



Millard West Boys Basketball Wildcat Report

February 27, 2023, Vol. 14 No. 13

Wildcats' Season Ends After Another Close Game

Millard West traveled to Lincoln Southwest for the first round game of the Class A-5 district.

Early on, it looked as if Southwest was going to make quick work of the Wildcats. But, like in many games earlier this season, West was able to make the game close in the 4th quarter.

Southwest won 68-62 to advance to play Lincoln East in the finals. West ended the season with an 8-15 record.

The Wildcats were led by Jaidyn Gaius-Anyaegebu with 15 points. Cole Kirschner added 12 points for West. Jordan Gassen grabbed six rebounds, and Max Frohloff dished out three assists in the game.

Southwest was led by Braden Frager with 19 points. Chuck Love and Bhan Buom added 18 and 12 points respectively.

Southwest wasted no time setting the tempo of the game. West called a timeout with 5:37 left in the first quarter and already down 11-2.

The Silver Hawks scored on all but one possession in the first quarter.

The Wildcats were able to put some points on the board in the second half of the quarter and trailed 27-13 after the first quarter.

"We talked about it in our morning shoot around," Coach Bill Morrison said. "We knew they would come out aggressive. Our #1 concern was to stop their transition game. We didn't do that in the first quarter."

West's defense buckled down in the 2nd quarter. They were able to hold the Silver Hawks to just 10 points until they made a 3-pointer at the buzzer in transition to make the score 40-27 at the half.

"The first time we played them, we were down big in the 1st half and came back to make it close," Morrison said. "We knew it was a possibility if we played good defense and got some offensive boards in the 2nd half."

Millard West was unable to cut into the lead through the first five minutes of the 2nd half. But, after trailing 48-32, the Wildcats put together a 11-2 run to end the half and cut the score to 50-43.

Southwest appeared to take control of the game early in the 4th quarter. They started the final period with a 6-0 run to give themselves a 56-43 lead with 6:45 left in the game.

The Wildcats were able to score on six straight possessions and cut the lead down to four points 61-47 with 1:49 left in the game.

Southwest scored on a jumper to make the score 63-47. West was not able to convert on their next possession and had to resort to fouling. Southwest was 6-9 from the line to finish the game and win 68-62.

"There is no quit in these guys," Morrison said. "They showed that all year. We were so close in so many games."

MW	13	14	16	19	62
LSW	27	13	10	18	68

MW—Kirschner 12, Gassen 7, Frohloff 4, Moore 8, Gaius 15, Grandgenett 8, Fortune 5, Butler 3.

LSW—Helms 7, Love 18, Buom 12, Chamberlain 5, Smith 7, Frager 19.

Scores

Freshman A (17-4)		Freshman B		Reserves		Junior Varsity		Varsity (8-15)	
			Final Record		Final Record		Final Record	Lin SW	L 62-68
Prep B	W 51-50								
Westside	W 56-49		11-3		14-4		11-7		
Prep A	L 51-53								

Freshmen Finish 2nd in Prep Tournament



Opening Round

Millard West beat the Creighton Prep B team 51-50 in quarter finals of the Prep Freshman tournament. West looked to have the game under control in the 4th quarter, but the Wildcats struggled from the free throw line late in the game.

Two Blue Jay 3-pointers put the game to within one point. The Blue Jays did not have any timeouts remaining and West won the game as time ran out.

Millard West was led by Bryson Williams with 13 points. Josh Fabrikant and Nate Marable both scored 10 points. Vince Long and Rowan Scholting added 8 points each.

In the first quarter, the two teams exchanged baskets. Neither team was up by more than 2 points in the quarter. Prep scored with 9.8 seconds left to take a 14-12 lead. Bryson Williams advanced the ball quickly down the

court and found Josh Fabrikant open for a 3-pointer at the buzzer to put West up 15-14.

The Wildcats led 18-17 before Prep put together an 8-0 run to make the score 25-18. West scored twice late in the half to cut the lead to 25-23.

West used their outside attack to start the 3rd quarter with an 8-0

run on two 3-pointers. After a basket by the Jays, Williams made his third '3' of the quarter to make the score 35-26.

Prep put together a few baskets to end the quarter down 39-31.

West started the 4th quarter by missing their first three '3's' while Prep cut the lead to 42-37. The Wildcats scored six points in a row but could not shake the Jays.



Prep started to foul the Wildcats in the last 2 minutes of the game. West was only able to make 3 of 10 free throws.

Prep converted on two 3's in the last 25 seconds to cut the game to one. After a discussion by the officials, the game was ended and the Wildcats advance to the semi-finals.

CP-B	12	13	6	19	50
MW	14	9	16	12	51

Semi-Finals

Millard West advanced to the Finals of the Prep Tournament with a 56-49 win over Westside. The win marked the Wildcats' 7th consecutive win.

West led throughout most of the game. The held a 15-6 lead after a strong start in the first quarter. The Warriors battled back in the 2nd quarter and cut the lead to 29-26 at the break.

The Wildcats increased their lead to 45-39 at the end of the 3rd quarter. Westside used a 9-0 run at the end of the 3rd quarter and beginning of the 4th quarter to cut the score to 45-44.

West led 50-46 with 2:25 left in the game. A 3-pointer by Westside made the score 51-49 with 31 seconds remaining. The Wildcats scored the last five points of the game to seal the victory.

West had balanced scoring in

the game. Josh Fabrikant and Nate Marable led all scorers with 11 points each. Vincent Long scored 10 points. Rowan Scholting and Bryson Williams added 9 and 8 points respectively.

WHS	6	20	13	10	49
MW	15	14	16	11	56



Finals

Millard West lost to the Creighton Prep A Team 53-51 in the finals of the Prep Tournament.

Nate Marable scored 20 points for the Wildcats. Josh Fabrikant and Vince Long added 11 points each. Bryson Williams added 7 points.

West dominated the first quarter. The Wildcats held a 11-6 lead with 2:32 before going on a 6-2 run to end the quarter. Marable scored 9 points in the first quarter.

The Wildcats had trouble scoring in the 2nd quarter, but their defense helped them hold onto the lead early in the quarter. A 3-pointer by Williams with 4:54 left in the game gave West a 21-13 lead. Prep ended the quarter strong by making an 8-1 run to go into the half down 22-21.

Prep used a strong 3rd quarter to take control of the game. The Jays scored on their first four possessions of the half. West's scoring was also more efficient. West trailed 29-27 after a basket by Fabrikant



with 5:19 left in the quarter.

Marable completed an old-fashioned 3-pointer to give West the lead back at 31-29. The Jays got a stop late in the game and scored on a break-out lay up to take a 34-33 lead going into the 4th quarter.

West regained the lead 35-34 on their first possession of the quarter. Prep used their outside attack to build a 43-39 lead. He two teams were tied 47-47 with 2:13 left to go. Prep made two 3-pointers to build a 53-49 lead with 1 minute left.

MW	17	5	11	18	51
CP	8	13	13	19	53

