Belleve West.

**Top games this week** — Wednesday: Lincoln NE at Lincoln East, 8; Friday: Belleve West at Millard West, 7:15; Columbus at Grand Island, 8; Om. Creighton Prep at Om. Burke, 7:15; Saturday: North Platte at Lincoln High, 7; CB A Lincoln at Lincoln SE, 7; Om. Burke vs. Om. Central, 7:15 at Norris Middle School.

# No. 1 Bellevue West Beats Millard West Again

By Cliff Brunst  
Special to the Journal

The No. 1-ranked Bellevue West boys basketball team took No. 7 Millard West's best shot, then came out with a knockout in a 76-63 win last night at Millard West High School.

It was a rematch of the Metro conference tournament final, which Bellevue West won 72-54 eight days after opening up a 28-2 lead early.

Woodward said he thought it would be a difficult game. "We're very happy any time we can get a win," he said. "We're going to get everybody's best shot, especially when you just beat somebody, and you have to come right back and play them on their home floor."

Millard West got off to the quick start this time. Ben Mussman scored eight points in the first quarter as the Wildcats took a 19-7 lead.

Bellevue West came right back and outscored Millard West 23-10 in the

second quarter to take a 40-29 halftime lead. Also in the second quarter, Bellevue West's pressure defense forced nine turnovers and did not allow Steve Bakker, the Wildcats' 6-foot-10-inch and leading scorer, a shot attempt from the field.

Woodward said it was all part of the plan. "When they turn it over, I take the ball out of his hands," Woodward said. "He can only get the ball if a guard gets it to him."

West continued the pressure in the

third quarter. Three times when Millard West tried to cut into the lead, Bellevue West's defense held them off. "We had a good game," Woodward said. "We had on the lead to 45-41."

Bellevue West went 14 for 18 from the free-throw line in the fourth quarter. Bakker scored 12 points of those 14, and the lead in the

## Bellevue West Repeats Victory Over Wildcats

Continued from Page 39

period, but it was too late. Millard West finished with 27 turnovers and went 1 for 15 from 3-point range.

Zach Fortune led four Bellevue West players in double figures with 16 points. He hit just three of 13 shots from the field, but finished nine of 11 free throws. Jake Fredenburg and Lewiston scored 13 points each, and Wisdom added 14.

"They have a lot of weapons," Millard West Coach Rick Hook said. "Millard West's Mussman scored 19 points in what Hook called his best game of the season. Bakker finished with 18 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks."

"The kids played hard," Hook said. "They played hard enough to win."

# Thunderbirds Avoid Early Scare, Come Back to Knock Out Wildcats

Skye Peterson  
Assistant Opinions Editor

The number seven ranked Millard West boys basketball team put up a valiant fight last Friday night against number one ranked Bellevue West, losing 76-63.

The game was a rematch of the Holiday Tournament Championship game, which the Wildcats also lost 72-54.

"We were really excited to play them again. I personally wanted another shot at them after the way we played in the

pressure defense forced the Wildcats into 9 of their 22 turnovers, and leading scorer Kyle Bakker did not get one shot off. Leaving the Wildcats trailing by one point at the end of the half.

"Their defense is really good. They have really quick guards, and they made it tough to run our offense," said junior Sean McLaughlin.

In the second the Wildcats played their hardest half of basketball yet this year, but just could not put the ball in the basket, making only 1 out of 15 shots from three point range. Hard work and hustle did pay off for the Wildcats as they

"Muss played really well. It was definitely his best game so far this year," senior, Kyle Bakker

Holiday Tournament," said senior Kyle Bakker, who had 18 points, 11 rebounds, and 5 blocked shots.

Senior Ben Mussman contributed 8 of his team high 19 points in the first quarter, helping the Wildcats jump to a 17-9 lead at the end of the quarter.

"Muss played really well. It was definitely his best game so far this year," added Bakker.

The second quarter was a different story for the Wildcats. Bellevue West's

kept the score close, but could not stop the high powered offense of the Thunderbirds. Zach Fortune led the charge with 16 points. They had three other players in double figures.

"Bellevue West is definitely the best team I have seen this year. It was a hard to play them, they are very fast and that can be the undoing of Bellevue West was one of those teams," said Adam Steyer.

The Wildcats played two games this weekend. Westside on Thursday and Omaha North on Saturday.

Player	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocks	Turnovers	Field Goals	Free Throws
Zach Fortune	16	11	5	2	3	8	11/13	9/11
Jake Fredenburg	13	8	3	1	2	6	10/15	10/10
Lewiston	13	7	2	1	1	5	8/12	6/6
Wisdom	14	6	4	1	1	7	9/14	5/5
Ben Mussman	19	10	3	2	1	9	11/18	10/10
Steve Bakker	18	11	2	1	5	11	1/15	0/0
Sean McLaughlin	12	5	1	0	0	4	5/10	3/3
Adam Steyer	10	4	1	0	0	3	4/8	2/2
Ben Woodward	8	3	1	0	0	2	3/6	2/2
Ben Peterson	6	2	1	0	0	1	2/4	1/1
Ben Steyer	5	1	0	0	0	1	2/4	1/1
Ben Peterson	4	1	0	0	0	1	2/4	1/1
Ben Peterson	3	1	0	0	0	1	2/4	1/1
Ben Peterson	2	1	0	0	0	1	2/4	1/1
Ben Peterson	1	1	0	0	0	1	2/4	1/1
Ben Peterson	0	1	0	0	0	1	2/4	1/1

LOCAL SPORTS

# Grand Island Appears Ahead of Schedule

Grand Island's 7-4 record probably is ahead of the pace most could have projected for the returning Class A champions.

The Islanders returned only one of their top eight players from last season, senior point guard Brian Dunnagan. And his availability was in doubt after he broke his left arm in the school's first football game last September.

Team captain was ready for the first day of practice in November. And the Islanders might be ready to make a title defense.

Last weekend, they beat then-No. 5 Columbus, 60-52, and unranked Kearney, 77-41, to match the start to Grand Island's 1998-99 season. That team lost five of its next six games, dropping to 8-8, before winning the final seven games to be state champions as the lowest seed in the (1993)

"This is a good bunch," Grand Island coach Dave Oman said Sunday. "We've been playing good lately. We had two games in the Lincoln holiday tournament we had a chance to win and didn't. Right now, we have three wins in our gym and our kids, including those coming off the bench, understand those roles."

The Islanders return to The Top 10



**W-H Boys Basketball Ratings By Stu Pospisil**

Top 10/Class A		Avg.
Record	O-D	
1 Bellevue West	8-0	78-56
2 Omaha Burke	9-1	84-47
3 Lincoln East	7-1	89-59
4 Lincoln NE	7-2	72-82
5 Lincoln SE	7-2	63-52
6 Om. Westside	9-1	85-51
7 Grand Island	7-4	59-52
8 Columbus	6-2	59-55
9 Lincoln High	5-3	59-54
10 Millard West	5-5	60-58

Top games this week—Thursday:  
 Lincoln NE at Grand Island 8; Millard West at Omaha Westside, 7:15.  
 Friday: Bellevue West vs. Om. Central at North, 7:15; McCook at North Platte, 7:45; Om. Burke at Lincoln SE, 8; Saturday: Bellevue West at Om. Benson, 7:15; Grand Island at Lincoln NE, 7:30.

in seventh — they had been 10th in the preseason — in time for games Thursday at home against No. 5 Lincoln Southeast and Saturday at

No. 4 Lincoln Northeast. "We felt last week was so important," Oman said. "If we lose to Columbus and Kearney, we're 5-6 going into Southeast and Northeast."

Omaha Burke moves into second in The Top 10, behind leader Bellevue West, as previous occupant Northeast loses to now-No. 3 Lincoln East 79-70 Wednesday and to Emporia, Kan., 74-67 Saturday.

Westside gains two positions, to sixth, by beating Omaha Bryan and Omaha North to improve to 9-1. Columbus falls to eighth for its loss to Grand Island, with Lincoln High's 55-51 victory over North Platte moving the Indians a notch up to ninth and dropping previous No. 9 North Platte from the ratings.

No. 10 Millard West barely stays ranked after a 76-65 home loss to Bellevue West. Only three unranked teams in Class A are 500 or better: North Platte (6-5), Omaha Benson (5-4) and Bellevue East (4-1).

Dunnagan, Oman said, is playing with an "A" game and some screws in his left arm. Those repaired three breaks in the arm above the elbow. Former University of Nebraska Olympic gymnast Phil Canoy performed the surgery on the 6-1 senior.

Brian gives us so many

dimensions," Oman said. "He can play any place in the zone, he shoots it very well and is very unselfish."

Oman is using a pair of sophomores, 6-8 Wes Wilkinson and 6-6 Kurtis Mann, as starters on the front line. Wilkinson has put out 30 points since last season and has improved his defensive work in the past two weeks.

Mann played "great defense," Oman said, on Elijah Starzl of Columbus, a transfer from Pender. Mann was on the junior varsity for the last half of his freshman season and has picked up his floor speed despite having shin splints.

Oman usually gives Joe Vavricek, a 6-2 junior, the opponent's best scorer for a defensive assignment. Mike Christensen, a 6-0 senior at off guard, was a devotee of the weight room in the offseason, and Oman said summer basketball helped his confidence.

Jason Roe, Shaun Willey and Ryan Obermeyer, the latter a 6-3 senior transfer from Gilmer, are the first three off the bench.

"Our defense," Oman said, "is a lot better than we thought it would be. These kids have a desire to show their own identity. Those two big kids, we're really pleased with their improvement. Of our top eight, I can say every one has improved from where he was a year ago."



# Millard West Erases Deficit, Knocks Off Westside in OT

BY STEVE BEIDECK  
WORLD-HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Almost down for the count, Millard West erased a 19-point first-half deficit Thursday night to earn a thrilling 69-63 Metro Conference boys basketball overtime victory over Omaha Westside.

Coach Rick Hook's Wildcats trailed 19-4 in the first quarter and 35-16 late in the first half before they began to whittle away at Westside (9-2). Hook said he challenged his 6-5 team at the half.

"We were a step slow the whole first half," Hook said. "We were throwing the ball into the backs of players and at each other's feet. We told the kids at halftime this was like a fight and were just standing there taking it in the teeth.

"You can see how they responded. What the Wildcats did was shave eight points off the Warriors' 17-23 halftime lead in the third quarter in front of an estimated 1,600 fans in the steamy Westside gym. Coach Dan Schinzel's team had built that first-half lead with aggressive defense and scoring from both inside and outside.

Westside slowed down Millard West center Kyle Bakker in the first 16 minutes. The Georgia Tech baseball recruit scored just nine points and pulled down five rebounds in the first half.

Forward Chris Smart kept Bakker in check early, and he also helped the

Warriors build their first-quarter bulge with seven points. Guard David Goeschel, who led all scorers with 26 points on 8-of-24 shooting, made two of his six 3-point shots in the opening quarter.

Westside's 19-8 lead steadily grew throughout most of the second quarter and reached 19 points for the first time at 33-14 on a layup by Tyler Hansen. The Wildcats then had an 8-4 run in the final 2:32 of the first half to cut into the lead.

Schinzel said his team may have lost a little of its edge by building such a big lead so quickly. He also credited Millard West's excellent defense to the second-half comeback. "The game got tough in the third and fourth quarters and we were able to play smart," he said. "They had the momentum and power that we didn't have. We didn't play very well offensively, and when we did, we didn't get offense. We fell down defensively."

So Millard West played smart in the pivotal third period as Westside's lead was slashed to 47-40 heading into the fourth quarter. Bakker scored six of his team-high 24 points in the third quarter and pulled in six of his game-high 14 rebounds.

Bakker had plenty of help at both ends in the fourth quarter. Crisp passing helped the Wildcats find sophomore guard Zae Robinson all alone under the Westside basket three times for layups as Millard West

continued to methodically reduce Westside's lead.

Millard West never had a lead in regulation, and the Wildcats didn't get their first tie since 4-4 until Bakker made a pair of free throws with 13 seconds to play to even the score at 57-57. But the Wildcats didn't waste any time getting the lead in overtime.

A layup by Bakker put the Wildcats ahead 59-57 23 seconds into overtime. Westside briefly regained the lead at 60-59 before a layup by Ben Müssmann, two free throws by Jason Johnson and another layup by Bakker gave the Wildcats a 65-60 lead they would never surrender.

Hook said he hoped the win can help the team build some momentum heading into the final five weeks of the regular season.

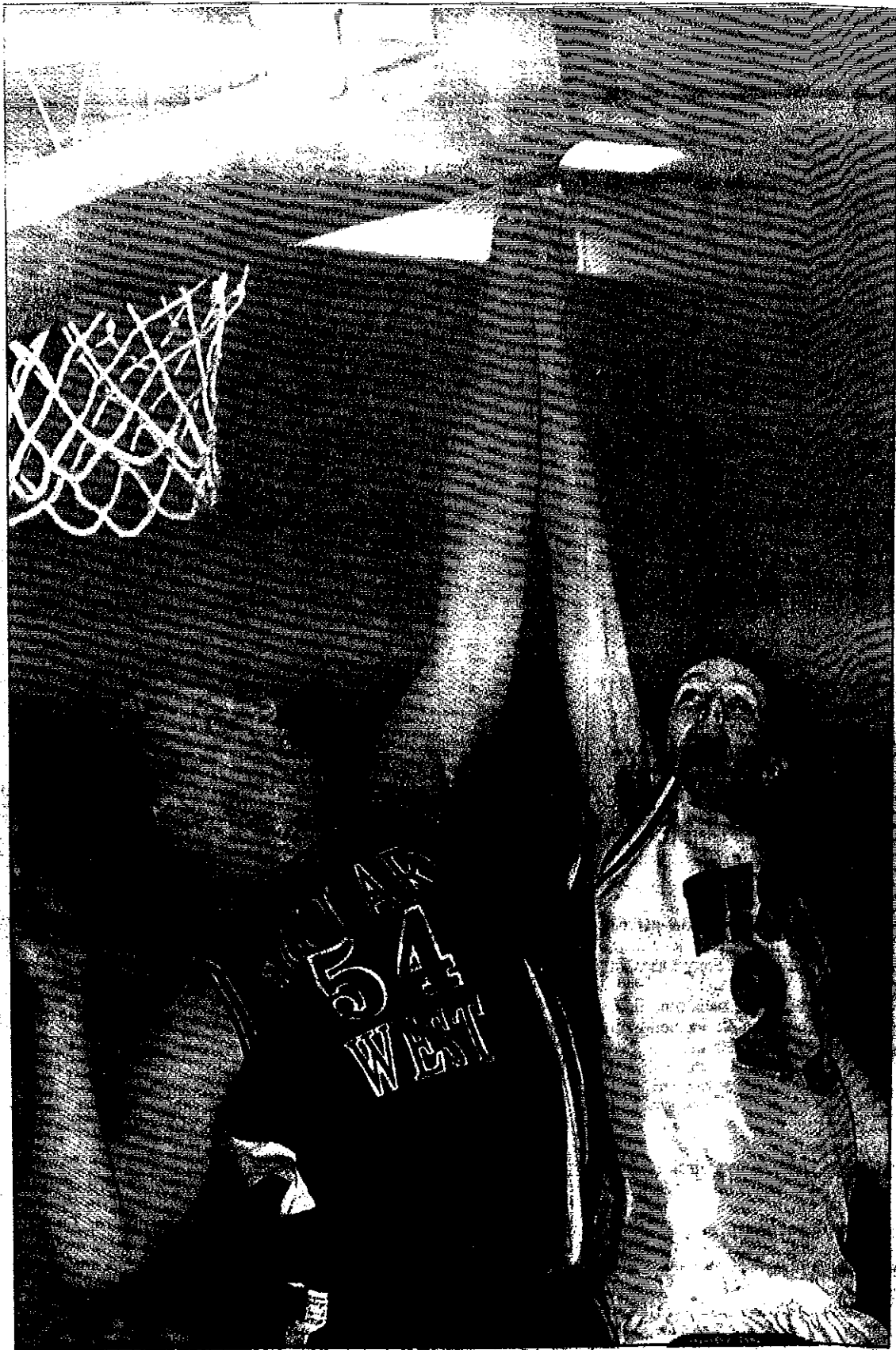
"We just told them to use this to get things going," Hook said. "We're a good basketball team when we play like we played in the second half. If we can take care of business for a whole game like we did the second half, we're fine."

Millard West (6-3)	W	L	T	OT
At Omaha Westside (9-2)	W	18	18	12
MW - Bakker 8-14 2-7 3-4	Bruc 4-12 3-4 1-2			
Müssmann 2-11 2-6 2-3	McLaurin 1-4 1-2 1-2			
Robinson 5-9 2-3 1-2	McLaurin 0-4 1-2 1-2			
Johnson 0-1 2-3 1-2	Styer 0-0 0-0 0-0			
McIntyre 0-0 0-0 0-0				
Totals 22-53 22-31 0-0				
OW - Suarez 12 0-0 2	Smart 5-6 0-0 1	Goeschel 8-24 6-12 2-6	Hansen 3-10 1-4 1-2	Styer 1-2 0-0 0-0
Boldwin 4-15 4-11	Hansen 1-3 0-0 2	Krusi 0-7 0-0 0-0		
Totals 22-48 11-29 0-0	MW 3-14 (Bruc 2-4 Robinson 1-3)	Müssmann 0-4	OW 6-20 (Smart 1-2 Goeschel 4-12)	Totals focus -
MW 12 24 25	Points out - Hansen 10	Turnovers -	OW 14	OW 10
OW 14 10 10	Rebounds - MW 43	Bakker 14	OW 28	(Smart 10)
OW 28	Free-throw percentages - MW	71%	OW 50%	OW 50%



PHIL JOHNSON/THE WORLD-HERALD

**HARD TO CONTROL:** Millard West's Ben Mussmann, left, can't stop Omaha Westside's David Goeschel, No. 33, from scoring two of his game-high 26 points. Mussmann had 12 rebounds to help the Wildcats rally for the overtime victory.



PHIL JOHNSON/THE WORLD-HERALD

## Bakker, Millard West Overcome Westside

Millard West's Kyle Bakker, left, comes up short in his attempt to block a shot by Omaha Westside's Brett Seger, who scored on the play during Thursday night's high school basketball game at Westside. With the help of Bakker's 24 points and 14 rebounds, Millard West rallied from a 19-point deficit for a 69-63 overtime victory. Story, Page 27.

## Mussmann Powers Millard West Boys

Ben Mussmann scored 12 points Saturday night to lead Millard West to a 54-47 win over visiting Omaha North.

Justin Albrecht and Fred Starks led Omaha North with 17 and 14 points, respectively.

Omaha North	12	15	19	18-47
Millard West	18	13	13	18-54
OM—Henderson 1, Coleman 6, Jones 6, Starks 14, Albrecht 2, J. Albrecht 17, Peterson 1				
MW—Robinson 4, Mussmann 12, McLaughlin 9, Bruce 7, S. McLaughlin 8, Steyer 3, S. McLaughlin 3, Bakker 9				

# Lincoln NE Handles Rigorous Schedule

Seven of Top 10 No. 4 Lincoln Northeast's first 11 games have been against rated opponents, with another two Top 10 teams making visits this weekend to Ed Johnson Gym.

The Rockets play host Friday night to No. 8 Columbus (7-2) and Saturday night to No. 10 Omaha Westside (10-2). Both games have 7:30 p.m. tipoffs.

Northeast avoided its first three-game losing streak since the 1991-92 season with a 78-62 victory Friday at Class B Hastings following losses the previous week to No. 3 Lincoln East and Kansas 6-A power Emporia.

Coach Chip Bahe's team improved to 9-2 with Saturday's 58-57 home win over new No. 5 Grand Island. The winning points came on 6-foot-4 junior forward Matt Eybel's bank shot with three seconds left.

Northeast's only games against non-rated opponents have been pairs of games against Hastings and Kansas. The Rockets are 5-2 against rated teams.

Bellevue West and Omaha Burke continue to be 1-2 in The Top 10.

Bellevue West, which plays host Friday to 3-7 Omaha Bryan, beat Omaha Central 68-59 and Omaha Benson 79-66 on the road. The Thunderbirds are 10-0 after starting last season 13-0.

Burke won 65-63 at then-No. 5 Lincoln Southeast for the Metro Conference's first victory against a Lincoln team in six tries. The Bulldogs (10-1) start a four-game stretch against unranked teams with Friday's home game against Omaha North (3-7).

Lincoln East plays host Saturday night to ratings contender North Platte (7-5), which comes off a 58-39 blasting

## W-H Boys Basketball Ratings

By Stu Pospisil



### Top 10/Class A

	Record	Avg. O.-D.
1. Bellevue West	10-0	77-57
2. Omaha Burke	10-1	64-48
3. Lincoln East	8-1	68-58
4. Lincoln NE	9-2	71-62
5. Grand Island	8-5	60-53
6. Lincoln SE	7-4	63-55
7. Lincoln High	6-3	61-53
8. Columbus	7-2	57-53
9. Millard West	7-5	60-58
10. Om. Westside	10-2	64-52

### of Class B No. 1 McCook.

Southeast slips only to sixth despite a two-loss week. Grand Island moves past the Knights after beating them 70-60 Thursday.

Lincoln High routed Kearney 84-46 to vault from ninth to seventh, with Columbus remaining eighth after struggling to beat Hastings 41-38.

Millard West's 69-63 overtime victory over Omaha Westside — the Wildcats made up a 16-point deficit — was its second of the season against the Warriors and allows the preseason No. 1 team to regain one notch to ninth. Westside had been ranked sixth.

Top games this week:

■ **Friday:** Columbus at Lincoln NE, 7:30; Lincoln High at Lincoln Plus X, 8. **Saturday:** Om. Westside at Lincoln NE, 7:30; North Platte at Lincoln East, 7.

# Boys Basketball Leaders

## Scoring

Player, School	Per.	Avg.
Arthur Bonas, Om Benson	10	231
Zach Fontaine, Bell West	10	220
Justin Albrecht, Om North	10	214
Brian Dunagan, Gr Island	13	217
Brian Jacobson, Om Central	10	208
David Goeschel, Westside	12	204
Kyle Bakker, Millard West	12	203
Richard Ross, Lincoln High	17	196
Adam Lamprock, Fremont	9	174
Jake Matheson, Lincoln SE	9	174
David Finlay, Bellevue East	10	173
Nick Branning, North Platte	12	172
Jimmy Metz, Lincoln NE	10	171
Talia Dick, Om Burke	11	169
Diego Anderson, Kearney	12	168
Kourteny Johnson, Prep	8	152
Mary Lawson, Bell West	10	152
Chris Kessell, Bellevue East	10	149
Chris Sawyer, Columbus	9	147
Jason Sutch, Appleton V	8	145
Camron Lohler, Om Benson	10	142
Daryl Star, O'Neill	10	140
Dylan Graham, Lincoln High	10	140
D. Delaney-Hompson, Scott	9	137
Aaron Friesen, Lincoln East	11	137
Luke Hansen, Lincoln NE	12	137
Luke Hansen, North Platte	12	137
Elliot Stanzel, Columbus	11	130
Justin Ritchey, Om Bryan	9	117
Wendy Oryman, Om Prep	9	116
Mylen Schmitt, Scott	5	63
Paul Curtis, Westside	5	112
Paul Belsheim, Westside	12	144

### CLASS 8

Player, School	Per.	Avg.
Maech Kohls, Aurora	8	183
Don Dwyer, Superior	10	173
Don Dwyer, Om Benson	10	229
Chris Smith, Gr Island NW	14	164
Sean Miller, Om Boncall	14	228
Tony Miller, Alliance	8	128
Greg Miller, Spr Platteview	8	140
Chris Erickson, O'Neill	12	185
Chris Erickson, Holdrege	12	152
Camron Young, O'Neill	12	178
Camron Young, Alliance	10	147
Nolan Bennett, McCook	11	147
Ben Holm, Alliance	13	180
Brad Hanson, Geneva	11	158
Matt Lyster, Alliance	10	135
Dan Patten, Plattsmouth	9	124

Player, School	Per.	Avg.
Sean Brown, Valley	6	139
Ben Smith, Elkhorn NE	10	149
A.C. Hoffman, Elkhorn NE	10	189
Chris Adams, Valley	9	182
Nathan Probst, Westside	12	114
Tony Kruger, Fort Calhoun	9	119
Andy Wood, Om Benson	12	157
Eric Dunbar, Pope John	12	104
Andy Delaney, Om Central	12	155

## 3-Point Percentage

Player, School	Per.	Avg.
Sam Calhabetto, Ginn	8	59.7
Chad Sheffield, Ginn	8	59.7
Cody Hoogh, Aurora	10	58.9
Chris Finken, Om Groes	12	58.9
James V. VanDuren, Elkhorn	10	58.9
James V. VanDuren, Elkhorn	10	58.9
Ben Cook, Auburn	13	58.3
Ben Cook, Auburn	13	58.3
Luke James, Aurora	10	58.3
Luke James, Aurora	10	58.3
Joe Laoni, M. Conestoga	8	58.3

## Free-Throw Percentage

Player, School	Per.	Avg.
Aaron Froehsch, Lincoln East	9	86.7
Ron Hams, Om Bryan	10	86.7
Zach Fontaine, Bell West	10	86.7
Joe Varrick, Grand Island	13	86.7
Justin Albrecht, Om North	10	86.7
Eric Miller, Bellevue East	10	86.7
Sam Swendsen, Lincoln NE	11	86.7
Brian Dunagan, Gr Island	13	86.7
Eddie Ceasari, Bell East	10	86.7
Kris Kuhn, Om Central	10	86.7
Chris Kessell, Bellevue East	10	86.7
Block Wurt, North Platte	8	86.7

## Rebounding

Player, School	Per.	Avg.
Luke Erickson, CB L. Central	8	43.48
Hahn, Elkhorn MM	10	26.31
Chris Stecker, Bennington	10	25.30
Trevor Kruger, Fort Calhoun	9	20.24
Luke Erickson, CB L. Central	8	43.48
Hahn, Elkhorn MM	10	26.31
Chris Stecker, Bennington	10	25.30
Trevor Kruger, Fort Calhoun	9	20.24

Notes to Coaches: Please report assist averages with your next report. That category was left off the updated reporting forms. Also, shooting percentages need to be calculated to three places (.624 instead of .62).

# Westside Makes Strides In Confidence, Ratings

(Omaha) Westside's high performance level on Saturday's 76-65 victory over Lin. by Northeast hearties (Coach Dan Schinzel). The win propelled the Wildcats from 10th to third in this week's World-Herald Nebraska Top 10.

"Team confidence is what we take away from this game," Schinzel said. "We got behind, were under pressure and got a couple of stops on defense to turn around the game."

Westside's next assignment is Friday night at No. 1 Bellevue West (11-0). It's a return for Schinzel and Bellevue West coach Dave Woodard. Schinzel was an assistant coach at Omaha Kearville when the Crimson Pride won the 1980-81 B-state title.

Westside's victory at Lincoln Northeast occurred during one of those January "blow-out" weekends for Class A —

■ Girls' high school basketball rankings, Page 19.

only eight of the 25 teams avoided losses. What resulted was the first 1-2-3 ranking for the Metro Conference in many years.

Westside (12-2) had been two games removed from a meltdown against Millard West, when it surrendered a 10-point lead and lost 69-63 in overtime. Both of Westside's losses were to the Wildcats.

"Millard West caught us and in overtime, we were done," Schinzel said. "Against Northeast, I hooked at the kids during a timeout when we were down four, and they were as calm as could be."

Westside shot 56.8 percent from the field, including 9 of 18 from 3-point range, and a season-high 11 of 17 on free throws to defeat the Rockets.

Northeast was one of six rated teams with weekend losses. All six were teams



**W-H Boys Basketball Ratings**  
By Stu Pospisil

Top 10/Class A		
Record	O.-D.	Avg.
1. Bellevue West	11-0	76-56
2. Omaha Burke	11-1	64-48
3. Om. Westside	12-2	66-54
4. Lincoln NE	10-3	69-61
5. North Platte	9-5	60-52
6. Millard West	8-5	60-57
7. Lincoln East	8-2	67-60
8. Lincoln High	7-4	63-56
9. Grand Island	9-6	59-54
10. Columbus	7-3	56-53

■ Top games this week—Friday:  
Om. Westside at Bellevue West, 7:15;  
Om. Creighton Prep at Bellevue East,  
7:15; North Platte at Grand Island, 8;  
Lincoln East at Lincoln SE, 8; Millard South at Om. Burke, 7:15. Saturday:  
Lincoln NE at Columbus, 8; Lincoln East at Lincoln Plus X, 7; Om. Benson at Millard West, 7:15; Bellevue West at Om. Creighton Prep, 7:15.

outside the Metro Conference — Lincoln East, Northeast, Grand Island, Lincoln Southeast, Lincoln High and Columbus.

Friday night, Northeast beat Columbus 51-45 at home. Lincoln High lost 60-55 at Class B Lincoln Plus X and Grand Island needed overtime for a 35-33 win over beat Fremont (1-10) after the weekend).

Saturday, Lincoln High topped host Grand Island 81-76 in two overtimes. Lincoln East lost 76-55 at home to North Platte. Southeast lost 56-43 at Papillion-LaVista (3-8) and Northeast

See **BOYS RATINGS** Page 19

## BOYS RATINGS

### Omaha Westside Makes Strides In Ratings

After measuring tool for the ratings is head-to-head competition, the 11 teams considered for this week's Top 10 have some interesting

Bellevue West, of course, is 3-0 in the Metro Conference. It is 2-1 with Omaha Burke and 2-1 with Lincoln East. Northeast is 2-2, and Millard West is 2-2 with a loss to 6-6 Omaha Creighton Prep.

Northeast is 6-3, Lincoln High 4-3 plus the Plus loss. Lincoln East 3-2, North Platte 3-4 with a win/over Class B No. 20, and a loss to Alliance.

Southeast 3-4 plus the loss to Papillion-LaVista and Columbus is 0-3. Northeast holds onto fourth because its schedule continues to rank highest in difficulty. The Rockets have a return on engagement at Columbus on Saturday.

North Platte jumped back in the ratings in fifth. The Bulldogs go Friday night to Grand Island in an attempt to

even another season series and have a Feb. 5 game at Northeast.

Millard West takes advantage of others' misfortunes to rise from ninth to sixth. The Wildcats needed Dan Bruce's basket before the buzzer to defeat Papillion-LaVista 56-54. The Wildcats do not play another team in the present Top 10 during the rest of the season, so a 15-5 regular-season record is possible.

Lincoln East tumbled from third to seventh. The Spartans have weekend games at Southeast and at Plus X.

Lincoln High kept its ratings drop to only position by gaining its overtime win at Grand Island, which fell from fifth to ninth. Columbus stayed in at No. 10, although it would appear a win over Northeast would be needed to stay ranked another week.

Southeast exited after its third straight loss. Its Friday night home game with East could be a pivotal point in Southeast's season.

A team on the rise is Millard South (5-6), which has won three straight games. Indians Coach Larry Rubble said Friday's 71-59 victory over Omaha Benson was the best play from a Millard South team in almost three years.

The Indians' next three games, however, are at Burke, Westside and Northeast.

# Omaha Westside Makes Big Climb Up Ratings Ladder

Class A went through one of those January-blues weekends, with only eight of the 25 teams avoiding losses. That caused major reverberations in The World-Herald Top 10.

The big mover was Omaha Westside, which had been sitting in 10th before Saturday's 70-65 victory at No. 4 Lincoln Northeast. The Warriors (12-2) now are third, with a game Friday night at No. 1 Bellevue West.

Northeast was one of six rated teams with weekend losses. All six were teams outside the Metro Conference — Lincoln East, Northeast, Grand Island, Lincoln Southeast, Lincoln High and Columbus.

On Friday night, Northeast beat Columbus 51-45 at home. Lincoln High lost 60-55 at Class B Lincoln Pius X and Grand Island needed overtime to beat Fremont (1-10 after the weekend) 35-33.

Saturday, Lincoln High toppled host Grand Island 81-76 in two overtimes. Lincoln East lost 76-55 at home to North Platte. Southeast lost 56-43 at Papillion-LaVista (3-8) and Northeast fell to Westside.

Always a measuring tool for the ratings is head-to-head competition, and the 11 teams considered for this week's Top 10 have some interesting numbers.

Bellevue West, of course, is 3-0 against the rest. No. 2 Burke is 2-1 with a loss to Bellevue West in the Metro semifinals last month. Westside is 2-2 with both losses to Millard West, which is 2-4 plus a loss to 6-6 Omaha Creighton Prep.

Northeast is 6-3, Lincoln High 4-3 plus the Pius loss. Lincoln East 3-2, North Platte 3-4 with a win over Class B No. 1 McCook and a loss to Alliance, Southeast 3-4 plus the loss to Papio, and Columbus 0-3.

What results is the first 1-2-3 ranking for the Metro Conference in many years.

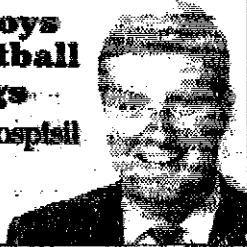
Northeast holds onto fourth since its schedule continues to rank highest in difficulty. The Rockets have a return engagement at Columbus on Saturday.

North Platte jumps back into the ratings at fifth. The Bulldogs are 1-1 against each of the three Lincoln schools they've played — East, Lincoln High and Southeast. They go Friday night to Grand Island in an attempt to even another season series and have a Feb. 5 game at Northeast.

Millard West takes advantage of

## W-H Boys Basketball Ratings

By Stu Pospisil



### Top 10/Class A

	Record	Avg. O.-D.
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6. Millard West	8-5	60-57
7. Lincoln East	8-2	67-60
8. Lincoln High	7-4	63-56
9. Grand Island	9-6	59-54
10. Columbus	7-3	56-53

■ Top games this week—Friday: Om. Westside at Bellevue West, 7:15; Om. Creighton Prep at Bellevue East, 7:15; North Platte at Grand Island, 8; Lincoln East at Lincoln SE, 8; Millard South at Om. Burke, 7:15. Saturday: Lincoln NE at Columbus, 8; Lincoln East at Lincoln Pius X, 7; Om. Benson at Millard West, 7:15; Bellevue West at Om. Creighton Prep, 7:15.

others' misfortune to rise from ninth to sixth. The Wildcats needed Dan Bruce's basket before the buzzer to beat Papio 56-54. They do not play another team in the present Top 10 the rest of the season, so a 15-5 regular-season record for them is achievable.

Lincoln East tumbles from third to seventh. The Spartans have weekend games at Southeast and at Pius X.

Lincoln High keeps its ratings drop to only one position by gaining its overtime win at Grand Island, which falls from fifth to ninth. Columbus stays in at No. 10, although it would appear a win over Northeast would be needed to stay ranked another week.

Southeast exits after its third straight loss. The Knights' game with East could be a pivotal point in their season.

A team on the rise is Millard South, which has won three straight to improve its record to 5-6. Indians Coach Larry Ribble said Friday's 71-59 victory over Omaha Benson was the best play from one of his teams in almost three years.

The Indians' next three games, however, are at Burke, Westside and Northeast.

## Basket at Buzzer Boosts Millard West Past Papio

Dan Bruce hit a 16-foot jumper at the buzzer Friday night to lift visiting Millard West to 56-54 victory over Papillion-LaVista.

Bruce finished with 16 points, and teammate Kyle Bakker had a game-high 23. Adam Steyer added 12 points for No. 9 Millard West.

Jason Burch paced the Monarchs with 15 points. Jon Davis had 14. Eric Thomas 13 and Mike McCarty 11.

Millard West (8-5) ...  
Papillion-LaVista (3-8) ...  
Om. Westside (12-2) ...  
Om. Creighton Prep (10-3) ...  
North Platte (9-5) ...  
Millard West (8-5) ...  
Lincoln East (8-2) ...  
Lincoln High (7-4) ...  
Grand Island (9-6) ...  
Columbus (7-3) ...

# Omaha South Upends No. 6 Millard West

Donell DeLeon-Thompson's 27 points Friday night led unranked Omaha South to an 86-71 upset of Top 10 No. 6 Millard West in high school boys basketball at Omaha South.

South led 24-12 after the first quarter against 8-6 Millard West and held Wildcat center Kyle Bakker to 11 points. Zac Robinson scored 18 points for West. Dan Bruce added 15.

Millard West (8-6)..... 12 18 17 24-71  
 At Omaha South (5-7)..... 24 18 19 28-86  
 MW—Robinson 18, Muggsman 2, Bruce 15, Se. McLaughlin 6, Steyer 9, Se. McLaughlin 10, Bakker 11.  
 OS — Latin 20, White 4, Star 18, Lewis 4, Williams 6, Gains 2, Thomas 3, DeLeon-Thompson 27.

## Millard West 67, Om. Benson 65

Zac Robinson scored 17 points while Adam Steyer and Kyle Bakker had 12 and 11 points, respectively, to lead Top 10 No. 6 Millard West.

The Wildcats won the contest from the foul line as they hit 9 of 10 shots in the fourth quarter while Omaha Benson went just 4 for 14.

Arthur Boult led Benson with 23 points.

Omaha Benson..... 18 23 13 11-45  
 At Millard West..... 16 16 9 26-67  
 OB—Boult 23, Qaba 9, Latin 10, Jackson 3, Bisco 1, Smith 6, Woller 7, Williams 2, Davis 4.  
 MW—Robinson 17, Muggsman 8, Bruce 8, Se. McLaughlin 6, Steyer 12, Se. McLaughlin 5, Bakker 11.

## Metro Teams Retain Hold On Boys Top 10 Ratings

Some middle-tier Metro Conference boys basketball teams have opportunities this week to make waves against Top 10 opponents.

Omaha South (5-7), coming off an 86-71 victory over then-No. 6 Millard West, plays host Tuesday night to No. 1 Bellevue West. It will be the third game in five nights for the 13-0 Thunderbirds, who preserved their undefeated record with weekend victories of 67-58 over No. 3 Omaha Westside and 82-58 over Omaha Creighton Prep.

Millard South (5-8) has a Thursday night game at No. 4 Lincoln Northeast. The Indians took Westside to the wire Saturday night, with the Warriors winning 55-53 on Chris Smart's basket with 11 seconds left. Indians freshman Euvon Turner came up short on a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Papillion-LaVista (5-8) takes a three-game winning streak into Friday night's home game against Omaha South with a game Saturday night at Westside. The Monarchs have won five of their past eight, with the three losses by a total of nine points after an 0-5 start.

For the second straight week

the top three teams in The Top 10 are from the Metro: Bellevue West (13-0), No. 2 Omaha Burke (13-1) and Westside (13-3).

Northeast (12-3) and No. 5 North Platte (10-5) will meet in Lincoln on Saturday night. For North Platte, it will be its sixth game of the season in Lincoln for Class A's farthest-west school.

"It seems like we're in Lincoln more than we've been at home," North Platte Coach Dan Moore said Sunday. "We'll play Lincoln schools seven times, and all except the Southeast game were in Lincoln."

"It makes things more challenging. The kids know they'd rather play the best teams and what we're doing is making us ready to get to our district teams."

North Platte, which beat Grand Island 55-53 last Friday, plays host Friday to Class B Scottsbluff (7-9) before making its third six-hour round-trip to Lincoln in the past five weekends.

Northeast is the only Lincoln Class A team the Bulldogs haven't beaten. They have split with No. 6 Lincoln Prep, No. 7 Lincoln Southeast and Lincoln East, which was third when the

## BOYS RATINGS Metro Teams Retain Hold On Top 10

Continued from Page 15

Bulldogs won 76-55.

Weekend losses of 54-46 to Southeast and 58-42 to Class B Lincoln Pius X (11-2) send Lincoln East (8-4) reeling from the Top 10.

Millard West falls from sixth to ninth for the loss to Omaha South. The Wildcats then rallied for a 67-65 victory Saturday night at Omaha Benson as the Bunnies went cold at the free-throw line in the final quarter.

Lincoln High, which rises to sixth, beat Omaha Central 83-79 in overtime as Richie Ross scored a career-high 38 points. Southeast returns to the ratings in seventh after ending a three-game losing streak with a pair of weekend victories.

## W-H Boys Basketball Ratings

By Stu Pospisil

### Top 10-Class A

	Record	Avg. O.D.
1. Bellevue West.....	13-0	76-57
2. Omaha Burke.....	13-1	64-48
3. Om. Westside.....	13-3	64-54
4. Lincoln NE.....	12-3	68-59
5. North Platte.....	10-5	59-52
6. Lincoln High.....	8-4	64-58
7. Lincoln SE.....	8-5	68-58
8. Grand Island.....	9-7	59-54
9. Millard West.....	9-6	61-60
10. Columbus.....	8-4	55-52

### Top Games This Week

- Tuesday: Bellevue West at Omaha South, 7:15.
- Thursday: Millard South at Lincoln Northeast, 7:30.
- Friday: Lincoln East at Columbus, 8; Lincoln Southeast at Lincoln High, 8; Om. Burke at Omaha Benson, 7:15; Omaha Central at Omaha Westside, 7:15; Omaha South at Papillion-LaVista, 7:15.
- Saturday: Bellevue East at Millard West, 7:15; North Platte at Lincoln Northeast, 7:30; Lincoln Pius X at Lincoln Southeast, 7; Millard West vs. Omaha Central at Norris Middle School, 7:15; Lincoln High at Omaha Benson, 7:15; Papillion-LaVista at Omaha Westside, 7:15.

High school athletics including basketball: omaha.com

Grand Island only played North Platte last week, but is bumped up a notch to eighth in the reshuffling. Columbus hangs onto 10th in advance of its home game Friday with Lincoln East.

North Platte lost two of its first three games, at home to Class B Alliance and Grand Island, before winning five straight. A three-game losing streak began when the Bulldogs lost a 21-point lead against Lincoln East in the semifinals of the Lincoln holiday tournament, and continued through losses to Southeast and Lincoln High.

Now they're on a four-game winning streak.

"We struggled early, but never panicked," Moore said.

"We're playing well right now, playing with a lot of confidence."

The Bulldogs have been without Brock Wurl, a three-year frontcourt starter, for six games with a shoulder injury. He saw limited time against Grand Island.

Ronnie Stubbs has been averaging about 10 points a game while starting in Wurl's place.





# Lincoln a Second Home for North Platte

North Platte's game Saturday night at Lincoln Northeast will be the sixth in Lincoln for Class A's farthest-west school.

"It seems like we're in Lincoln more than we've been at home," North Platte Coach Dan Moore said Sunday. "We'll play Lincoln schools seven times, and all except the Southeast game were in Lincoln."

"It makes things more challenging. The kids know they'd rather play the best teams, and what we're doing is making us ready to get to our district teams."

North Platte remains fifth in The Top 10 after Friday's 55-53 victory at Grand Island. The Bulldogs (10-5) play host this Friday to Class B Scottsbluff (7-9) before their third six-hour round-trip to Lincoln in the past five weekends.

Northeast (12-3) stays fourth, behind the Metro Conference-leading three-time undefeated Bellevue West, Omaha Burke and Omaha Westside, after victories of 53-51 at Norfolk and 60-46 at Columbus. Northeast is the only Lincoln Class A team the Bulldogs haven't faced.



**W-H Boys Basketball Ratings**  
By Stu Popsell

Top 10/Class A		
Team	Record	Avg. O-D
1. Bellevue West	13-0	76-57
2. Omaha Burke	13-1	64-48
3. Om. Westside	13-3	64-54
4. Lincoln NE	12-3	58-59
5. North Platte	10-5	59-52
6. Lincoln High	9-4	64-58
7. Lincoln SE	8-5	68-58
8. Grand Island	9-7	59-54
9. Millard West	9-6	61-60
10. Columbus	8-4	55-52

They have split with No. 6 Lincoln High, No. 7 Lincoln Southeast and Lincoln East which was third when the Bulldogs won 76-55. Weekend losses of 54-46 to Southeast and 58-42 to Class B Lincoln

Platte (11-2) send Lincoln East (8-4) reeling from the Top 10.

Millard was falls from sixth to ninth after an 86-71 loss to Omaha South (5-7). The Wildcats then rallied for a 97-65 victory Saturday night at Omaha. Parents as the Sunnies went south at the free-throw line in the final quarter.

Lincoln High, seven games to sixth, beat Grand Island 65-75 in overtime. Southeast remains in the ratings in seventh after sending a three-game losing streak into a pair of weekend victories.

Grand Island only played North Platte last week and is bumped to fourth. Its margin in the re-ranking, Columbus jumps into fifth as a result of its barn-burner Friday with Lincoln East.

North Platte lost two of its first three games at home to Class B Alliance and Grand Island, before winning five straight. A three-game losing streak began when the Bulldogs lost a 21-point lead against Lincoln East in the semifinals of the Lincoln holiday tournament, and continued through losses to Southeast and Lincoln High.

Now they're on a four-game winning streak.

"We struggled early, but never panicked," Moore said. "We had some injuries and other things we had to work through. Those losses to the Lincoln schools were close. That's the way Class A is."

"We're playing well right now, playing with a lot of confidence."

The Bulldogs have been without Brock Wurt, a three-year frontcourt starter, for six games with a shoulder injury. He saw limited time against Grand Island.

Ronnie Stubbs has been averaging about 10 points a game while starting in Wurt's place. Nick Branting (17 ppg.), Jacob Mohns (13) and Zach Smith (12) have been the Bulldogs' scoring leaders.

Justinie Pack and Kyle Jurgens share time at point guard.

Top games this week:  
 Tuesday: Bellevue West at Omaha South, 7:15; Transnor: Millard South at Lincoln NE, 7:30; Friday: Lincoln East at Columbus, 8; Lincoln SE at Lincoln High, 8; Om. Burke at Om. Benson, 7:15; Om. Central at Om. Westside, 7:15; Om. South at Papillion-LV, 7:15; Saturday: Bellevue East at Millard West, 7:15; North Platte at Lincoln NE, 7:30; Lincoln Pigs X at Lincoln SE, 7; Millard West vs. Om. Central at Norris Middle School, 7:45; Lincoln High at Om. Benson, 7:15; Papillion-LV at Om. Westside, 7:15.

# Wildcat Women Continue to Roll with Victories, Boys Struggle to 1-1 Finish

Coulier Jones

## Commentary Editor

The Millard West boys and girls basketball teams finished their two game slants January 28 and 29, with contradictory emotions. On the boys' side, the team barely escaped with one victory, whereas the girls' team continued their dominance of Metro Area teams.

Holding the Omaha South Packers to only 28 points Friday night, the fourth-ranked Wildcat girls team put 61 points on the board in a sound victory. Senior Laura Ferguson lead all scorers with 19 points. Ferguson also made eight of her nine attempted free throws. Dominating on the boards, junior Kelli Permenter also added 13 points for Millard West.

Dropping to 8-6 for the season, the number nine boys team lost 86-71 to an unranked Omaha South. The Wildcats were down early on, trailing 24-12 at the end of the first quarter. They never pulled without more than five points of the Packers the rest of the first. Sophomore Zach Robinson had 20 points for points scored for the Wildcats with 28 and junior Dan Bruce helped the team with 15. The Cats were unable to shutdown South's Jan DeLeon. The boys who scored 27.

Kelli Lentz chipped in 16 points. The boys team once again had a tough battle, defeating Omaha Benson 67-65. Pulling off the victory, the Cats went 9 of 10 from the line, as opposed to the Bunnies 4 of 14. Unable to shutdown Bensons Arthur Boulds, who led all scorers with 28, the Wildcats balanced team approach was able to pull through. Robinson led the Cats again with 17 and junior Adam Steyer added 12.

### Millard West 71, Bellevue East 64

Millard West expanded a one-point lead after three quarters, then held off visiting Bellevue West in the closing minutes.

Ben Mussman led Millard West with 20 points. Zac Robinson had 17 and Kyle Bakker 12. Eddie Ceasar paced Bellevue East with 20 points, and David Finklea added 19.

Bellevue East	14	24	9	17-44
of Millard West	19	15	14	22-71
McCloughlin	20	Kessel	5	Walker & Benis
Barfield	5	Finklea	19	8
Robinson	17	Mussman	20	Bruce
McCloughlin	8	Steyer	6	Sevick
		Bakker	12	

### Millard West 63, Om. Central 62

Kyle Bakker scored 10 of his game-high 25 points in the fourth quarter to lead Millard West. Omaha Central's Kris Kuhn and James Mills each had 14 points.

Millard West	19	14	9	23-49
at Central	15	17	17	22-42
AW—Robinson	3	Mussman	3	Bruce
McCloughlin	4	Steyer	4	Bakker
Robinson	10	Tommons	6	Kuhn
Kuhn	8	Johnson	11	Mills

LOCAL SPORTS

# Three Ranked Teams Await Columbus Before Season Ends

Columbus embarks on a stretch drive that has three of its final four games against Top 10 teams.

The Discoverers, who started the season ranked fourth in The Top 10, remain 10th this week after a 67-64 overtime victory at home against once-ranked Lincoln East.

"The thing about our team that people don't realize is that we really didn't have all that much experience coming back at the start of the season," Discoverers Coach Bob Hopp said Friday night.

"Matt Travers broke an arm and missed last season and this past football season. Andy Brown was always with senior guards when he played last year. Drew Snyder was being guarded by a team's third or fourth-best defender and now he gets the best one. Elijah Starzl played a lot against zones when he was at Pender and he's still adjusting to all the man defenses."

Snyder, a junior, had a game-high 25 points against the Spartans to raise his season average to 14.6. Starzl reached his average with 15 points and Regan Woodrick, averaging 6.3 points, made three 3s and scored 14 points.

The Discoverers, however, will lose one of their top reserves for the rest of the season. Brian Masek, a junior guard who missed last season with a foot injury, continues to have pain from the injury and will have surgery Wednesday.

There is no movement of teams in or out of The Top 10, although

## W-H Boys Basketball Ratings

By Stu Pospisil



### Top 10/Class A

	Record	Avg. O.-D.
1. Bellevue West	15-0	74-56
2. Omaha Burke	14-1	65-49
3. Om. Westside	15-3	67-58
4. North Platte	12-5	61-51
5. Lincoln NE	13-4	67-60
6. Lincoln East	10-4	67-60
7. Grand Island	10-7	59-64
8. Lincoln SE	8-6	64-68
9. Millard West	11-5	62-60
10. Columbus	9-4	57-51

adjustments are made for weekend results.

North Platte jumps past Lincoln Northeast for fourth after soundly beating the Rockets 70-49 in their Ed Johnson Gym. North Platte has gone 4-3 in the regular season against Lincoln teams, with all but one game on the road.

Grand Island takes over seventh from Lincoln Southeast. Grand Island beat Omaha North 64-49. Southeast, at No. 8, rebounded from Friday's 75-60 loss to No. 6 Lincoln High to beat Class B No. 2 Lincoln Pius X.

Top-ranked Bellevue West (15-0) went to the wire with Omaha South (5-10) before winning 58-56. The Thunderbirds have four games left, including Lincoln High at home Saturday and No. 2 Omaha Burke on Feb. 18.

Bellevue West also can't look past Friday's game at Bellevue East. The Chieftains are 8-7 and in a bid for their first winning season since its 1995-96 team went 12-8.

Burke (14-1), like Bellevue West, has four games left, starting Friday with a home game against No. 3 Omaha Westside (15-3).

No. 9 Millard West (11-6) edged Omaha Central 63-62.

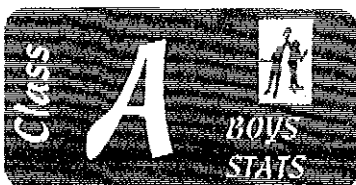
Lincoln Pius X, despite its loss to Southeast, remains the highest contender for The Top 10. The Thunderbolts own a 59-42 victory over Lincoln East (9-5), which snapped a four-game losing streak Saturday with a 78-72 victory at Kearney.

Bellevue East and Omaha Creighton Prep (8-8) are the only other Class A teams at .500 or better. The Metro Conference is 7-17 against the rest of Class A.

### Top games this week:

■ **Thursday:** Lincoln SE at Lincoln NE, 7:30. **Friday:** Om. Westside at Om. Burke, 7:15; Bellevue West at Bellevue East, 7:15; Columbus at Lincoln SE, 8. **Saturday:** Lincoln High at Bellevue West, 7:15; Grand Island at Columbus, 8; Lincoln East vs. Om. Central at Norris Middle School, 7:15.

2-15-11



BOYS

TEAM OFFENSE

REBOUNDING LEADERS

Wildcats Escape Again As Millard North Falls

Table with columns: School (W-L), Games Played, Total Pts., Avg. Pts., Player School, G, Reb., Avg.

Table with columns: Player School, G, Reb., Avg. (Continuation of Rebounding Leaders)

Ben Mussman's layup with 20 seconds left Friday night lifted Top 10 No. 9 Millard West to a 61-60 Metro Conference victory over host Millard North. It's the second straight one-point victory for Millard West and the fourth in its past five victories...

Millard West '68, Om. Bryan 44 Adam Steyer scored a game-high 20 points and Zac Robinson added 14 to spark Top 10 No. 9 Millard West. Kyle Bakker added 12 points as the Wildcats improved to 13-6. Justin Rickley led visiting Omaha Bryan with 11 points.

TEAM DEFENSE

Table with columns: School, Games Played, Total Pts. Allowed, Avg. Pts. Allowed

2 FT. FG PERCENTAGE

Table with columns: Player, School, G, Pts., Avg.

Table with columns: Player, School, G, FG, Pts., % (Continuation of 2 FT. FG PERCENTAGE)

Bellevue West 75, Bellevue East 52 Top 10 No. 1 Bellevue West stayed undefeated through 16 games with a 30-14 fourth-quarter run before a fall house of about 5,000 at Bellevue East. Zach Fortune scored a game-high 21 points for Bellevue West. Jake Fredenburg and Todd Severson had 12 points apiece. Eddie Ceaser led Bellevue East with 15 points. Chris Miller had 12 points and David Finklea finished with 11.

ASSIST LEADERS

Table with columns: Player, School, G, Reb., Avg. (Assist Leaders)

3 FT. FG PERCENTAGE

Table with columns: Player, School, G, FT, Pts., % (3 FT. FG PERCENTAGE)

FREE THROW PERCENTAGE

Table with columns: Player, School, G, FT, Pts., % (FREE THROW PERCENTAGE)

STEAL LEADERS

Table with columns: Player, School, G, Stl., Avg. (STEAL LEADERS)

As a matter of fact, Omaha South led the game to eight points by halftime, but succumbed to 56 second-half points from the Wildcats.

Kevin Turner led Omaha South with 15 points, and Justin Rickles added 11.

Kyle Bakker scored a game-high 26 points to lead Millard West. Teammate Zac Robinson put in 17 and Dan Bruce and Sean McLaughlin contributed 10 each.

Om. Bryan	22	18	15	59
Al Millard West	22	16	16	73
B—Wilson 3, Sorenson 8, Rickles 11, Curtis 5, Andersen 7, Cunningham 9, Harris 2, Jensen 2, Carlisle 4, Yechout 7				
M—Robinson 17, Mustrom 4, Bruce 10, Se. McLaughlin 10, Sc. McLaughlin 7, Steyer 4, Bakker				

### DISTRICT A-3

# Win Returns Wildcats to State

BY STU POSPISIL  
 WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

A chance to fulfill preseason expectations is what Millard West earned Tuesday night with a 69-56 victory over rival Millard South in the District A-3 boys basketball championship game.

Top 10 No. 9 Millard West (16-6) will be in the Class A state tournament for the second straight season. The Wildcats lost 52-50 to Columbus last year in the first round.

"It's not going to be such a circus this time," Millard West Coach Rick Hook said. "Last year, every step of the walk was a circus for everybody in the school. Now, hopefully, we can go down there and play some basketball. For more than one day."

The Wildcats started the season as the No. 1 team in The World-Herald Top 10, only to lose three games in a row before Christmas. They reached the finals of the Metro Conference's holiday tournament, where Bellevue West routed them 72-54.

Since then, they are 11-1. Only one of the 12 games was against a rated team — a 69-63 victory in January over Omaha Westside. The one loss was

86-71 to Omaha South, which lost Tuesday night to Lincoln High in the A-2 finals.

Millard South (8-13), which lost its season opener 65-56 to Millard West, was 8-10 after it ended a 21-game losing streak in December.

Tuesday night, before a reporter-estimated crowd of 1,400 at Omaha Northwest, the Indians made their best run at Millard West in the third quarter.

They trailed 34-28 at halftime but pulled within 36-36 in the second. Dan Bruce and Sean McLaughlin each made two baskets after freshman Euvon Dichter opened the second half with a jumper.

They had one possession to tie the game, but three Millard West defenders converged on Curtis as he attempted a pivot in the basket and he was called for traveling.

Dan Bruce's 3-pointer then sparked a 7-0 run that restored a nine-point lead for the Wildcats.

"That was a big stop," Hook said. "One of the keys to a big stop is to convert on the other end."

Millard West increased its lead to

60-45 midway through the fourth quarter. Kyle Bakker, the Wildcats' 6-9 senior center, had nine of his 23 points in the fourth quarter after sitting out parts of the first three quarters because of fouls.

Millard South got no closer than 64-56, on Matt Turner's 3 with 57 seconds left. Turner had 13 points, with Bryan getting 11 and Curtis a team-high 20 to go with a game-high 14 rebounds.

"We just didn't shoot the ball very well against their zone (a 1-3-1 in the second half)," Millard South Coach Larry Rasmussen said. "We thought we could shoot them out of it, but they cheated in on our two best shooters and we didn't always get the best shots."

Millard South (8-13)	16	18	15	59
MS—Turner 13, Sorenson 8, Schleber 15, Bakker 9, Curtis 9, Jensen 2, Silliman 1, Jensen 2, Silliman 1, Jensen 2, Silliman 1				
MW—Mustrom 7, Bruce 10, Se. McLaughlin 10, Sc. McLaughlin 7, Steyer 4, Bakker 26, Robinson 17, Andersen 7, Cunningham 9, Harris 2, Jensen 2, Carlisle 4, Yechout 7				

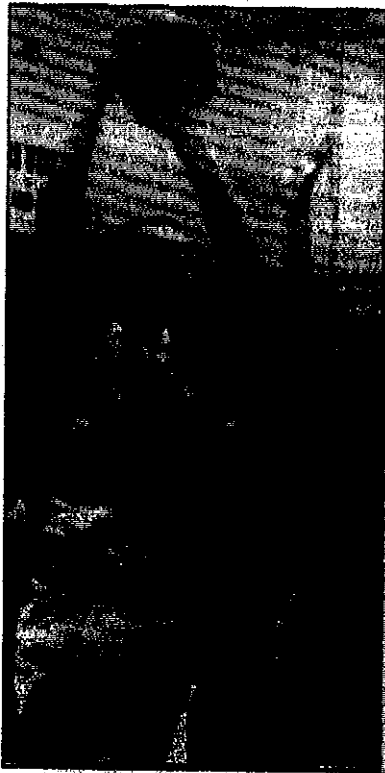
3-point goals — MS 5-21 (E. Turner 1-4, Schleber 1-5, M. Turner 2-3, Sorenson 0-1, Silliman 0-1, Sorenson 0-1), MW 1-1 (Mustrom 1-1, Bruce 1-2, Steyer 0-1, Robinson 0-1). Total fouls — MS 19, MW 8. Turnovers — MS 12, MW 8. Rebounds — MS 28 (Curtis 11), MW 14 (Bakker 6). Field-goal percentage — MS 42.9, MW 51.4. Free-throw percentage — MS 70, MW 88. Officials — Graver, A.

# Wildcats Stomp Indians, Roll to Second State Berth

Bill Krust

Sports Editor

The crowd reached a frenzied roar and Millard South had come within two points following a Ryan Curtis dunk when Millard West called timeout. The situation was simple, they could pack it in and let the Indians beat them, or gut



Staff Photo

Senior Kyle Bakker takes it up hard over an opposing player.

it out like all season and claim the District A-3 title. The Wildcats chose the second option, calming the storm with a 7-0 run of their own to give them

a nine point lead again at 45-36.

A strong second half defensive effort and players stepping up when it counted, allowed Millard West to roll to a convincing 69-56 win. Senior center Kyle Bakker led the Wildcats in scoring with 23 points, despite drawing two early fouls in the first quarter. With Bakker on the bench West found points from sophomore Scott McLaughlin and his junior brother Sean.

Right away the duo hooked up on a back door cut with big brother dishing it off to Scott down low. The next time down was more of the same with Scott scoring another easy bucket. The roles were reversed on the next trip, though, as Sean was on the receiving end of a pass and layed it in. Scott finished the game with eight points and Sean had 11.



"It was a big boost for us to see Scott step up like that. It will make teams respect us more," said Bakker.



West held a 34-25 lead at half-time, but had yet to find an answer to stopping second chance put backs by the Indians. The Wildcats combated the situation in the second half by switching to a 1-3-1 zone defense, forcing Millard South to shoot well to beat them. Millard South would draw no closer than two points though, as Bakker kept the Indians at bay with a myriad of inside moves for easy baskets. Nine of Bakker's 23 points came in the fourth quarter.



"The guards did a good job of getting me the ball down low. They are a big team, but they [guards] did well in getting it by them," said Bakker.



The district title was the second in two years for the Wildcats, and earns West another State berth. The Wildcats will face-off against the Westside Warriors for the third time this season. The Wildcats hold a 2-0 advantage over Westside, defeating them in the Holiday tournament and regular season play. The second game was a lot closer, with West mounting a furious second half comeback, to win. Tip-off is scheduled for 9 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln.

# Class A Championship Pairings

	#1 Bellevue West Thunderbirds (20-1)
Sports Center • Thursday • 1:30 PM	
	#8 Norfolk Panthers (10-12)

	#4 North Platte Bulldogs (16-5)
Sports Center • Thursday • 5:00 PM	
	#5 Lincoln High Links (15-5)

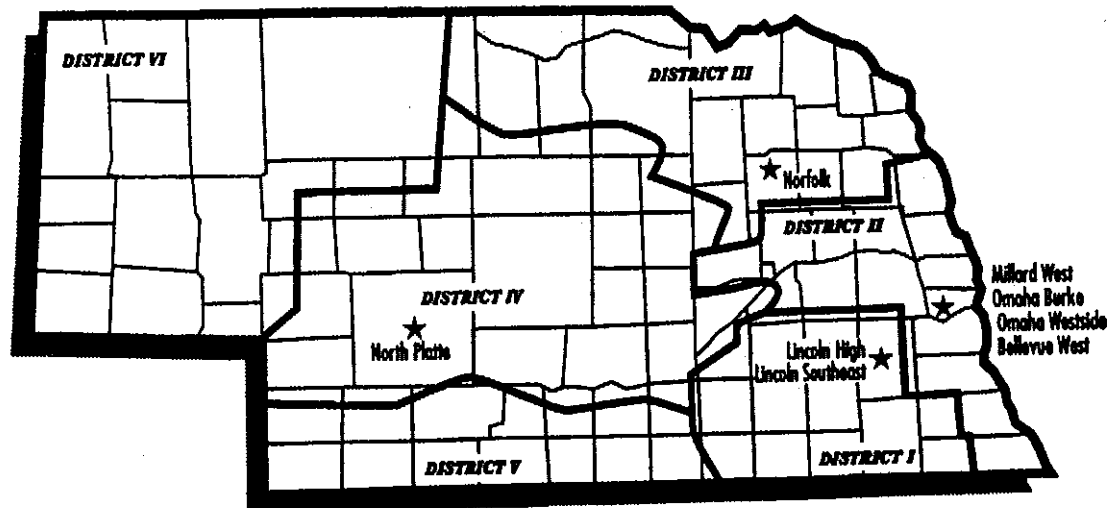
	#2 Omaha Burke Bulldogs (18-3)
Sports Center • Thursday • 7:00 PM	
	#7 Lincoln Southeast Knights (14-7)

	#3 Omaha Westside Warriors (18-4)
Sports Center • Thursday • 9:00 PM	
	#6 Millard West Wildcats (16-6)

**SEMIFINALS**  
at Sports Center  
Friday • 1:30 PM

**CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH**  
at SPORTS CENTER  
Saturday • 1:30 PM

**SEMIFINALS**  
at Sports Center  
Friday • 5:00 PM





**Omaha Burke Bulldogs,  
Black & Gold (18-3)**

No.	Name	Height	Grade	Total Points	Point Avg.	Rebound Avg.	Start
10-11	Corey Nauden	5'10"	12	12	.6	.4	
12-13	Matt Graner	5'8"	11	21	1	.6	
20-21	Darren Hoffart	6'1"	11	31	1.5	.5	
22-23	Jeff Hansen	6'0"	11	56	2.7	1.4	
24-25	Jason Daurisseau	6'2"	10	180	7.5	2	X
30-31	Marc Violet	6'3"	12	206	9.8	2.5	X
32-33	Matt Vecchio	5'8"	10	3			
34-35	Tom Keady	6'2"	12	59	2.8	1.7	X
40-41	Dan Lund	6'8"	12	183	9.2	5.3	X
44-45	Chris DeSpain	6'8"	11	150	7.1	2.3	
50-51	Toka Dada	6'5"	12	383	18.2	5.7	X
52-53	Roy Enright	6'9"	10	24	2.7	1.6	

Head Coach: Gary Graner

Assistant Coaches: Canyon Sharp,  
Tom Wetzel, Jeff Gustafson

Team Offensive Average: 63.8

Team Defensive Average: 51.6

NSAA Enrollment: 1,288

Conference: Metro

Number of Qualifications for State: 18th

Most Recent State Tournament: 1999

State Championship Years: A/1977,  
A/1986

State Runner-Up Years: A/1993

**SEASON RECORD (18-3)**

Bellevue East	W (71-55)	Omaha North	W (63-46)
Omaha Northwest	W (64-31)	Millard South	W (59-44)
Omaha Bryan	W (69-43)	Millard North	W (66-54)
Omaha South	W (76-43)	Omaha Benson	W (75-60)
Millard West	W (52-43)	Omaha Westside	W (69-62)
Millard North	W (56-44)	Popillion-LaVista	W (70-58)
Omaha Central	W (76-51)	Lincoln East	L (74-76)
Bellevue West	L (44-52)	Lincoln West	W (59-57)
Omaha Creighton Prep	W (62-57)	Lincoln Southeast	W (54-45)
Omaha Central	W (65-47)	Omaha Westside	L (42-50)
Lincoln Southeast	W (65-63)		

**Lincoln Southeast Knights,  
Black & Gold (14-7)**

No.	Name	Height	Grade	Total Points	Point Avg.	Rebound Avg.	Start
10	Hank Connell	5'9"	12	49	2.5	1.1	
11	Dalton Varvel	5'10"	12	9	1	.5	
12	Jake Muhleisen	6'3"	11	326	16.3	3.8	X
20	Drew Schultz	6'0"	11	37	1.9	.3	
22	Nate Doney	5'11"	11	40	3.1	1	
23	Wyatt Schmidt	6'4"	12	201	14.4	4.1	X
31	Barrett Rood	6'3"	11	170	8.5	4.8	X
33	Nate Rittgarn	6'5"	12	10	.8	1	
34	Mike Schaffert	6'6"	11				
35	Nick Bahe	6'0"	9	22	1.7	1.1	
44	Andrew Heckman	6'3"	11	121	6.1	4.2	X
45	Erik Kohl	6'5"	11	91	4.6	5	
50	Trevor Boer	6'4"	12	20	1.1	.9	
54	Austin Williams	6'5"	12	124	6.2	4.6	X

Head Coach: Jeff Smith

Assistant Coaches: Tony Quattrocchi, Ryan  
Phifer, Mark Wat, J.J. Wilkens, Troy  
Odagard, Jeff Stallworth, Alex Bahe

Team Offensive Average: 61.6

Team Defensive Average: 54.0

NSAA Enrollment: 2,158

Conference: Heartland

Number of Qualifications for State: 10th

Most Recent State Tournament: 1998

State Runner-Up Years: A/1960, A/1978,  
A/1979

**SEASON RECORD (14-7)**

Freemont	W (63-36)	Popillion-LaVista	L (43-56)
Omaha Benson	W (84-53)	Lincoln East	W (54-46)
Hastings	W (65-50)	Omaha North	W (65-45)
North Platte	L (40-55)	Lincoln High	L (60-75)
Grand Island	W (55-54)	Lincoln Plus X	W (48-42)
Lincoln Northeast	L (49-58)	Lincoln Northeast	W (54-53)
North Platte	W (81-74)	Columbus	W (62-57)
Kearney	W (63-45)	Norfolk	W (71-48)
C.B. Abraham Lincoln, IA	W (71-42)	Bellevue East	W (80-56)
Grand Island	L (60-70)	Omaha Burke	L (45-54)
Omaha Burke	L (63-65)		

**Omaha Westside Warriors,  
Red & Black (18-4)**

No.	Name	Height	Grade	Total Points	Point Avg.	Rebound Avg.	Start
11	Doug Passmore	6'2"	11	4	1	.5	
13	Alex Suarez	5'11"	12	49	2.2	2.5	X
15	Scott Vranick	6'1"	11	3	.6	.5	
21	Pete Baldwin	5'11"	12	256	11.6	2.3	X
23	Brett Seger	6'4"	10	50	3.1	2.4	
25	Grant Hauptman	6'7"	12	236	11.2	4.9	X
31	Curtis Krust	5'11"	11	147	7.4	.9	
33	David Goeschel	6'2"	12	456	20.7	4	X
35	Tom Sitorius	6'1"	11				
41	Tony Opitz	6'3"	11	4	1	.5	
43	Tyler Hansen	6'6"	12	85	3.9	2.7	
45	Chris Smart	6'5"	12	121	5.5	4.4	X
51	Jeff West	6'3"	12	41	2.6	.8	

Head Coach: Dan Schnitzel

Assistant Coaches: Steve Ferrarini, Brian  
Hemecak, Ed Howe, Tobin Ehlers, Dave  
Fleicher, Steve Clark, Matt Graeve

Team Offensive Average: 64.9

Team Defensive Average: 54.6

NSAA Enrollment: 1,170

Conference: Metro

Number of Qualifications for State: 10th

Most Recent State Tournament: 1990

State Championship Years: A/1980

State Runner-Up Years: A/1973, A/1983

**SEASON RECORD (18-4)**

Norfolk	W (64-35)	Bellevue East	W (54-44)
Grand Island	W (77-53)	Omaha Northwest	W (76-44)
Millard North	W (63-50)	Lincoln Northeast	W (70-45)
Omaha Benson	W (77-70)	Bellevue West	L (58-47)
Omaha South	W (65-54)	Millard South	W (55-53)
Popillion-LaVista	W (56-52)	Omaha Central	W (83-58)
Omaha South	W (77-53)	Popillion-LaVista	W (91-56)
Millard West	L (43-42)	Omaha Burke	L (62-49)
Omaha Bryan	W (61-56)	Omaha Creighton Prep	W (72-44)
Omaha North	W (64-34)	Lincoln Northwest	W (56-55)
Millard West	L (63-49)	Omaha Burke	W (50-42)

**Millard West Wildcats,  
Forest Green, Black & White (16-6)**

No.	Name	Height	Grade	Total Points	Point Avg.	Rebound Avg.	Start
10	Luke Chadwell	6'0"	10				
14	Mike Nantto	6'1"	11				
20	Jason Johnson	6'1"	12	4	1		
22	Zac Robinson	6'2"	10	207	9.4	2	
24	Ben Mussman	6'3"	12	175	8	4.4	X
30	Brian McIntyre	5'11"	11	14	1	1	
32	Jim Eddy	6'2"	11	4	1		
34	Dan Bruce	6'1"	11	204	9.3	2.8	X
40	Sean McLaughlin	6'5"	11	136	6.2	5.4	X
42	Jon Dewey	6'2"	11	2	1		
44	Adam Seyer	6'4"	11	133	6.1	4.1	X
50	Scott McLaughlin	6'3"	10	45	2.5	2	
52	Chris Saptak	6'4"	12	7	1	3	
54	Kyle Bakker	6'9"	12	424	19.3	8.8	X

Head Coach: Rick Hook

Assistant Coaches: Kenny Kulus,  
Frank Ryan, Chris Looft,  
Eric Grandgenett

Team Offensive Average: 62.2

Team Defensive Average: 58.4

NSAA Enrollment: 1,261

Conference: Metro

Number of Qualifications for State: 2nd

Most Recent State Tournament: 1999

**SEASON RECORD (16-6)**

Millard South	W (65-56)	Omaha North	W (54-47)
Freemont	W (62-39)	Popillion-LaVista	W (54-54)
Omaha Creighton Prep	L (57-74)	Omaha South	L (71-86)
Lincoln Northeast	L (60-82)	Omaha Benson	W (67-45)
Omaha Burke	L (43-52)	Bellevue East	W (71-44)
Omaha Northwest	W (62-44)	Omaha Central	W (63-62)
Omaha Benson	W (67-43)	Millard North	W (61-60)
Omaha Westside	W (62-43)	Omaha Bryan	W (68-44)
Bellevue West	L (54-72)	Omaha Northwest	W (50-44)
Bellevue West	L (63-76)	Omaha Bryan	W (73-59)
Omaha Westside	W (69-63)	Millard South	W (61-54)

CLASS A ROSTERS

# Wild Cards, Class A District Formats Need Some Changes

Will there ever be changes in the district and state tournament formats for boys and girls basketball?

Will the wild-card system in Class A and Class B ever extend to all six classes? Will Class A ever come up with a district tournament formula that avoids putting four teams with losing records in one district?

All of those issues are in the hands of the Nebraska School Activities Association Board of Control, which often is incapable of thinking independently. Many of its votes are tied to voting from the six legislative districts, which are unbalanced when it comes to representation by school or enrollment.

Take the wild cards, for instance. In district voting, the raw vote was 162-85 in favor. Districts I and II were near-unanimous votes, with District III gaining a simple majority. The vote for volleyball wild cards was nearly identical.

But we won't see wild cards for next year if board members Mike Troxel of Sutherland (District IV), Nate Stuneman of Oxford Southern Valley (District V) and Leroy Cundall of Bayard (District VI) vote against the proposals as their district voting indicates. They effectively can block this proposal by forcing a 3-3 vote, although they represent only 24.2 percent of the students in this state and 36.3 percent of the member schools.

It's time to redraw the six legislative districts, or add districts to eliminate the disparities in representation.

As for Class A districts, coaches want a different system for district assignments. The best plan I've heard is to seed the teams 1 through 25 with the winners and two wild cards advancing to state. Do the seeding after regular-season is over and assign tournament sites with travel distances in mind. Four Metro Conference schools shouldn't be sent to Lincoln, for example. Nor should Lincoln be without a district tournament.

A solid field, despite these limitations, has been assembled for the 90th annual basketball carnival that begins Thursday in Lincoln. No clear-cut favorite is found in the largest three classes, which should lead to good games and large crowds.

The picks for state champions are Bellevue West in Class A, Lincoln Pius X in B, Grand Island Central Catholic



**Stu Pospisil**

in C-1. Ponca in C-2, Deshler in D-1 and Chester-Hubbell-Byron in D-2. All except Bellevue West are ranked No. 1, with the Thunderbirds No. 2 in The Top 10.

## Class A

Three of the four first-round games are third-time go-rounds: North Platte-Lincoln High was a split; Omaha Burke has beaten Lincoln Southeast twice; and Millard West has beaten Omaha Westside twice.

While Burke is the pick for a sweep of Southeast, Westside is playing well enough to counter Millard West's inside game. North Platte is slightly favored against the Links, but neither team is capable of beating Bellevue West and reaching the finals.

■ **First round:** Bellevue West over Norfolk; North Platte over Lincoln High; Omaha Burke over Lincoln Southeast; Omaha Westside over Millard West.

■ **Semifinals:** Bellevue West over North Platte; Burke over Westside.

■ **Final:** Bellevue West over Burke.

■ **Sleeper:** Lincoln High.

BY STU POSPISIL  
WORLD HEADLINE WRITER

Omaha Westside would like to have a nice, normal game against Millard West.

Not fall behind by 19 points and lose. Not get ahead by 19 points and lose in overtime.

The Top 10 No. 4 Warriors (18-4) try again against No. 9 Millard West (16-6) in Thursday's final first-round game of the Class A boys basketball state tournament in Lincoln. Game time at the Bob Devaney Sports Center is 9 p.m.

The state tournament is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. Thursday with four first-round games, including Waterloo's Class D-1 contest with Paxton at Lincoln East. The semifinal round for all classes will be Friday, and there will be six championship games Saturday at the Devaney Sports Center.

"Obviously," Westside Coach Dan Schinzel said, "we need to make sure we maintain four quarters of intensity."

"They have so many weapons. When you start thinking of Millard West, you think Kyle Bakker first. But their guards have improved. Ben Mussman and Zac Robinson and Dan Bruce. And I like the way Sean McLaughlin is playing. In districts, he knocked down shots left and right. They've become a well-rounded team."

Since the Jan. 13 game that Millard West won 69-63 in overtime, the Wildcats are 10-1 but haven't played a ranked team. Westside is 9-2 since that Jan. 13 game, with the losses to present No. 1 Omaha Burke and No. 2 Bellevue West, with two wins over No. 8 Lincoln Northeast and a 50-42 victory over Burke in the District A-1 final.

# Millard West Looks for Redemption

BY STEVE BEIDECK  
WORLD-HERALD CORRESPONDENT

With a little tournament toughness behind them, the Millard West boys basketball team is looking to make a strong showing in the Class A boys state basketball tournament.

Wildcats Coach Rick Hook said after his team lost 52-50 to Columbus on a last-second shot last year in Millard West's first-ever state tourney game, the returning players made a pact.

"In the locker room after that game those players said we're going to come back and go after it next year," Hook said. "We didn't feel like we played as well as we should have, and we didn't show how we can play basketball."

Millard West (16-6) will get its first chance at redemption at 9 p.m. Thursday against Omaha Westside at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln. It will be the third meeting of the season between the two teams, with Millard West winning both of those games.

The first victory was a 62-43 demolition in the semifinals of the Metro Conference Holiday Tournament. In the rematch two weeks later, Westside led by as many as 19 points before the Wildcats rallied to force overtime and won 69-62.

Hook said his team will have plenty of motivation to put on another strong performance against the 18-4 Warriors. "Everybody's going to make more of

## Millard West Profile

- Coach: Rick Hook, five years.
- Record: 16-6
- World-Herald ranking: No. 9 in the Top 10 and in Class A.
- Top scorers: Kyle Bakker, 19.3; Zac Robinson, 9.4; Dan Bruca, 9.3.
- Top rebounders: Bakker, 8.8; Sean McLaughlin, 5.4
- State history: Lost to Columbus 52-50 last year in first trip to state tournament.
- Thursday's game: 9 p.m. vs. Omaha Westside (18-4) at Bob Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln.
- Boys high school basketball. [omaha.com](http://omaha.com)

a deal of it than I am," Hook said. "It helps knowing each other a little bit, and our kids will have a ton of confidence against them."

Hook said Westside played a great first half against the Wildcats in the second game, but his team showed a lot of courage in battling back from such a large deficit. The message Hook and his coaching staff have been delivering during practice sessions since the No. 9-ranked Wildcats defeated Millard South Feb. 29 in the District A-3

tournament game has focused on playing a complete game.

"The way we played in the second half and overtime against them is the way we're going to have to play for 32 minutes on Thursday," Hook said. "Their defense is a lot better now than it was earlier this year, and the last time we played them we had way too many turnovers."

Another key for the Wildcats will be how well their biggest player plays. Six-foot-nine center Kyle Bakker has averaged 19.3 points and 8.8 rebounds per game this season, but those numbers are smaller than his totals from a year ago.

"He's a lot more unselfish player offensively this year," Hook said. "He has tripled his number of assists, so he's giving up his points to get other people more points."

"Kyle also has had to play with two and three people guarding him in almost every game. I've been very pleased with his performance this season."

Hook also said he expects Bakker to have a big showing in this year's tournament because he's healthy. Last year Hook said Bakker sprained his ankle in practice two days before the state tournament.

"He was only at about 75 percent mobility for that game," Hook said. "Not many people knew that, but now that he's healthy, I look for him to have a strong performance in Lincoln."

## Class A

Team (Record)	W-H Rank	Head Coach	State App.	Last Time	Best Finish
Bellevue West (20-1)	2nd	Doug Woodard	6	1999	0-2 in finals
Lincoln High (15-5)	5th	Buss Uhing	50	1997	1-4 in finals
Lincoln SE (14-7)	6th	Jeff Smith	10	1995	0-2 in finals
Mill. West (16-6)	9th	Rick Hook	12	1992	0-2 in finals
Norfolk (10-12)	NR	Brian Albrecht	41	1995	1994 champion
North Platte (16-5)	3rd	Dan Moore	35	1995	1993 runner-up
Om. Burke (18-3)	1st	Gary Graner	18	1999	1998, 7-2 in finals
Om. Westside (18-4)	4th	Dan Schinzel	10	1999	1998 champion

### Team Capsules

BELLEVUE WEST THUNDERBIRDS					NORFOLK PANTHERS				
Starters					Starters				
Player	Ht.	Yr.	Pts.	Reb.	Player	Ht.	Yr.	Pts.	Reb.
Jake Fredenburg	6-5	Sr.	9.3	6.1	Kyle Bivens	5-9	Jr.	3.9	1.4
Shuan Wisdom	6-0	So.	7.5	2.2	Craig Hedberg	6-4	Sr.	9.0	2.8
Zach Fortune	6-2	Sr.	22.7	4.1	Chris Demay	6-3	Jr.	12.1	8.2
Todd Severson	6-4	Sr.	8.1	7.8	Sam Garden	6-4	Sr.	8.5	3.9
Marty Levinson	6-3	Sr.	14.1	4.2	Dennis Boutin	6-4	Sr.	7.8	5.5
■ Offensive average: 75.0					■ Offensive average: 53.8				
■ Defensive average: 57.0					■ Defensive average: 57.7				
LINCOLN HIGH LINKS					NORTH PLATTE BULLDOGS				
Starters					Starters				
Adam Kreckow	6-0	Sr.	2.2	1.2	Kyle Jurgens	5-8	Sr.	2.0	1.6
Richard Ross	6-5	Sr.	24.8	6.1	Zach Smith	6-2	Sr.	10.5	2.7
Ty Graham	6-8	Jr.	14.3	3.1	Jacob Nicks	6-9	Sr.	13.2	3.3
Seth Miller	6-4	Jr.	7.8	6.0	Ronnie Stubbs	6-3	Sr.	6.0	3.9
Jeremy Parks	6-3	Sr.	12.3	3.6	Nick Branting	6-6	Sr.	17.8	8.8
■ Offensive average: 70.6					■ Offensive average: 61.0				
■ Defensive average: 60.5					■ Defensive average: 50.0				
LINCOLN SOUTHEAST KNIGHTS					OMAHA BURKE BULLDOGS				
Starters					Starters				
Jake Muhleisen	6-3	Jr.	16.3	3.8	Jason Dourisseau	6-2	So.	7.8	2.0
Wyatt Schmidt	6-4	Sr.	14.4	4.1	Mara Violet	6-3	Sr.	9.8	2.5
Barrett Ruud	6-3	Jr.	8.5	4.8	Tom Kealy	6-2	Sr.	2.8	1.7
Andrew Heckman	6-3	Jr.	6.1	4.2	Dan Lund	6-8	Sr.	9.2	5.3
Austin Williams	6-5	Sr.	6.2	4.6	Tola Dede	6-8	Sr.	19.2	5.7
■ Offensive average: 61.6					■ Offensive average: 63.8				
■ Defensive average: 54.0					■ Defensive average: 51.6				
MILLARD WEST WILDCATS					OMAHA WESTSIDE WARRIORS				
Starters					Starters				
Ben Musaman	6-3	Sr.	8.0	4.4	Alex Suarez	5-11	Sr.	2.2	2.6
Dan Bruce	6-1	Jr.	9.3	2.8	Pete Baldwin	5-11	Sr.	11.6	2.3
Sean McLaughlin	6-5	Jr.	6.2	5.4	Grant Hauptman	6-7	Sr.	11.2	4.9
Adam Steyer	6-4	Jr.	8.1	4.1	David Goeschel	6-2	So.	20.7	4.0
Kyle Bakker	6-9	Sr.	19.3	8.8	Chris Smart	6-8	Sr.	5.9	4.4
■ Offensive average: 82.2					■ Offensive average: 64.9				
■ Defensive average: 54.0					■ Defensive average: 51.6				

### Westside (18-4) vs. Millard West (16-6)

This game will be decided like all the other games in this rivalry, Westside's ability, or lack thereof, to shoot the ball from the outside. If the Wildcats can contain Goeschel and limit their turnovers, they should roll to the second round. If not they will be exiting early once again.

● **First Round:** Bellevue West over Norfolk; Lincoln High over North Platte; Omaha Burke over Lincoln Southeast; Millard West over Westside

● **Semi-Finals:** Bellevue West over Lincoln High; Omaha Burke over Millard West

● **Finals:** Omaha Burke over Bellevue West

● **Sleeper:** Lincoln High

# Wildcats Bounce No. 4 Westside

BY STU POMPISIL

Lincoln — Millard West wanted Omaha Westside as a first-round opponent for the Class A state tournament for more reasons than just its two regular-season victories over the Warriors.

"It's not just having Westside's number. Our kids get fired up to play them for a number of reasons," Wildcats Coach Rick Hook said Thursday night. "There's some added incentives."

Such as? Hook wouldn't elaborate much.

"We like to play them," Hook said. "It's a competitive rivalry, in a lot of different sports."

Top No. 9 Millard West made it a

...sweep of the Warriors by... high in an 85-68... state's fourth-ranked team at the Don Devaney Sports Center.

The Wildcats (17-6), winners of nine straight, play No. 1 Omaha Burke (19-5) at 8 p.m. today at the Sports Center in the second of Class A's semifinals. No. 2 Bellevue West and No. 3 North Platte meet at 1:30 p.m.

Millard West shot 63 percent from the field, with power forward Adam Steyer going 8 of 8 for 17 points. Dan Bruce led the Wildcats with 23 points, with 6-foot-10 senior center Kyle Bakker scoring 14 and Zac Robinson 11.

"We've been playing great basketball the last three or four weeks," Hook said. "The only thing that upset me at

...night was our rebounding. I know the nail screams funny and all that, but we have to take care of that rebound against Burke."

Westside went through another nightmarish shooting game against the Wildcats, making 27 of 78 shots (34.6 percent). Its leading scorer, David Goeschel with 22 points, was 2 of 13 shooting in the first half.

"Same old story," Westside Coach Dan Schinzel said. "But I wasn't disappointed in the shooting. I was disappointed in the defense. Steyer ate us up in the first half inside. When we tried to make a little bit of a run in the second half, Bruce made some key 3s and Robinson, too."

"They played a great game from start to finish."

Steyer got the Wildcats started... first quarter. Other... the attack side of... Schinzel... Westside didn't rotate correctly on its press.

Hook said there was another factor. "Sean McLaughlin is probably the best passer down here — basketball this time," Hook said of the school starting quarterback in football. "He has great vision and found Adam. That really helps us."

Bruce scored the first five points the second half for a 24-point lead. Westside closed within 57-42 on Chris Hauptman's 3 late in the third quarter but McLaughlin scored on a third-chance putback before quarter end.

## Millard West 65, Omaha Westside 68

Millard West	18	22	19	26	85
O. Westside	9	12	21	26	68
Millard West — Ben Mussman 3-6 5-7 11, Dan Bruce 8-11 2-4 23, Sean McLaughlin 2-5 1-2 5, Adam Steyer 8-8 1-1 17, Kyle Bakker 5-8 4-6 14, Zac Robinson 4-5 1-2 11, Scott McLaughlin 1-1 0-0 2, Chris Septak 0-2 0-0 0, Jason Johnson 0-0 0-0 0, Brian Nechay 0-1 2-2 2, Mike Nanfita 0-0 0-0 0, Jim Eddy 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 31-48 18-24 85.					
Omaha Westside — Alex Suarez 0-2 0-0 0, Pete Bakker 4-13 1-2 9, Grant Halperin 4-13 0-1 10, David Goeschel 9-28 3-6 22, Chris Smith 7-5 0-3 4, Curtis Krust 3-7 0-0 6, Tyler Hansen 3-7 4-8 19, Luke Heston 0-0 0-0 0, Brett Simpson 3-0 0-0 2, Doug Passmore 1-2 0-0 2, Scott Vranicar 0-0 0-0 0, Tony Ortiz 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 37-88 6-14 88.					
Three-point goals — Millard West 7-8 (Bruce 5-8, Robinson 2-2, Hauptman 0-1), Westside 5-20 (Hauptman 2-8, Krust 3-4, Goeschel 1-5, Septak 0-3, Smith 0-2, Simpson 0-1, Ortiz 0-1). Fouled out — Bakker, Krust, Robinson — Millard West 20 (Bakker, Steyer 7), Westside 35 (Suarez, Goeschel, Krust, Hansen 4, Johnson 2). Millard West 14, Westside 4.					
Total fouls — Millard West 19, Westside 23.					

now, and we have been for the last three or four weeks," Hook said.

Millard West, 17-6, hit 31 of 48 shots from the field, and missed just one of eight three-point attempts.

Forward Adam Steyer sparked the Wildcats early, scoring 15 first-half points on 7-of-7 shooting. Most of Steyer's points came from layups as Westside double-teamed 6-foot-9 center Kyle Bakker.

"They were trying to double team (Bakker), and Sean McLaughlin did a good job of getting Adam the ball," Hook said. "He's one of the best passers down here."

Millard West used a 15-1 run late in the second quarter to take control of the game and a 40-21 halftime lead. The Wildcats extended their advantage to as many as 23 in the second half.

Guard Dan Bruce led Millard West with 23 points, while Bakker added 14 and Ben Mussman had 11.

About the only thing Hook was concerned about was Westside's ability on the boards. The Warriors, 18-5, had 20 offensive rebounds.

"We have to do a better job against Burke tomorrow," he said.

David Goeschel led Westside with 22 points.

## Millard West 65, Omaha Westside 68

Millard West Coach Rick Hook wasn't surprised to see the Wildcats totally manhandle Omaha Westside. He's been watching Millard West play well for the last month.

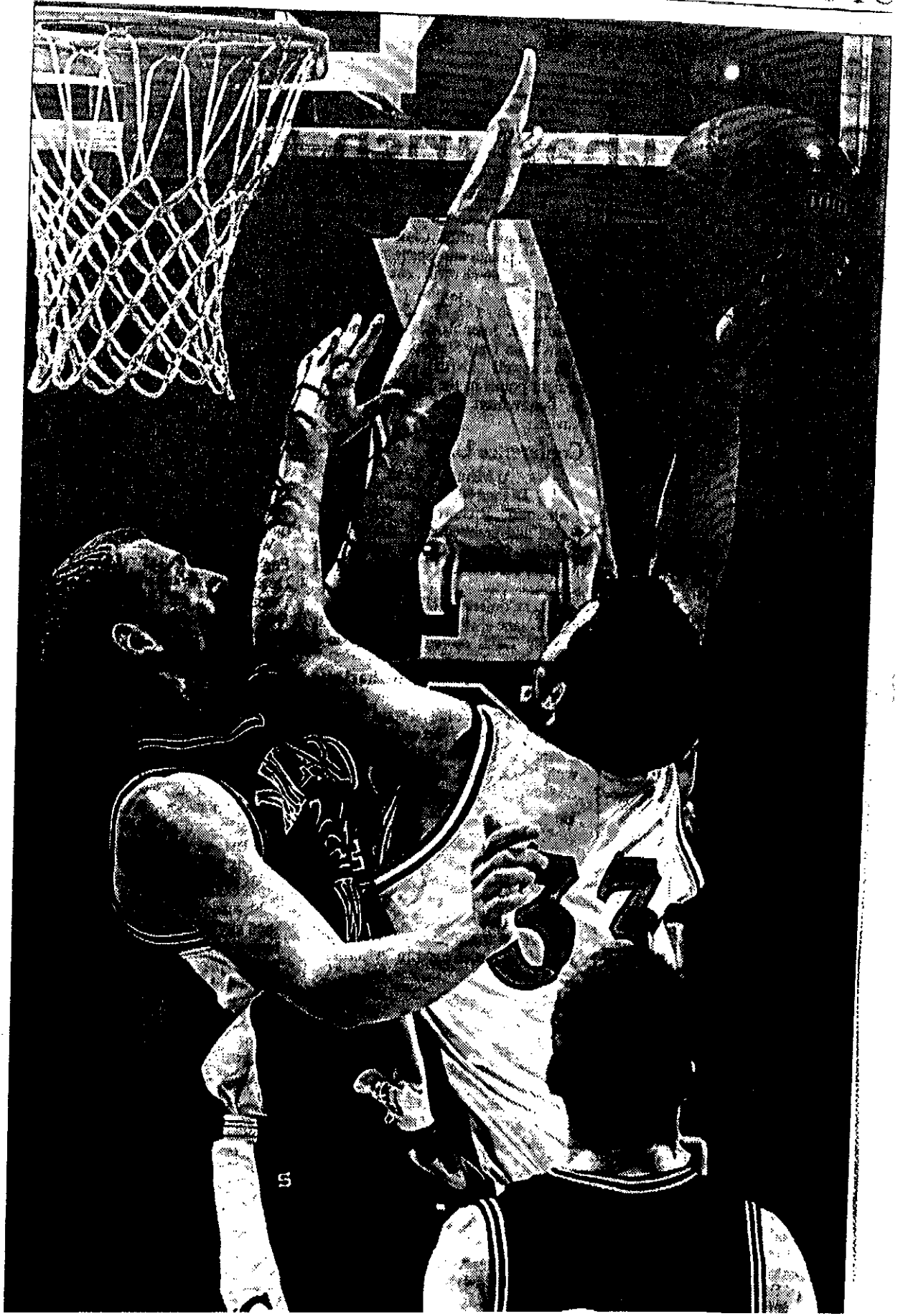
The Wildcats used near-perfect shooting (64.5 percent from the field) and a balanced attack to advance to the semifinals. Millard West has won nine consecutive games and beat the Warriors for the third time this season.

"We're playing great basketball right

3-10-00

OMAHA WORLD-HERALD Friday, March 10, 2000

# NEBRASKA BOYS STATE BASKETBALL TO



# Millard West Blasts Westside

BY STU POSPISIL  
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

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"We like to play them," Hook said. "It's a competitive rivalry, in a lot of different sports."

Top 10 No. 9 Millard West made it a three-game sweep of the Warriors by scoring its season high in an 85-68 victory over the state's fourth-ranked team at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The Wildcats (17-6), winners of nine straight, play No. 1 Omaha Burke

(19-3) at 5 tonight at the Sports Center in the second of Class A's semifinals. No. 2 Bellevue West and No. 3 North Platte were to play a Friday afternoon game.

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"Same old story," Westside Coach Dan Schinzel said. "But I wasn't disappointed in the shooting. I was

disappointed in the defense. Steyer got us up in the first half inside. When we tried to make a little bit of a run in the second half, Bruce made some key 3s and Robinson, too.

"They played a great game from start to finish."

Steyer got the Wildcats started with a nine-point first quarter. Often he was left alone on the weak side of the Wildcats' offense as Schinzel said Westside didn't rotate correctly out of its press.

Hook said there was another factor.

"Sean McLaughlin is probably the best passer down here — basketball this time," Hook said of the school's starting quarterback in football. "He has great vision and found Adam. That really helps us."

Bruce scored the first five points of the second half for a 24-point lead. Westside closed within 57-42 on Grant Hauptman's 3 late in the third quarter, but McLaughlin scored on a third-chance putback before quarter's end.

## Results, Schedule

### Class A

#### FIRST ROUND THURSDAY

Bellevue West 77..... Norfolk 46  
North Platte 60..... Lincoln High 47  
Om. Burke 69..... Lincoln Southeast 88  
Millard West 85..... Om. Westside 68

#### SEMIFINALS TODAY

(At Sports Center)

■ 1:30 p.m. — Bellevue West (21-1) vs. North Platte (17-5)  
■ 5 p.m. — Om. Burke (19-3) vs. Millard West (17-6)

#### CHAMPIONSHIP SATURDAY

(At Sports Center)

■ 1:30 p.m. — Semifinal winners.

### Class C-2

#### FIRST ROUND THURSDAY

Ponca 57..... Battle Creek 48  
West Point CC 69..... Arapahoe 47  
Brainard EB 52..... Sutherland 40  
Humboldt 54..... Caho Central 46

#### SEMIFINALS TODAY

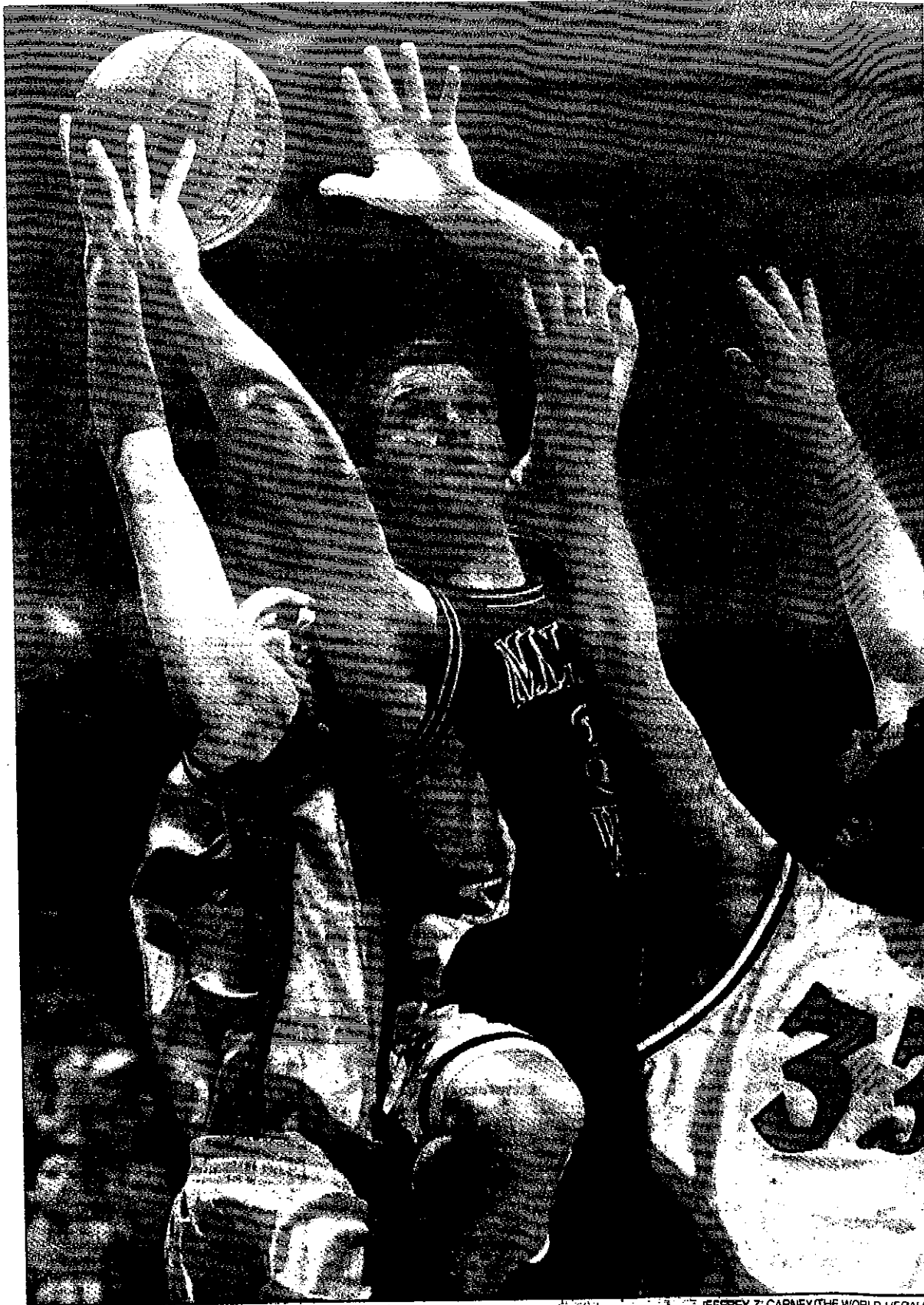
(At Pershing Auditorium)

■ 9:30 a.m. — Ponca (26-0) vs. West Point Central Catholic (20-4)  
■ 11:30 a.m. — Brainard EB (6-2) vs. Humboldt (22-4)

#### CHAMPIONSHIP SATURDAY

(At Sports Center)

■ 9:30 a.m. — Semifinal winners.



JEFFREY Z. CARNEY/THE WORLD-HERALD

**ALL-METRO CONFERENCE SEMIFINAL:** Millard West's Dan Bruce, center, drives to the basket against Omaha Westside's Curtis Knust, left, and David Goeschel, No. 33, during the teams' opening-round game Thursday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Millard West, with an 83-68 victory, advanced to tonight's 5 o'clock semifinal against fellow Metro Conference member Omaha Burke. Story, Page 30.

# Wildcat Guards Could Be Key Against Burke

BY STU POSPISIL  
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

Lincoln — Omaha Westside Coach Dan Schinzel is highly qualified to assess tonight's Class A boys basketball semifinal between No. 1 Omaha Burke and No. 9 Millard West, two Metro Conference powerhouse teams.

His Warriors finished their season with games against those two teams, beating Burke 50-42 for the district title and losing to Millard West 85-68 in Thursday's first round of the state tournament.

"It's going to be a battle," Schinzel said. "The way Millard West's guards are playing, it makes them hard to handle."

Game time is 5 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, where the winner will play either No. 1 Bellevue West or No. 3 North Platte in Saturday's 1:30 p.m. West was to play North Platte in an afternoon game.

Burke (19-3) fought off No. 6 Lincoln Southeast for a 69-66 victory. Both teams were at state as wild cards from District 1, in which Burke beat Southeast in the semifinals.

Millard West (17-6), which reached a season high for points against Westside, is on a nine-game winning streak.

Burke beat Millard West 52-43 in December, when the Wildcats were wearing the No. 1 tag from The Top 10 preseason ratings.

"We weren't playing very good basketball at that point," Millard West Coach Rick Hook said. "We've gotten better and better."

Hook said his team's strong inside game mirrors that of the Bulldogs. Georgia Tech baseball recruit Kyle Bakker, a 6-foot-10 senior, and Adam Steyer, a 6-4 junior, will lead the Millard West front line against Burke's Tola Dada (6-6) and Dan Lund (6-8).

"Both of us have great inside games," Hook said. "Both of us are going to play hard."

## Boys State Basketball

**Class A Semifinal Tonight  
At Devaney Sports Center**  
■ 5 p.m.: Omaha Burke (19-3)  
vs. Millard West (17-6)

**Class B  
Semifinals Tonight at Sports  
Center**  
■ 7: Lincoln Plus X (18-3) vs. Al-  
liance (18-3)  
■ 9: McCook (19-4) vs. Grand Is-  
land Northwest (20-3)

**Class C-1  
Early Semifinal**  
■ 6:45: Wahoo 60  
■ Afternoon — Grant Island  
Central Catholic vs. Chardon

**Class C-2  
Early Semifinal**  
■ 5: Ponce 57 vs. West Point CC 46  
■ Afternoon — Blair East  
Burlingame vs. Hamilton

■ Nebraska boys state basket-  
ball tournament stories. Pages  
30 through 32.

■ Entire schedule for the boys  
state high school basketball  
tournament. Page 31.

■ Nebraska boys and Iowa  
girls state basketball tourna-  
ments. omaha.com

Millard West may have held an edge on Westside because of its state-tournament appearance in 1999, in which the Wildcats lost 52-50 to Columbus.

"Last year, the time flew by," Hook said. "This year, it felt like a month from when we played districts until today."

In tonight's Class B semifinals at the Sports Center, No. 1 Lincoln Plus X (18-3) — ranked seventh in The Top 10 — plays No. 4 Alliance (18-3) at 7 with No. 2 Grand Island Northwest and No. 5 McCook meeting at 9.



Bellevue West 69  
North Platte 51

Omaha Burke 57  
Millard West 47

Championship: 1:30 p.m.

## Bulldogs bounce Millard West to lock up the rematch in today's Class A state final

BY STU POSPISIL  
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

Lincoln — Whatever lineup Omaha Burke puts on the floor, the constant for the No. 1 Bulldogs is defense.

They stuck with starting three of their tallest players — 6-foot-8 Chris DeSpain with 6-8 Dan Lund and 6-6 Tola Dada — and took away much of No. 9 Millard West's inside game for a 57-47 Class A semifinal victory Friday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"Just outstanding defense," Burke Coach Gary Graner said. "It's what is in the minds of these kids. All season, we've said we've had to do it with defense. They've competed and taken so much pride in their defense."

Burke will return to the Class A championship game for the first time since 1993, when it lost to Papillion-LaVista 58-52 in overtime. The Bulldogs (20-3) will play No. 2 Bellevue West, which defeated No. 3 North Platte 69-51 in the other Class A semifinal.

Burke and Bellevue West have split their two meetings this season, with Burke winning 54-52 on Feb. 21 and West winning 59-57 earlier this season.

Millard West (17-7), which trailed 25-14 at halftime, never came close to matching the 85 points it scored in Thursday's first-round win over No. 4 Omaha Westside.

"The more size we had out there, the more bodies we could put on Kyle Bakker, the better off we'd be," Graner said. "We couldn't give him 30 and everybody else the points they got last night."

"Our bigger guys can play the perimeter. Dan Lund can guard a guard. Dada can step out on people."

Bakker, the Wildcats' 6-9 senior center, scored just 12 points and took only one shot — a rare 3-point attempt — in the final quarter. Adam Steyer went scoreless after going for 17 points

See **BURKE** Page 58

## BURKE

### Bulldogs Bounce Millard West To Reach Final

Continued from Page 53

against Westside.

"Every point we scored," West Coach Rick Hook said, "you felt like you had to scratch and claw for."

"Partly it was their defense. For some reason, too, we looked fatigued in the first half. I don't know if it was all of the excitement. And we played the late game, but that's not an excuse. I thought the second half we came out and got after it."

Dada led Burke with 17 points. His first basket — on his first shot of the game — came with 2:57 left in the first half and put Burke ahead 21-12.

"We got some good looks at other places and knocked down the shots," Graner said. "It says something about Tola, too. He wasn't impatient. He had confidence in his teammates, and we have a good supporting cast."

Jason Dourisseau, Burke's 6-2 sophomore guard, added 12 points. Marc Violett had two 3s and nine points.

Burke's largest lead was 36-20 on Lund's 3 with 4:59 left. Millard West in the fourth quarter twice pulled within five points, 42-37 on Dan Bruce's putback and 49-44 on Zac Robinson's 3 from in front of the West bench.

"Millard West didn't quit," Graner said. "Robinson almost was standing on his feet when he took that shot."

## Tourney Scoring Leaders

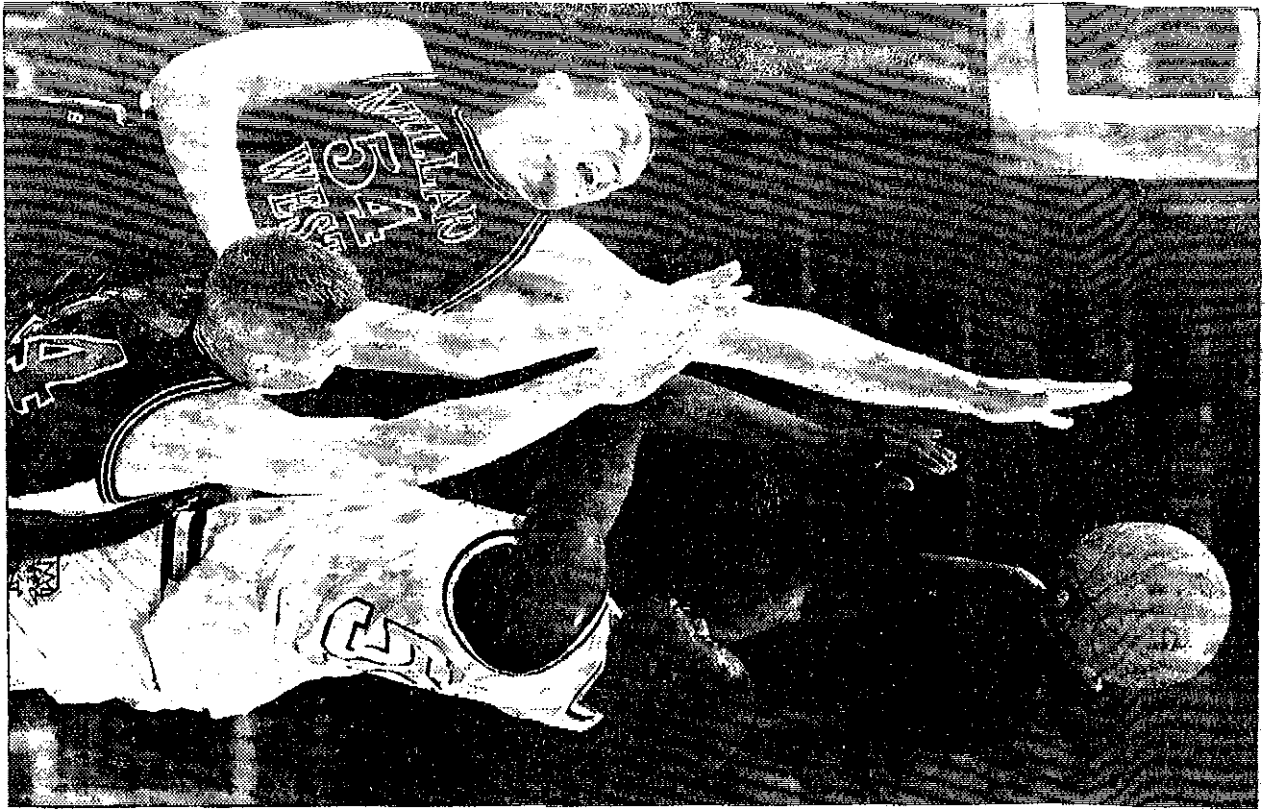
### Class A

Player Team	Games	Pts.	Avg.
Tola Dada, Omaha Burke	2	45	22.5
David Goeschel, Omaha Westside	1	22	22.0
Wyatt Schmidt, Lincoln NE	1	20	20.0
Jake Muhleisen, Lincoln NE	1	19	19.0
Ty Graham, Lincoln High	1	19	19.0
Zach Fortney, Bell West	2	35	17.5
Dan Bruce, Millard West	2	33	16.5
Nick Branting, North Platte	2	33	16.5
Chris Penney, Marquette	1	16	16.0
Chris Lemmon, Bell West	2	29	14.5
Kyle Bakker, Millard West	2	28	14.0
Jeremy Parks, Lincoln High	1	11	11.0
Richard Fosse, Lincoln High	1	11	11.0
Zach Smith, North Platte	2	21	10.5
Ben Muselman, Millard West	2	20	10.0
Ben Muselman, Millard West	1	10	10.0
Tyler Hansen, Omaha Westside	1	10	10.0
Grant Hageman, Omaha Westside	1	10	10.0
Jake Fredericks, Bell West	2	20	10.0

### Class A

#### OMAHA BURKE 57, MILLARD WEST 47

Millard West (17-7)..... 3 11 15  
Omaha Burke (20-3)..... 2 17 17  
■ MW — Kyle Bakker 12, Dan Bruce 10, Ben  
Muselman 9, Zac Robinson 7, Sean McLoughlin  
6, Scott McLoughlin 3.  
■ Burke — Tola Dada 17, Jason Dourisseau 12,  
Marc Violett 9, Dan Lund 7, Chris DeSpain 6,  
Jeff Hansen 4, Darren Hottel 2.  
■ Officials — Jerry Donahue, Randy Hogedorn.



STREET CRIE: Millard West defenders Kyle Bakker, No. 54, and Adam Steyer, front center, tries to block a shot by Omaha Burke's Taha Dada, who finished with 17 points.

JEFFREY Z. CARNEY/THE WORLD-HERALD



JEFFREY Z. CARNEY/THE WORLD-HERALD

HE CAN'T BELIEVE THE CALL: Millard West Coach Rick Hook reacts after a call went against his Wildcats in the Class A semifinal against Omaha Burke. "For some reason, we looked fatigued in the first half," Hook said after the 57-47 loss.



### TEAM OFFENSE

Rank	Player	School	Games	Yds	Avg
1	Billie Ross	Lincoln	24	1830	75.0
2	Archer Ross	Lincoln	19	1296	68.2
3	Archer Ross	Lincoln	23	1495	65.0
4	Archer Ross	Lincoln	24	1499	62.5
5	Archer Ross	Lincoln	19	1144	60.2
6	Archer Ross	Lincoln	23	1393	58.0
7	Archer Ross	Lincoln	22	1267	57.6
8	Archer Ross	Lincoln	19	1008	53.0
9	Archer Ross	Lincoln	19	1002	52.7

### TEAM DEFENSE

Rank	Player	School	Games	Yds	Avg
1	North Platte		23	1162	50.5
2	Grand Island		22	1184	53.8
3	Omaha Westside		23	1286	55.9
4	Bellevue West		21	1568	57.0
5	Midland West		24	1410	58.8
6	Omaha Central		19	1137	59.8
7	Omaha Central		19	1180	62.1
8	Keosauqua		19	1235	65.0
9	Omaha Benson		19	1292	68.0

### SCORING LEADERS

Rank	Player	School	G	Pts	Avg
1	Archer Ross	Lincoln High	20	495	24.8
2	Archer Ross	Om Benson	19	439	23.1
3	Zach Fortune	Bellevue West	24	533	22.2
4	David Goodrich	Om Westside	23	478	20.8
5	Ben Jacobson	Om Central	19	382	20.1
6	Brian Donagan	Grand Island	22	415	18.9
7	Elye Raskler	Midland West	24	450	18.8
8	Tom Diehl	Om Burke	17	313	18.4
9	Rich Branning	North Platte	23	407	17.7
10	Jimmy Moez	Lincoln	17	296	17.4
11	Pete Anderson	Keosauqua	19	319	16.8
12	Timothy Miller	Om Benson	19	296	15.6
13	Scott Swenson	Bellevue West	24	341	14.2
14	John Berman	Om Benson	19	261	13.7
15	John Swenson	North Platte	24	293	12.2
16	Tom Diehl	Om Westport	17	210	12.4
17	Tom Diehl	Om Westport	17	207	12.1
18	Tom Diehl	Om Westport	22	262	11.9
19	Tom Diehl	Om Westport	23	265	11.5
20	Tom Diehl	Om Westport	23	266	10.7
21	Tom Diehl	Om Westport	23	241	10.5
22	Tom Diehl	Om Westport	23	171	10.1
23	Tom Diehl	Om Westport	24	240	10.0
24	Tom Diehl	Om Westport	19	189	10.0
25	Tom Diehl	Om Westport	15	150	10.0

### REBOUNDING LEADERS

Rank	Player	School	G	Reb	Avg
1	Ben Jacobson	Om Central	19	103	10.2
2	Rich Branning	North Platte	23	227	9.9
3	Elye Raskler	Midland West	24	206	8.6
4	Cameron Lohrer	Om Benson	19	158	8.3
5	Wes Willson	Grand Island	22	164	7.5
6	Todd Swenson	Bellevue West	24	178	7.4
7	Archer Ross	Om Benson	19	136	7.2
8	James Miller	Om Central	15	104	6.9
9	Jimmy Moez	Lincoln	17	113	6.6
10	John Swenson	Bellevue West	24	144	6.0
11	Tom Diehl	Om Burke	17	98	5.8
12	Brian Donagan	Grand Island	22	121	5.5
13	Luke Hansen	Lincoln	17	91	5.4
14	Will Goodrich	Bellevue West	24	127	5.3
15	Sean MacLaughlin	Midland West	24	124	5.2
16	Archer Ross	Om Benson	22	114	5.2
17	Miller Kohn	Om Central	19	98	5.2
18	Justin Beckley	Om Bryan	19	96	5.0
19	Grand Island	Om Westside	23	105	4.6
20	Jim Barchewitz	Keosauqua	19	85	4.5
21	Don Lund	Om Burke	17	77	4.5
22	Chris Searl	Om Westside	23	102	4.4
23	David Goodrich	Om Westside	23	92	4.0
24	Mike Elye	North Platte	17	61	3.6
25	Archer Ross	Om Benson	17	53	3.1
26	Archer Ross	Om Benson	23	73	3.2
27	Chris Diegman	Om Burke	17	43	2.5
28	Mark Vothel	Om Burke	17	42	2.5

### 2 PT. FG PERCENTAGE

Rank	Player	School	G	FG	FG%
1	Jacob Moks	North Platte	23	70-99	.710
2	Adam Searl	Midland West	23	68-102	.676
3	Mark Searl	Lincoln	17	53-81	.654
4	Chris Diegman	Om Burke	17	49-77	.636
5	Kurtis Meun	Grand Island	22	51-83	.614
6	Mark Elye	Lincoln	17	48-79	.607
7	Cameron Lohrer	Om Benson	19	117-194	.605
8	Elye Raskler	Midland West	24	170-279	.609
9	Archer Ross	Om Benson	23	136-239	.570
10	Archer Ross	Om Benson	19	149-273	.546
11	Tom Diehl	Om Burke	17	106-194	.546
12	Sean MacLaughlin	Midland West	24	99-189	.541
13	Grand Island	Om Westside	23	59-109	.541
14	Todd Swenson	Bellevue West	20	67-128	.523
15	Don Lund	Om Burke	17	53-102	.520
16	Brian Donagan	Grand Island	22	57-111	.513
17	Scott Swenson	Lincoln	17	54-106	.509

### 3 PT. FG PERCENTAGE

Rank	Player	School	G	FG	FG%
1	Don Lund	Om Burke	17	21-40	.525
2	Archer Ross	Om Benson	23	30-61	.492
3	Mark Vothel	Om Burke	17	21-45	.467
4	Brian Donagan	Om Central	19	35-80	.438
5	David Goodrich	Om Westside	23	61-143	.427
6	Zac Robinson	Midland West	24	40-99	.404
7	Kevin Triner	Om Bryan	19	50-124	.403
8	Zach Fortune	Bellevue West	24	68-169	.402
9	Vernon Jiles	Lincoln	17	18-45	.400
10	Luke Hansen	Lincoln	17	27-68	.397
11	Don Bruce	Midland West	24	41-104	.394
12	Drew Anderson	Keosauqua	19	38-98	.388
13	Jason Borchers	Om Benson	17	24-63	.387
14	Brian Donagan	Grand Island	22	64-180	.359
15	Jimmy Moez	Lincoln	17	35-99	.355
16	Grand Island	Om Westside	23	29-83	.349
17	Jacob Moks	North Platte	23	36-105	.340
18	Shawn Wisdom	Bellevue West	24	29-87	.333
19	Marty Larson	Bellevue West	24	30-93	.325
20	Archer Ross	Om Benson	19	30-106	.283
21	Miller Kohn	Om Central	22	15-54	.277
22	Justin Beckley	Om Bryan	19	21-76	.276

### FREE THROW PERCENTAGE

Rank	Player	School	G	FT	FT%
1	Joe Varnick	Grand Island	22	43-49	.877
2	Zach Fortune	Bellevue West	24	159-180	.883
3	Scott Swenson	Lincoln	17	53-65	.815
4	Jimmy Moez	Lincoln	17	53-67	.791
5	Brian Donagan	Grand Island	22	109-139	.784
6	Brian Donagan	Om Central	19	29-38	.763
7	Drew Anderson	Keosauqua	19	51-67	.761
8	Tom Diehl	Om Burke	17	101-133	.759
9	Zach Smith	North Platte	23	82-111	.740
10	Justin Beckley	Om Bryan	19	94-75	.740
11	Miller Kohn	Om Bryan	24	51-70	.739
12	Zac Robinson	Midland West	24	45-61	.738
13	Trevor Trife	Keosauqua	19	28-39	.718
14	Elye Raskler	Midland West	24	110-154	.714
15	David Goodrich	Om Westside	23	113-159	.711
16	Ben Borchers	Midland West	24	66-93	.710
17	Jim Barchewitz	Keosauqua	19	28-40	.700
18	Rich Branning	North Platte	23	102-148	.690
19	Chris Diegman	Om Burke	17	30-44	.682
20	Marty Larson	Bellevue West	24	60-88	.681
21	Mark Vothel	Om Burke	17	44-66	.667
22	Kurt Elye	Om Central	19	39-55	.667
23	Luke Hansen	Lincoln	17	53-80	.662
24	Wes Willson	Grand Island	22	47-71	.662
25	Archer Ross	Om Benson	19	51-78	.654
26	Vernon Jiles	Lincoln	17	41-67	.611

### ASSIST LEADERS

Rank	Player	School	G	Ass	Avg
1	Brian Donagan	Grand Island	22	126	5.7
2	Zach Smith	North Platte	23	118	5.1
3	Joseph Ojha	Om Benson	19	93	4.9
4	Luke Hansen	Lincoln	17	82	4.8
5	Marty Larson	Bellevue West	24	111	4.6
6	Zach Fortune	Bellevue West	24	105	4.5
7	Vernon Jiles	Lincoln	17	74	4.4
8	Don Bruce	Midland West	24	104	4.3
9	Miller Kohn	Om Bryan	19	78	4.1
10	Elye Raskler	Midland West	24	85	3.6
11	David Goodrich	Om Westside	23	77	3.4
12	Miller Kohn	Om Central	22	74	3.4
13	Shawn Wisdom	Bellevue West	24	76	3.2
14	Brian Donagan	Om Central	19	71	3.2
15	Pete Saldivan	Om Westside	23	57	3.1
16	Archer Ross	Om Benson	23	68	3.0
17	Scott Swenson	Lincoln	17	50	2.9
18	George Dorek	Om Central	19	49	2.6
19	Jimmy Moez	Lincoln	17	45	2.6
20	Trent Mitchell	Bellevue West	24	59	2.5

# Thunderbirds' Fortune Leads All-Metro Boys

BY STU POSPISIL  
PHOTO BY TOLA DADA FOR THE HERALD



BILL BATSON/THE WORLD-HERALD

ALL-METRO BOYS: Tola Dada of Omaha Burke, left, Zach Fortune of Bellevue West, Kyle Bakker of Millard West, David Goeschel of Omaha Westside and Ben Jacobson of Omaha Central.

Zach Fortune's coach has ample cause for the honorary captain of the Omaha Central All-Metro Conference boys basketball team, with enough left in one of the best All-Metro state championships appointments.

Zach Fortune improved an awful lot as a player in decision-making, in recognizing a good shot from a bad one, recognizing how many things a player can do to benefit a basketball game. Bellevue West Coach Doug Woodard said, "Like taking a charge,

getting a deflection, getting a steal like he did on our last major push of the game in the state finals.

"He had gone coast-to-coast, then stole the next pass to get the lead back up to 16 points. He's recognized all things in a complete game, and that's made Zach a better basketball player."

Joining Fortune on the all-senior All-Metro first team are Tola Dada of Class A runner-up Omaha Burke, Kyle Bakker of state qualifier Millard West, David Goeschel of state qualifier Omaha Westside and Ben Jacobson of Omaha Central.

## ALL-METRO BOYS Bellevue West's Fortune Becomes Complete Player

Continued from Page 57

senior Marty Levinson of Bellevue West, junior Arthur Boult of Omaha Benson, senior Justin Albrecht of Omaha North, senior David Finkler of Bellevue East and junior Ryan Curtis of Millard South.

Bakker was the only repeat first-team selection. Levinson was first team and Fortune second team last year. Goeschel and Jacobson also were second-team selections.

Observations by World-Herald staff writers and nominations by league coaches were used in selection of the All-Metro teams.

Fortune averaged 22.2 points in the Thunderbirds' 23-1 season, making 68 of 169 3-pointers (40.2 percent) and 159 of 180 free throws (88.3 percent).

His average increased with a string of games late in the regular season in which he was scoring in the high 20s.

"A lot of that was that he started shooting better shots," Woodard said. "Because we improved so much as the season went on defensively, we were getting easier shots. As he began to recognize the difference between good shots and great shots, he started scoring more."

His improvement has caught the attention of Division I recruiters. Woodard said in recent weeks he's

### All-State on March 26

The World-Herald's All-State high school boys and girls basketball teams will be presented in the editions of Sunday, March 26.

gotten calls from coaches at Missouri-Kansas City, Lamar, Charleston Southern, Boston University, Northern Illinois and Siena.

"They either want to make a home visit or have Zach come to their university," Woodard said. "And there's been a lot of solid Division II interest. He really enjoyed himself on an unofficial visit to South Dakota. The Division I interest has come in the past three or four weeks."

Dada, a 6-6 senior, scored 20 points in the second half of the Bulldogs' finals loss to Bellevue West to finish the season averaging 19 points a game. He also was Burke's leading rebounder.

Goeschel, a 6-2 senior, averaged almost 21 points a game as the Warriors were district champions and state qualifiers for the first time since 1990.

"He capped off a great career with a great season," Westside Coach Dan Schinzel said.

Goeschel, whose ACT score is 31, probably will walk on at Creighton. CU starter Matt West also went from Westside to the Bluejays as a walk-on.

Bakker, a 6-9 center who averaged 24.6 points and 8.8 rebounds as a junior, had his scoring average decline to 18.8 his senior season. His rebounding average held fast.

"As far as I'm concerned, this is the most improved player in the state," Woodard said. "What a kid he is. If he doesn't hear what you say in Division I school, there are about 20 Division I coaches who would love to see him."

"The guy's a tremendous basketball player. What can he do? He's increased his range, he's made more pull-up passes, he's scored more points, he's rebounded and he's done a lot of other things. Maybe there's something else a player can do. I don't know what it is."

On the All-Metro second team are

See ALL-METRO BOYS PAGE 58

### World-Herald All-Metro Basketball Teams

#### BOYS FIRST TEAM

Player	Team	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocks	Minutes
Zach Fortune	Bellevue West	22.2	8.8	1.5	1.5	0.5	28.5
Tola Dada	Omaha Burke	19.0	8.8	1.5	1.5	0.5	28.5
Kyle Bakker	Millard West	24.6	8.8	1.5	1.5	0.5	28.5
David Goeschel	Omaha Westside	21.0	8.8	1.5	1.5	0.5	28.5
Ben Jacobson	Omaha Central	18.8	8.8	1.5	1.5	0.5	28.5

Junior captain Zach Fortune, Bellevue West.

Wissing of Grand Island Central Catholic in Class C-1, Matt Mezger of Humboldt, Table Rock, Sumner in Class C-1, Tanner Anderson of Paxton in Class D-1 and Matt Freitag of Chester-Hubbell-Byron in Class D-2.

The girls honorary All-State captains who were not Super-State are Jina Johansen of Centura in Class C-2, Julie Froeschl of Falls City Sacred Heart in Class D-1 and Tara Howard of Litchfield in Class D-2.

Nick can take it to the hole, shoot the three or pull up. He's just a complete player," says Y. Coach Paul Fritsch. Nick has experience and he's a savvy player out on the floor.

**Jeremy Wissing**

Wissing was a threat inside and also a dangerous shooter on the perimeter for Grand Island Central Catholic. He averaged 23.5 points and 11.0 rebounds in the three state tournament games. He contributed 31 points in the opening round, added 25 in the semifinals and scored 24 in the final. Wissing was second-

best in Humboldt. He averaged 17.5 points in cooperative scrimmaging. He has excellent ball handling and experience leading his team from the two schools together. He averaged 22 points a game. He finished his career with 1,126 points.

**Tanner Anderson**

Anderson is a repeat Class D-1 first-team Star for Paxton. He averaged 23 points a game this year and exceeded that in the first state games, scoring 25 and 30 in the final, which was a low-scoring, defensive game. He led the Tigers with 17 points. Two assists, one

**BOYS SUPER-STATE**

**Second Team**

Player, school	Ht.	Yr.	Pts.	Reb.
Kyle Bakker, Millard West	6-9	Sr.	19.0	9.8
Jimmy Motz, Lincoln Northeast	6-7	Jr.	18.0	7.0
Jake Muhleisen, Lincoln Southeast	6-3	Jr.	16.1	3.7
Brian Dunagan, Grand Island	6-1	Sr.	18.9	5.5
Nick Heiser, Lincoln Plus X	5-10	Sr.	14.0	2.0

**Third Team**

Ty Graham, Lincoln High	5-8	Sr.	14.0	3.0
Ben Jacobson, Omaha Central	6-6	Sr.	20.1	10.2
Adam Lampricht, Fremont	6-4	Sr.	20.1	3.4
Jeremy Wissing, Grand Island Central Catholic	6-4	Sr.	23.5	11.0
Chad Sheffield, Grand Island Northwest	6-3	Sr.	18.0	4.0



**BAKKER**



**LAMPREC**



**MOTZ**



**MUHLEISEN**



**DUNAGAN**



**GRAHAM**



**JACOBSON**

**BOYS CLASS A ALL-STATE**

**First Team**

Player, school	Ht.	Yr.	Pts.	Reb.
Richard Ross, Lincoln High	6-5	Sr.	24.0	6.0
Zach Fortune, Bellevue West	6-1	Sr.	22.0	4.1
Nick Branting, North Platte	6-6	Sr.	18.5	10.0
Tola Dada, Omaha Burke	6-6	Sr.	18.5	6.5
David Goeschel, Omaha Westside	6-2	Sr.	20.5	4.5

Honorary captain — Richard Ross, Lincoln High

**Second Team**

Kyle Bakker, Millard West	6-9	Sr.	19.0	9.8
Jimmy Motz, Lincoln Northeast	6-7	Jr.	18.0	7.0
Jake Muhleisen, Lincoln Southeast	6-3	Jr.	16.1	3.7
Brian Dunagan, Grand Island	6-1	Sr.	18.9	5.5
Ty Graham, Lincoln High	5-8	Sr.	14.0	3.0



**ROSS**

**BOYS CLASS B ALL-STAT**

**First Team**

Player, school	Ht.	Yr.	Pts.	Reb.
Nick Heiser, Lincoln Plus X	5-10	Sr.	14.0	2.0
Chad Sheffield, Grand Island NW	6-3	Sr.	18.0	4.0
Jason Jisa, Seward	6-5	Sr.	11.7	7.8
Nate Bennett, McCook	6-7	Sr.	14.7	7.3
Micah Kohls, Aurora	6-6	Jr.	21.0	10.6

Honorary captain — Nick Heiser, Lincoln Plus X

**Second Team**

Garrett Wyman, Alliance	6-5	Sr.	13.0	9.0
Brent Heller, Omaha Roncalli	6-2	Sr.	18.4	5.3
Brian Jakubowski, Schuyler	6-5	Sr.	17.8	4.1
Jarod Obering, Beatrice	5-9	Jr.	16.0	4.0
Tony Wilbrand, Alliance	6-10	Jr.	16.0	10.0



**FORTUNE**



**BRANTING**



**DADA**



**GOESCHEL**



**SHEFFIELD**



**JISA**



**BENNETT**

**BOYS CLASS C-1 ALL-STATE**

**BOYS CLASS C-2 ALL-STA**

# Class A Champ Bellevue West Ranks Among Elite Boys Teams

Only two Class A champions have dominated their state-tournament competition more than Bellevue West, this season's champion.

The Thunderbirds, who rank among the best teams of the past 40 years in Class A boys basketball, rolled through Norfolk 71-46, North Platte 69-51 and Omaha Burke in the finals 70-53.

Those victories, by a combined total of 60 points, meant Bellevue West's average margin of victory was 20 points during the tournament. The only teams better were Omaha Creighton Prep in 1969, with an average margin of 22.3 points, and Omaha Tech in 1963, with an average margin of 21.7 points.

Prep, with all-state player Mark Langer, beat its three opponents by a

combined 67 points. The Junior Jays trampled Omaha Tech 68-54, Scottsbluff 67-40 and Omaha Central 74-48 to complete a 21-4 season.

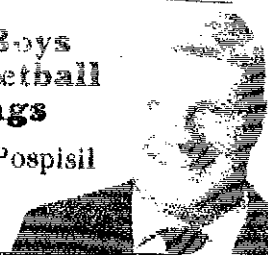
Tech, with all-state performers Fred Hare and Joe Williams, won its three games by 65 points. The Trojans beat Hastings 75-57, Columbus 83-54 and Prep 91-73 while ending with a 22-2 record.

Bellevue West Coach Doug Woodard's team went 23-1 this season and was three points away from a perfect season. Burke beat the Thunderbirds 59-57, scoring in the final seconds, to close the regular season.

Since Omaha South went undefeated in 1960, only Coach Larry Ribble's See **BOYS STATE** Page 21

## W.H. Boys Basketball Ratings

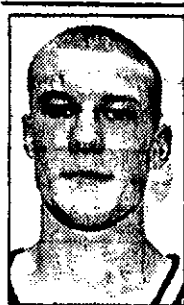
By Stu Pospisil



### Top 10/Class A

	Record	Avg. O.-D.
1. Bellevue West	23-1	74-57
2. Omaha Burke	20-4	63-53
3. North Platte	17-6	61-51
4. Lincoln High	15-6	70-61
5. Millard West	17-7	62-59
6. Om. Westside	18-5	66-57
7. Lincoln SE	14-8	61-55
8. Lincoln Plus X	20-3	66-60
9. Lincoln NE	13-7	64-59
10. Grand Island	12-10	58-54

■ Columbus (11-7) ranks 10th in Class A.



**Marty Levinson**  
Bellevue West



**Ben Jacobson**  
Om. Central



**Kyle Bakker**  
Millard West



**Brian Dunagan**  
Grand Island

## All-Nebraska Second Team

### Second Team

Player	School	Ht.	Yr.	Avg.
Marty Levinson	Bellevue West	6-3	Sr.	14.1
Ben Jacobson	Om. Central	6-6	Sr.	20.1
Kyle Bakker	Millard West	6-9	Sr.	18.8
Brian Dunagan	Grand Island	6-1	Sr.	18.9
Jimmy Motz	Lincoln NE	6-7	Sr.	18.0



**Jimmy Motz**  
Lincoln NE

## Class A



**Richard Ross**  
Lincoln High



**Tola Dada**  
Om. Burke



**Zach Fortune**  
Bellevue West



**Nick Branting**  
North Platte

### First Team

Richard Ross	Lincoln High	6-4	Sr.	24.1
Tola Dada	Om. Burke	6-6	Sr.	19.1
Zach Fortune	Bellevue West	6-2	Sr.	22.2
Nick Branting	North Platte	6-6	Sr.	17.7
David Goeschel	Om. Westside	6-2	Sr.	20.8

■ Honorary captain: Richard Ross, Lincoln High.

### Second Team

Marty Levinson	Bellevue West	6-3	Sr.	14.1
Ben Jacobson	Om. Central	6-6	Sr.	20.1
Kyle Bakker	Millard West	6-9	Sr.	18.8
Brian Dunagan	Grand Island	6-1	Sr.	18.9
Jimmy Motz	Lincoln NE	6-7	Sr.	18.0



**David Goeschel**  
Om. Westside

# Bellevue West Joins Class A Elite Teams

Continued from Page 17

1989 Millard South team was an undefeated champion in Class A.

Bellevue West is the fourth once-beaten Class A champion in the period, following Omaha Central in 1975 and Lincoln Northeast in 1982 and 1998.

"This is the best team I've ever coached. Absolutely. No question about it," Woodard said Saturday. "Their focus, their effort, their intensity. You couldn't ask for anything more."

"I don't know how people look at these things, but I certainly think they're one of the better teams that's come down the pike in some years, at least from my point, I'd go to war with them."

Lincoln Pius X Coach Ray Forycki said he feels the same way about his Thunderbolts, who rolled to a 77-52 victory over McCook in Saturday's Class B final.

"This is the most focused team I've ever coached," Forycki said. "They taught me more than I could ever teach them. That's why we won. We had the right ingredients of kids to keep that focus."

In the final World-Herald Top 10, Bellevue West is first and Lincoln Pius X eighth.

Pius X is the Class B champion, with state champions heading the final ratings in the other four classes: Grand Island Central Catholic in Class C-1, Humboldt-Table Rock in Class C-2, Paxton in Class D-1, and Chester-Hubbell-Byron in Class D-2.

Bellevue West never had a late-game scare in its three state tournament games.

"For the balance of the season, we were better conditioned than most teams or anybody really in the state," Woodard said. "But in the last couple of weeks leading up to districts, I felt people had closed the gap on us and it looked like we were fatiguing. So we made an effort last week, after districts, to take ourselves to another level in conditioning. We didn't back off, we didn't shorten practices — in fact we lengthened them — and the kids committed themselves to this."

"People don't understand that to

Class B			Class C-1			Class C-2			Class D-1			Class D-2		
1. Bellevue West	22-1	66-51	1. Grand Island CC	27-1	66-51	1. Humboldt-TR	24-4	64-52	1. Payton	20-2	63-39	1. Chester-HB	22-4	52-44
2. Lincoln Pius X	18-4	52-48	2. Chadron	18-5	67-53	2. Ponca	27-1	69-44	2. Deshar	21-1	65-42	2. Ewing	22-4	64-49
3. McCook	20-6	58-50	3. Fairbury	18-5	58-47	3. West Point CC	20-5	64-51	3. Shelby	19-5	59-49	3. Lindsay HF	18-6	63-51
4. Grand Island NW	20-4	52-49	4. Pierce	17-9	52-48	4. Brainard EB	21-5	64-55	4. Humphrey S.F.	18-7	66-56	4. Hampton	17-5	60-51
5. Lincoln Southeast	17-5	59-47	5. Syracuse	20-3	62-42				5. Sterling	17-5	63-43	5. Chambers	17-6	59-48
6. Lincoln West	17-5	59-49	6. Wahoo	20-5	64-50				6. Adams Freeman	17-5	55-52	6. Greeley	18-3	66-50
7. Lincoln Central	12-7	52-48	7. Elkhorn MM	17-7	56-48				7. Johnson-Brock	15-7	58-52	7. Butte	12-10	60-58
8. Lincoln North	12-7	51-57	8. DC Aquinas	11-11	63-64				8. Falls City SH	20-5	64-52	8. Hayes Center	20-3	63-47
9. Lincoln East	8-12	43-55	9. Columbus LV	16-4	61-44				9. Curtis MV	16-7	61-49	9. Litchfield	16-5	61-50
10. Lincoln Pioneer	17-6	49-50	10. Albion	19-4	64-47				10. Osmond	21-3	70-47	10. Bruning	15-9	56-50

press and run for three straight days and be able to do that against a team as good as Burke, on the heels of North Platte, it takes a tremendous amount of conditioning and mental toughness as well."

Bellevue West was leading Burke only 22-18 before closing the half with an 11-2 run. Key, Woodard said, were the five points that came in the final 20 seconds. Shuan Wisdom, a sophomore, made his second 3-pointer of the run, and Trent Mitchell scored with 9.2 seconds left.

"It was very important going into the locker room with that type of momentum and being up 13 instead of six or seven," Woodard said. "Any game, but when you get to this level especially, every point you get to widen the lead out is a harder mountain for your opponent to climb later on."

The final Top 10 reflects the Metro Conference's best showing against the rest of Class A since 1995 — a 15-22 record. Bellevue West was 4-0 in such games, as was Omaha Westside.

The Metro's records against the rest of Class A, since the league went to round-robin scheduling, were 4-27 in 1996, 4-26 in 1997, 12-24 in 1998 and 8-27 in 1999.

North Platte remains third after reaching the semifinals for the first time since 1992.

No. 4 Lincoln High's 60-47 loss to North Platte in the first round was the first time in 11 games that the Links hadn't scored more than 70 points. The

Links were ranked fifth before districts.

Millard West rises from ninth to fifth after beating Westside for the third time. The 85-68 victory for the Wildcats gave them a school-record 17 wins. Westside slips from fourth to sixth, but it stays ahead of No. 7 Lincoln Southeast because of late-season score comparisons against Burke.

Westside beat Burke 50-42 in the District A-1 final. Burke beat Southeast 54-45 in districts and 69-66 at state. Both Burke and Southeast were wild-card teams.

Pius X, because it had a 66-64 victory over Waverly and a 72-68 overtime victory over Alliance in the postseason, drops a notch from its pre-tournament rating.

## World-Herald All-Tournament teams

Player	School	Pos.	Yr.	Avg.
Zach Fortune	Bellevue West	G-2	Sr.	18.7
Tola Dada	Om. Burke	G-6	Sr.	22.0
Jeremy Wissing	Gr. Is. CC	G-4	Sr.	26.7
Nick Branting	North Platte	G-6	Sr.	18.5
Nick Heiser	Lincoln Pius X	G-11	Sr.	16.3
■ Honorary captain—Fortune				
CLASS A				
Zach Fortune	Bellevue West	G-2	Sr.	18.7
Tola Dada	Om. Burke	G-6	Sr.	22.0
Nick Branting	North Platte	G-6	Sr.	18.5
Dan Bruce	Millard West	G-1	Jr.	16.5
Marty Levinson	Bell. West	G-3	Sr.	14.0
■ Honorary captain—Fortune				
CLASS B				
Nick Heiser	Lincoln Pius X	G-11	Sr.	16.3
Nate Bennett	McCook	G-7	Sr.	18.3
Garrett Wyman	Alliance	G-5	Sr.	18.5
Chad Sheffield	Gr. Is. NW	G-3	Sr.	16.0
Travis Kerkman	Lin. Pius X	G-0	Sr.	10.0
■ Honorary captain—Heiser				
CLASS C-1				
Jeremy Wissing	Gr. Is. CC	G-4	Sr.	26.7
Alex Shada	Wahoo	G-3	Sr.	22.0
Matt Henan	Pierce	G-4	So.	18.3
Jay Wissing	Gr. Island CC	G-4	Sr.	14.3
Mitch Barry	Chadron	G-8	Sr.	14.5
■ Honorary captain—Jeremy Wissing				
CLASS C-2				
J.D. Roberts	Ponca	G-7	Sr.	21.3
Matt Mezger	Humboldt-TR	G-0	Sr.	14.7
Kyle Struebing	Brainard EB	G-4	Jr.	19.0
Chns Wagner	W. Point CC	G-3	Sr.	17.5
Russell Pleger	Humboldt-TR	G-3	Sr.	14.0
■ Honorary captain—Mezger				
CLASS D-1				
Tanner Anderson	Paxton	G-2	Sr.	24.0
Landon Meyer	Deshar	G-2	Sr.	22.3
David Wegener	Hump. SF	G-2	So.	16.0
Tim Krab	Paxton	G-3	Jr.	12.7
Casey Ingalls	Shelby	G-2	Sr.	14.5
■ Honorary captain—Anderson				
CLASS D-2				
Matt Freitag	Chester-HB	G-8	Sr.	21.0
Nick Broz	Hayes Center	G-2	Sr.	21.0
Adam Schueth	Ewing	G-3	Jr.	19.0
A.J. Gausman	Chester-HB	G-11	Jr.	9.3
Tony Kurtenbach	Und. HF	G-1	Jr.	13.0
■ Honorary captain—Freitag				







## 1999-2000 HIGHLIGHTS

STATE TOURNAMENT FINAL FOUR  
DISTRICT CHAMPIONS  
FINAL RATINGS (5TH)

### TEAM SCHOOL RECORDS BROKEN/TIED

BEST RECORD 17-7  
MOST WINS 17  
MOST WINS IN A ROW - 9  
ASSISTS 437  
FIELD GOAL % = 54% (453/832)  
TOTAL REBOUNDS 761  
STEALS 144

### INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL RECORDS BROKEN/TIED

KYLE BAKKER	CAREER TOTAL POINTS 1,333 SEASON TOTAL REBOUNDS 206 CAREER REBOUNDS 515 CAREER BLOCKS 225 SINGLE GAME REBOUNDS 15 VS. WESTSIDE
BEN MUSSMANN	CAREER STEALS 80
DAN BRUCE	SINGLE GAME ASSISTS 11 VS. WESTSIDE SEASON STEALS 43
SEAN MCLAUGHLIN	CAREER FREE THROW % 77% (59/77)
ADAM STEYER	SEASON FIELD GOAL % 68% (69/102) CAREER FIELD GOAL % 68% (69/102)

