



Millard West Boys Basketball

Wildcat Report

February 24, 2020, Vol. 11 No. 13

Wildcats Win on Senior Night



The Wildcats were able to pull off a win for their Seniors in their last home game of the season. Millard West beat Omaha Burke 61-49.

Three Wildcats scored in double digits. James Conway led the scoring with 16 points. He also grabbed 8 rebounds and had 2 steals. Dalys Beanum and Evan Mayersick added 13 points each.

Jaren Marshall led the Bulldogs with 18 points. Michael Payne III added 14 for Burke.

The first half of the game was a low scoring affair. Burke got on the board first with a free-throw three minutes into the game. The Bulldogs led 9-7 at the end of the first quarter.

West looked as if they were going to take control of the game in the 2nd

quarter. The Wildcats scored the first 9 points of the quarter. Burke was able to stay close with a pair of 3-pointers as West led 20-17 at the end of the half.

"Burke did a good job of slowing the game down in the first quarter," Coach Bill Morrison said. "We didn't have many possessions in the first half and had a hard time converting when we did have chances."

After a pair of buckets by Meyer-sick and Larsen, the Wildcats led 24-19. The Bulldogs then converted on six straight possessions to gain a 32-26 advantage with 4:40 left in the quarter.

Conway helped West regain a 39-37 lead by scoring 8 points in the last four minutes of the quarter.

Burke would tie up the game at 39-39 but would not be able to regain the lead the rest of the game. After leading 49-42 with 4:05 left in the game, West found their way to the free throw line. The Wildcats made 9 of their last 10 free throws to keep the Bulldogs out of reach.

"This wasn't our best game, but we found a way to win. Free throws at the end of the game really helped," Morrison said.

"It was nice to get a win for our Seniors on our home court. We have had a really tough stretch of games in the last couple weeks," Morrison continued. "This group of guys showed that they have no quit in them. They are going to battle to the very end every night."

Scores

Freshman A (14-4)

Bell West W 82-27

Freshman B (12-4)

Bell West W 64-54

Reserves (6-11)

Bell West L 49-54

Junior Varsity (10-10)

Burk L 55-61 OT

Bell W L 60-78

Varsity (8-13)

Burke W 61-49

Bel West L 72-75

Wildcats Fall Short in Comeback Bid Against #2 Bellevue West

Bellevue West led by as many as 23 points in the 4th quarter before the Wildcats started to make a comeback. Dom Humm made a basket with 11 seconds to cut the lead to 75-72, but the Wildcats could not foul until there was 1 second left on the clock.

Humm scored 15 points in the 4th quarter to lead Millard's comeback attempt. Dalys Beanum and James Conway added 15 and 13 points respectively.

Louis Fidler led Bellevue West with 19 points. Nate Glantz scored 18. Chucky Hupburn and John Shanklin added 15 and 10 points.

Bellevue West started out fast and built an 11-4 first quarter lead in just over two minute of play. The Thunderbirds looked as if they might have an easy night as they built their lead to 20-7 with 2:18 left in the quarter.

The Wildcats were able to score on four of their last five possessions to end the quarter down 26-16.

"Early, they were scoring in transition. We were getting back, but we didn't do a very good job of contesting shots," Coach Bill Morrison said. "We also did not finish very well in the first quarter. We were getting good looks, just didn't convert."

The Wildcats were 7-16 from the floor in the first quarter and just 1 of 4 from the line.

Millard West scored eight points on their first three possessions in the 2nd quarter to cut the lead to 30-24

with 6:12 left in the quarter.

The Thunderbirds built their lead back up to 42-32 before Millard West finished the half on a 5-0 run. The Wildcats trailed 42-35 at the end of the quarter.

Scoring in the 3rd quarter slowed down considerably as both teams struggled in their shooting. Bellevue West outscored Millard West 10-7 in the quarter and led 52-42 with eight minutes left to play.

"They turned up the defensive pressure and we did not do a very good job of handling it in the third quarter," Morrison said. "We turned it over too much, and we rushed our shots. "Luckily our defense was good enough to keep us in the game."

Bellevue West came out in the 4th quarter in attack mode. They outscored the Wildcats 15-2 in the first three minutes of the quarter to build a 23-point lead, 67-44.

The Wildcats did not quit. They started attacking the basket better and were able to outscore the Thunderbirds 28-8 in the last five minutes of the game. Millard West was 12-13 from the line in that stretch.

Back to back 3's by Humm and Olson made the score 75-66 with 43 seconds remaining.

In the next two possession, Dustin Hatch got a steal on the press, and the Wildcats forced a travel call with a trap to lead to four free throws by Humm.

Humm made another shot with 11

seconds remaining, but the Wildcats were out of timeouts and could not stop the clock. By the time they were able to foul, there was only 1 second remaining on the clock.

"I thought we played with a lot of heart tonight. It would have been easy to quit multiple times," Morrison said. "Our bench was great tonight. Max, Josh, and Jacob played great, and Dustin was a key part of two turnovers late in the game."

The Wildcats finish their regular season with an 8-13 record. Twelve of their losses have been against teams that have been rated in the state's Top 10 this year.

Districts will be set on Monday for post season play. Games through Saturday will count toward district seeding. With some key games on Saturday, teams will have to wait to see what the match-ups will be.

"We have had a tough schedule. We are definitely battle tested. We have to be able to put a whole game together to pull a couple upsets in districts," Morrison added.

MW	16	19	7	30	72
BW	26	16	10	23	75

MW — Larsen 6, Olson 7, Humm 17, Wickstrom 4, Jones 6, Beanum 15, Anderson 4, Conway 13.

BW — Woodard 2, T Hepburn 2, F Fidler 9, L Fidler 19, C Hepburn 15, Glantz 18, Shanklin 10

WILDCAT BASKETBALL

Lower Levels

Junior Varsity

The JV team lost their last home game of the season 61-55 to Omaha Burke in overtime.

The Wildcats trailed after the first quarter and held a 19-16 lead at the half.

Burke was able to outscore West in both the 3rd and 4th quarter to put the game into overtime.

Ben Bizal led the Wildcats with 21 points.

The Wildcats played at Bellevue West and lost their last regular season game to the Thunderbirds 78-60.

Millard West battled hard in the first three quarters. The Thunderbirds led 55-47 after three quarters but outscored the Wildcats 23-13 in the final period for the win. Too many 2nd chance points by BW was the team's nemesis.

Dustin Hatch, Avery Moore and Ben Bizal were all in double figures to lead the offense.

The JV boys finished the season with a 10-10 record.

Reserves

In the last game of the season, the Wildcat Reserve boys came up short as Bellevue West outscored them 54-49

After holding the T-Birds to

6 first quarter points, Bellevue West started hitting shots. Millard West was getting good looks, but couldn't get them to fall.

Tanner Farrell led the team with 18 points. The Reserve team ended the season with a 6-11 record.

Freshmen A

Freshmen Wildcats improve to 14-4 on the season with an 82-27 win against Bellevue West.

West dominated the entire game and went on a 34-7 run in the 2nd half.

Everyone on the team scored, Seven players scored in double figures. Sharp shooting was a big part of the win as the Wildcats went 12-17 from three-point range.

Freshmen B

The Millard West won their last game of the season by Beating Bellevue West 64-54.

The Wildcats controlled the first half and led 34-23 at the break. The Thunderbirds were able to outscore the Wildcats 20-10 in the 3rd quarter.

West was able to hold off the comeback attempt to win the game.

The Wildcats ended the season with a 12-4 record.



Omaha Burke Scoring

Omaha Burke	9	8	20	12	49
Millard West	7	13	19	22	61

Burke — Queen 1, Moreano 5, Marshall 18, Payne 14, Graham 8, Moody 3.

MW — Larsen 3, Olson 6, Humm 7, Wickstrom 3, Beanum 13, Meyersick 13, Conway 16



Congratulations to Josh Wickstrom, who has committed to continuing his basketball and academic career at Peru State College.

Weekly Practice / Game Schedule

Monday, Feb 24

Practice

V 3:30—5:15

9th 5:15-6:30

Games

No Games

Tuesday, Feb 25

Practice

No Practice

Games

9A at Prep Tourney

Dismiss 2:45

Bus 3:00

Game Time 4:30

Wednesday, Feb 26

Practice

3:30 to 5:00 + video

Games

9A at Prep Tourney

Bus 4:45*

Game Time 6:15

Thursday, Feb 27

Practice

3:30—5:00 + video

Games

9A at Prep Tourney

Bus 5:00*

Game Time 7:30

Friday, Feb 28

Practice

3:30—5:00

Games

No Games

Saturday, Feb 29

Practice

10:00 a.m.

Games

District Game TBA

9A at Prep Tourney

Bus TBA

Game Time 9:30 a.m.

Practice/Game times are always subject to change.



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



Congratulations to 7th Grade Green for winning your Regular Season League title.

Good luck to all teams as you compete in the end of the year tournaments!