



Millard West Boys Basketball

Wildcat Report

January 4, 2021, Vol. 12 No. 6

Thunderbirds Strike in 2nd Half of Metro Game

In a match-up between two Top-10 teams in the quarter-finals of the Metro Tournament, Bellevue West pulled ahead in the 2nd half to beat Millard West 69-56.

Evan Meyersick and James Conway led the Wildcats with 12 and 10 points respectively.

The Thunderbirds were led by Frankie Fidler with 25 points and Josiah Dotzler with 15.

The #8 Wildcats were able to slow down the #2 Thunderbirds in the first half. Bellevue West led early in the game 3-2 after a Fidler 3-pointer. The Wildcats led the rest of the quarter. A basket by Trace Thaden and two free-throws by Ryan Larsen gave West a 12-8 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Bellevue West's defense forced four turnovers in the first six possessions of the 2nd quarter to take a 14-12 lead with 6:32 left in the half.

Millard West regained their composure as the teams exchanged baskets for the remainder of the half.

Dustin Hatch, Conway, and Meyer-sick led the way for the Wildcats in the first half with six points each. Fidler scored seven for Bellevue West and Will Kyle added six.

Coach Bill Morrison said that his team did a good job of executing their game plan in the first half. "We wanted to limit turnovers, control the defensive boards, and get back in transition," he said.

"They scored six points off of 3 turnovers early in the 2nd quarter. Besides that little stretch, we played pretty well in the first half," Morrison added.

Bellevue West scored five quick points to start the 2nd half. The Wildcats were able to stay in the game and were tied 34-34 with just over four minutes remaining in the quarter.

Bellevue West made four 3-pointers and a free throw over a 13-3 stretch over the next two minutes.

"They were able to make some 3-pointers in transition to pull ahead in the middle of the quarter," Morrison

said. "I thought their guys relaxed a little bit after that stretch and took control of the game."

Bellevue's defense forced seven turnovers in the 4th quarter as the Thunderbirds took a 65-46 lead with just under three minutes left in the game.

The Wildcats scored after some offensive rebounds late in the game to draw within 56-67 before Fidler's final two free throws.

#8 MW	12	12	15	17	56
#2 BW	8	16	23	22	69

MW — Larsen 9, Hatch 9, Hultman 4, Conway 10, Humm 5, Meyersick 12, Thaden 7

BW — Brown 3, Inselman 8, Jackson 2, Fidler 25, Dotzler 15, Hepburn 9, Kyle 7



Scores

<u>Freshman A (3-2)</u>	<u>Freshman B (5-1)</u>	<u>Reserves (2-4)</u>	<u>Junior Varsity (4-2)</u>	<u>Varsity (5-2)</u>
Bell West W 47-38	Bell West W 51-37	Cr Prep L 49-53	Papio S L 52-67	Bell West L 56-69
Mil North L 40-46	Mil South W 51-35	Papio S W 56-44		

Lower Levels

Freshmen A

The Millard West Freshmen came back from break ready to play and recorded a 47-38 victory.

Bellevue West played well in the first half and had a three point lead, 23-20, at half.

The Wildcats came out with fire in the second half and outscored Bellevue 17-5 in the third quarter to take control of the game

Jacob Young led the West with 10 points. Nine other Cats scored in the game.

Millard North beat the Wildcats 46-40 in the championship of the Freshman Holiday Tournament.

The Mustangs jumped out to a 16-8 lead in the first quarter and made it tough for the Wildcats to come back.

Down eight, Jacob Young put up seven points in the second quarter. With a great defensive effort in the quarter, they only trailed by two at the half.

The two teams exchanged leads in the 2nd half. The Wildcats had a hard time scoring in the 4th quarter and fell short.

Cooper Fortune scored 9 points in the game. Ben Sterbens added seven.

Freshmen B

Wildcats win their opening game of the Holiday Tournament over Bellevue West 51-37.

The Wildcats started slow and trailed 15-13 after the first quarter.

They got into a rhythm offensively and defensively. The Wildcats outscored Bellevue West 26-11 in the 2nd and 3rd quarters of the game.

The Wildcats were led offensively by Nate Buroker with 14, Bartholomew and Durand each had 6.

Other Wildcats scoring were Clausen, Kusleika, and Mar with 5 points each, Leapley added 4, and Romero and Hajduch each scored 2.

The Wildcats are the 2020 Millard West Holiday Tournament Champions after beating Millard South 51-35.

The Wildcats were down 15-10 at the end of the first quarter and 25-23 at the half. But they came out in the second half and held the Patriots to 10 total points in the half to claim the victory.

The Wildcats scoring was led by Leapley with 14, Durand - 8, Bartholomew - 7, Kusleika and Hajduch - 6, Buroker and Wand - 3, and Romero - 2

Reserves

In the opening game of the Creighton Prep Reserve Holiday Tournament, the Wildcats lost a hard fought battle against the Jr. Jays of Creighton Prep 53-49.

The Jr. Jays jumped out to a 15-8 lead at the end of the first quarter and the Wildcats could never erase the early deficit.

Coach Siepker said "We got the looks we wanted down the stretch, but we just couldn't finish."

Jaden Gaius had 12 points and Nixon Snyder added 10 points for Millard West.

The Reserve Boys bounced back for a 56-44 win against Papio South in the consolation bracket of the Prep Tournament.

The Titans held a 24-23 lead at the half, but the Wildcats were able to outscore Papio South in both the 3rd and 4th quarters.

Down the stretch, the Wildcats were able to close the door on the Titans. The big men for the Wildcats played well.

Jaiden Gaius led all scorers with 17 points. Creighton Scholting had 8 points.

Junior Varsity

The JV boys competed for a half of their game with Papio South. The Titans led 35-28 at the half.

Papio South scorched the nets with 6 3-pointers in the 3rd quarter to pull away and take control of the game. The Titans won 67-52

Papio South made 14 3-pointers for the game. Zac Grandgenett had 12 points, followed by Avery Moore with 10 points for Millard South.

The consolation game of the JV game was cancelled because of scheduling conflicts with the Varsity Metro Tournament game.



Weekly Practice / Game Schedule

Monday, Jan 4

Practice

JV/V 3:30-5:30
Res/9th 5:30—7:30

Games

No Games

Tuesday, Jan 5

Practice

Res 3:30—5:00
9th 5:10—6:40

Games

JV @ O Northwest 4:00
Bus: 2:30
Var @ O Northwest 7:15
Bus: 5:15

Wednesday, Jan 6

Practice

Res 6 a.m.
JV/V 3:40-5:10
9th 5:10-6:30

Games

No Games

Thursday, Jan 7

Practice

9th 6 a.m.
Res 3:30—4:45

Games

JV vs Elk South 5:30
Var vs Elk South 7:15

Friday, Jan 8

Practice

JV/V 4:30 at Beadle

Games

9A @ Elk South 6:00
9B @ Elk South 7:30
9th Bus: 4:50
Res @ Elk South 7:30
Res Bus: 6:20

Saturday, Jan 9

Practice

JV/V film at MW

Games

9A @ O North 9:00 a.m.
Bus: 7:45
9B @ O North 10:30 a.m.
JV @ O North 10:30 a.m.
Bus: 8:50
Var @ O North 7:15 p.m.
Bus: 5:15

Practice/Game times are always subject to change.



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



