

Millard West Boys Basketball Wildcat Report

December 20, 2021, Vol. 13 No. 3

Wildcats Win Exciting Overtime Game in Lincoln

Millard West used a “gutsy” performance to pull out an overtime victory at Lincoln High, 62-54.

The Wildcats made 8/10 free throws in overtime after missing three front end of 1-and-1’s at the end of the 4th quarter.

Cole Kirschner scored 6 of his game high 26 points in the overtime. 18 of Kirschner’s points came off of 3-pointers. He also led the team with 6 steals.

There were 12 lead changes and 3 ties between the two teams in the 2nd half.

Trace Thaden recorded a double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds. Jaidyn Gaius-Anyaegbu added 10 points and six rebounds.

Avery Moore had 7 assists and 5 rebounds. Max Frohloff had 6 rebounds and 3 assists for the Wildcats. Cole Butler recorded 5 rebounds and 5 assists off of the bench.

Lincoln High had three players in double digits. Collin Nick led with 16 points. Vince Garrett and Andrew Gaines added 14 and 10 respectively.

Coach Bill Morrison was proud of the way his team performed. “We

played through some adversity today. We’ve had some injuries and some guys have been sick so we were not at full strength. Cole Butler and Reese Kolar gave us some good minutes off of the bench to help us pull out the win.”

Lincoln High also has had a few players suffer from injuries.

“I think the first half started slow because both teams were trying to get comfortable in their roles,” Morrison said. “There were a lot of good players on the bench tonight.

“Zac Grandgenett suffered a broken ankle on the last play of the Creighton Prep game. The injury will prevent him from playing the rest of the season.

Lincoln High started out 4-0 and held the lead throughout the first quarter. Thaden scored the first 8 points for West as they concentrated on getting the ball inside. The Links led 14-10 at the end of the first quarter.

West cut the lead to 14-12 on the first possession of the half, but did not score over the next five possessions. Kirschner made back-to-back 3-pointers with just over 2 minutes

left to give West their first lead of the game 18-16. Two free throws by Jaxson Rodriguez on the next possession made the score 18-18.

“we did a good job of getting the ball to Trace in the first quarter. When they switched to zone in the 2nd quarter, we were forced to shoot from the outside,” Morrison said. “They were good shots, but we couldn’t convert on enough of them.

The scoring picked up in the 3rd quarter. There were six lead changes in the first four minutes of the 2nd



Picture by Bridget Young

Scores

Freshman A (2-1)			Freshman B (2-1)			Reserves (1-2)			Junior Varsity (4-1)			Varsity (3-2)		
Skutt	L	48-62	Skutt	W	52-49	Skutt	L	56-63	Lin High	W	49-41	Lin High	W	62-64 OT

Lincoln High (cont.)

half. West was able to score 13 points on five straight possessions to extend their lead to 41-32. Kirschner made 4four 3-pointers in the quarter.

Lincoln High stopped the momentum with a basket on an offensive rebound by Nick and a dunk by Garret on a dunk in transition as the time ran out.

Morrison talked about the end of the third quarter. "It seemed like we finally settled down and was going to take control of the game," he said. "Garretts dunk got them excited and ready for the 4th."

West scored on the first possession of the 4th quarter before Lincoln went on an 8-0 run and took the lead 44-43 with 4:03 left in the game.

Butler was able to get free for a lay up to regain the lead for the Wildcats.

Elvis Nguyen made two free throws on the next possession to take the lead back for the Links.

Frohloff made a 3-pointer to give the lead back to West. Then, Kui Diu answered with a basket to tie the score at 48-48 and just over 2 minutes left in the game.

Thaden gave West a 50-48 lead on a basket with 1:44 on the clock. Neither team scored until Nick got open on the right wing and made a 15-foot jump shot with 8 seconds remaining. West did not call time out. They were fouled with 0.4 seconds remaining, but could not convert on the free throw.

"It was a fun 4th quarter to coach. Both teams were switching between man and zone defense. Both teams

had a lot of substitutions," Morrison said. "A lot of players made big plays on both sides, and both teams played really hard down the stretch."

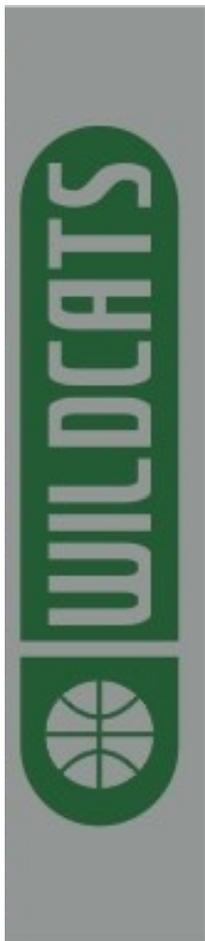
West won the tip in overtime but did not score on the first possession. The Links got three shots on their first possession but could not get the ball to fall for them.

West scored on the next seven possessions of the game to seal the victory. Lincoln High was 0/6 from 3-point land in overtime.

MW	10	8	23	9	12	62
LH	14	4	18	14	4	54

MW: Kirschner 26, Butler 2, Frohloff 8, Gaius 10, A. Moore 2, Thaden 14.

LH: Gaines 10, Nguyen 5, Garrett 14, Nick 16, Diu 7, Rodriguez 2.



Pictures by Bridget Young

Lower Levels

Freshmen A

The Freshmen Cats struggled offensively and defensively throughout the game. West was down 30-18 at half and 45-25 at the end of the 3rd.

The Wildcats fought back and tied the score early in the third quarter.

A long scoring drought put the Skyhawk lead back to double digits. West did not have enough time to make another comeback. Skutt won 48-62.

Trey Abara led West with 11 points.

Freshmen B

The Wildcats held off the Skyhawks to get their 2nd win of the season, 52-49.

West held a 33-22 lead at half time before Skutt outscored them 16-10 in the 3rd quarter to cut the lead to 43-38.

The Wildcats were led in scoring by Drew Zealand with 9 points and John McIver with 8.

Wilson and Greenlee added 7, Snyder had 6. Hughes and Fitzke scored 5 each, and Betts added 1 for West.



Picture by Bridget Young



Picture by Bridget Young

Reserves

Omaha Skutt used a strong 2nd half to beat the Wildcats 63-56.

West took control of the game early and led 17-7 after the first quarter. The extended their lead to 31-20 at the half.

The Sky-hawks pressed in the third quarter and were able to speed up the Wildcats' offense. At the end of the 3rd quarter, West 46-43.

Skutt shot 10/13 from the line in the 2nd half, while the Wildcats were just 2/13 from the line.

Nathan Durand led the Wildcats with 16 points.

Junior Varsity

The Wildcats beat Lincoln High 49-41 in Lincoln. West's offense was sped up by Lincoln's press early in the game. The Wildcats had trouble scoring because of multiple turnovers, but still led 23-17 at the half.

After outscoring the Links by 10 in the 3rd quarter, the Wildcats led 37-21. Lincoln High made a run in the 4th, but Millard West made enough free throws to hold them off and get the road win!

All nine players got in the scoring column with Jacob Young leading with 15 points.

**WILDCAT
BASKETBALL**

Weekly Practice / Game Schedule

Monday, Dec 20

Practice

JV/V 3:40–5:30

Res 5:30 –7:00

9th 5:30–7:00

Games

No Games

Tuesday, Dec 21

Practice

9/JV 3:30–5:00

Games

Varsity Metro at Prep 6:00

Reserve at Bennington 6:00



NSAA Moratorium

December 22–26

No High school player can use a Millard Public School facility during this time. They are allowed to go to a gym to workout and/or shoot, but no MPS facility.

Practice/Game times are always subject to change.



mba2mw

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

