

Millard West Boys Basketball Wildcat Report

Vol. 9, No. 14

Wildcats Beat #5 Burke, Advance to District Finals

Shereef Mitchell wept on the Omaha Burke bench following a season- and high school career-ending 61-59 loss to Millard West in the District A-2 semifinals Saturday.

The high-scoring senior guard poured in 29 points with an 11-of-17 shooting performance, but in the final 32 seconds was called for a traveling violation on an in-bounds pass while the Bulldogs were trying to protect a one-point lead.

The Wildcats took advantage of the turnover when 6-foot-8 senior Brock Burling knocked down a pair of free throws after being fouled during a scrum in the paint.

Burke had two chances to win the game, but missed on both possessions — including a Mitchell heave in heavy traffic from the top of the key as the clock expired.

With the wild win — in a game in which each team led by more than a dozen points — Millard West (12-11) will face No. 1 Omaha Creighton Prep on Monday night with a trip to the Class A state tournament on the line.

“We’ve played them twice and I

think they are the best team in the state,” Millard West coach Bill Morrison said. “We’re going to have to beat them some time if we want to reach our goal.”



The same could have been said about Millard West beating Burke. They met in early January and the Bulldogs had little trouble going on the road to beat the Wildcats.

When Mitchell came out blazing — he knocked down a 3 on the first possession of the game and finished the

first quarter with 12 points — it looked like Burke would make short work of the Wildcats.

“Shereef was in a zone from the start,” Millard West senior guard Giavonni Guido said. “He’s tough to guard any time, but especially when he is in attack mode. He’s tough to guard. I know, I was guarding him and he was going by me. I was like, ‘When’s this going to be over?’ ”

Neither Guido nor the Wildcats were giving up — even with Burke jumping to a 19-7 lead after one quarter.

Things changed quickly — the crazy swings were a theme for this contest — as Millard West opened the second quarter with a 9-0 run that shrunk most of its deficit and gave the Wildcats reason to believe.

“We came out flat,” Burling said. “We came out soft and wanted to redeem ourselves. It could have been our last game of the year and we didn’t want it to end that way.”

It didn’t. When Hunter Schnuerle hit a runner with less than a minute to

Scores

Freshman A (13-4)

Prep Tournament

Omaha Bryan	W	80-37
Millard North	L	55-56

Varsity (12-11)

District Tournament

Omaha Burke	W	61-59
-------------	---	-------

Congratulations to
Chris Connell
who was named
Jimmy John’s
Player of the Month

Wildcats Earn 8th Straight Trip to District Finals

play in the first half, the Wildcats had the lead — 29-28 — for the first time and they were just getting started.

If they were shaky and flat in the first quarter, the third quarter was just the opposite for the Wildcats, who might have played their best eight minutes of the season in growing the lead to as many as 12 points.

West made 9 of 10 shots, including all four of its attempts from beyond the 3-point arc — two of them from Schnuerle — while turning over the ball just once and forcing the Bulldogs to play on their heels.

“We caught fire and that was a big boost,” said Guido, who finished with 12 points. “They didn’t ever really recover from that.”

That’s not entirely true. The Bulldogs trailed by 11 heading into the fourth quarter, but they were far from dead in the water. They went on a 5-0 run to start the final period. A David Moreano 3 from the right side cut the lead to six points and seemed to spark Burke.

Mitchell made it a one-possession game with two straight baskets midway through the period and the teams spent the next three minutes trading buckets before a Mitchell jumper gave Burke a 59-58 lead with 42 seconds to play.

Burke (12-13) got a stop and took possession with a chance to run down the clock. The ball was deflected out of bounds, forcing Burke to inbound the ball with 32 seconds to play.

The plan was simple: Deny the ball going to Mitchell. “I was going to try to steal it or get a quick foul — something,” Guido said.

The Bulldogs threw it deep into their backcourt. Mitchell beat Guido to the ball and took possession by leaping for it. He came down with a hop and a whistle signaled he had traveled.

“I just got lucky,” Guido said. “He walked with the ball.”

MW (12-11).....7 21 22 11-61
OB (12-13).....19 8 12 20-59

MW: Austin Harris 4-6 0-0 10, Giavonni Guido 4-8 1-5 12, Chris Connell 4-7 3-4 11, Tristan Gomes 1-2 0-0 2, Hunter Schnuerle 4-6 0-0 10, Evan Meyersick 1-3 0-0 2, Brock Burling 5-12 2-2 12. Totals 23-44 8-13 61.

OB: Xavier Watts 0-5 0-0 0, Shereef Mitchell 11-17 6-8 29, David Moreano 3-7 4-4 13, Jordan Jones 0-1 0-0 0, Isaac Lawrence 2-3 0-0 4, Chris Hickman 3-4 1-2 7, Chris Hanz 3-3 0-2 6. Totals 22-40 11-16 59.

3-point shooting: Millard West 7-12 (Harris 2, Guido 3, Schnuerle 2), Omaha Burke 4-15 (Moreano 3, Mitchell). Total Fouls: Millard West 15, Omaha Burke 12. Fouled out: none.

A-2 District Finals

Millard West

At

Creighton Prep

Monday, February 26

7:00 p.m.

Lower Levels

The Freshman A team got off to a good start in the Prep Tournament with a 80-37 win over Bryan.

The Wildcats had a 12 point lead at half and came out of the gates in the second half, outscoring the Bears 21-0 in the 3rd quarter and 15-5 in the 4th..

In a game where all 12 players scored, James Conway, Dustin Hatch, Spencer Fortune, Jacob Jones, and Ryan Larsen all reached double figures.

The Millard West Freshman lost 55-56 to Millard North in the Quarter-finals of the Prep Tournament in tough fashion.

The Wildcats came back in the 4th quarter after trailing 43-36 and took the lead in the final minutes of the game. But, Millard North got an offensive rebound and basket at the buzzer to get the victory.

Leading scorers for the Wildcats were James Conway with 23 and Jacob Jones with 21 points.

The Millard West underclassmen had another great year as they combined for a 57-11 on the season.

Final Records:

Freshmen A	13-4
Freshmen B	10-4
Reserves	16-1
Jr. Varsity	18-2

2018-2019 Tryouts

MBA Wildcats

Tryout times are for the grade each athlete will be in NEXT year.

- 4th Grade March 1, 6:00—8:00 pm, Russell Middle School
March 6, 6:00—7:00 pm, Russell Middle School (If needed)
- 5th Grade March 5, 8:00-9:30 pm, Millard West High School, Wildcat I
(May be moved to Beadle Middle if inclement weather)
March 6, 7:30-9:00 pm, Russell Middle School
- 6th Grade March 14, 6:30 — 8:00 pm, Millard West High School, Wildcat II
March 21, 6:00 — 7:30 pm, Millard West High School, Wildcat II
- 7th Grade March 14, 8:00 — 9:30 pm, Millard West High School, Wildcat I
March 21, 8:00 — 9:30 pm, Millard West High School, Wildcat I
- 8th Grade March 14, 6:30 — 8:00 pm, Millard West High School, Wildcat I
March 21, 6:00 — 7:30 pm, Millard West High School, Wildcat I

For more information, email: leon.haith@blairschools.org

Please pre-register for tryouts at: <https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/105236>



mba2mw

HARD WORK * INTEGRITY * TEAMWORK
SPORTSMANSHIP