



Millard West Boys Basketball

Wildcat Report

December 18, 2023, Vol. 15 No. 4

Wildcats Overcome Scoring Drought and Beat the Storm

Millard West survived a scoring drought in the 3rd quarter and left Elkhorn South with a 52-42 lead.

Reece Carson led the Wildcats with 15 points. Cooper Fortune scored 12 points. Jordan Gassen added 11 points and grabbed five rebounds for West.

Lincoln Schwarz led the Storm with 17 points. Leading scorer Aidan Skradis added 11 points.

West got out to a quick start and took an early 7-4 lead. Skradis scored 7 of his 11 points in the quarter. West led 18-13 after the first quarter.

The Wildcats started the second quarter in attack mode. South called a timeout after Fortune scored in transition to make the score 22-13 with 7:02 left in the period.

The Wildcats scored on their next two possessions to take a 27-17 lead. But they would not score the last 5:36 of the quarter. West held onto a 27-20 lead going into the half.

Coach Bill Morrison was happy with his team's performance in the first half. "It felt like we were in control in the 2nd quarter. Then we gave up a couple baskets and let them back in the game right before half."

In the 3rd quarter, West scored to make the score 30-23 with six minutes remaining. The Wildcats could not make a shot and committed three turnovers to allow the Storm to tie the score 30-30. West only scored 3 points in a nine minute span between the 2nd and 3rd quarters.

West scored on a pass from Carson to Gassen to take the lead 32-30 with 3:42. West would not score the rest of the quarter and trailed 36-34.

West's defense stepped up in the final period. The Wildcats forced four turnovers and built a 44-39 lead with 1:16 left.

Cooper Mroczek banked in a 3-pointer to make the score 46-42 with 49.2 left in the game. Carson helped seal the victory by making 8/8 free throws in the 4th.

"I think our defense is starting to get a lot better," Morrison said. "We played really well on the defensive end

in the 4th quarter. We didn't allow a field goal in the first six-plus minutes in the 4th quarter."

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|----|----|---|----|----|----|
| MW | 18 | 9 | 7 | 18 | 52 |
| ES | 13 | 7 | 16 | 6 | 42 |

MW — Carson 15, Gassen 11, Frohloff 7, Fortune 12, Walker 7.

ES — Skradis 11, Musil 4, Wemhoff 4, Schwarz 17, Mroczek 6.



Scores

Freshman A (3-2)

| | | |
|-----------|---|-------|
| Elk South | L | 41-56 |
| Skutt | L | 55-58 |
| O South | W | 66-41 |

Freshman B (3-0)

| | | |
|-----------|---|-------|
| Elk South | W | 80-56 |
| Skutt | W | 65-29 |

Reserves (1-2)

| | | |
|-----------|---|-------|
| Bel East | W | 75-51 |
| Elk South | L | 46-69 |
| Skutt | L | 62-66 |

Junior Varsity (5-1)

| | | |
|-----------|---|-------|
| Elk South | W | 67-53 |
| Gretna | W | 75-67 |

Varsity (4-2)

| | | |
|-----------|---|-------|
| Elk South | W | 52-42 |
| Gretna | L | 65-81 |

Dragons Scorch the Nets in 81-65 Win

Gretna used an 18-3 run in the 3rd quarter to pull away from the Wildcats and win 81-65. The Dragons' starters combined for 70 of their 81 points.

Alex Wilcoxon led Gretna with 18 points. Landon Pokorski scored 15. Alec Wilkins and Joey Vieth both added 14 to the cause. Their 5th starter, Kade Cook, scored 9 points.

West had three scorers in double-digits led by Reece Carson with 17 points. Jordan Gassen and Cooper Fortune both scored 10 points in the Wildcats' 2nd highest offensive output of the season.

Veith led the Dragons in the first quarter with seven points. West shot 60% from the floor, including 3/4 from three point range, in the quarter. But, five turnovers let to Gretna taking a 21-15 lead after the first eight minutes.

Carson made a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 21-18 on the first possession of the 2nd quarter. Gretna answered with a 9-0 run to spread the lead to 30-18.

"We had three bad possessions in that stretch, and they converted on all three of them," Coach Bill Morrison

said. "You can't allow runs like that when trying to pull off an upset."

West outscored Gretna 12-9 over the last 5:33 of the quarter. They cut the lead to seven before Wilkins scored on a lay-up at the buzzer. The Dragons led 39-30 at the break.

Gretna called a timeout with 4:18 left in the 3rd quarter after a 3-pointer by Carson made the score 46-35.

Over the next four minutes, Gretna's defense sparked an 18-3 run. West committed five turnovers in that span and was only able to stop the Dragons from scoring on one of their possessions.

The Wildcat offense scored on all but one possession in the 4th quarter. The Dragons scored on their first four possessions and scored enough over the rest of the quarter to keep West out of reach.

"We have a chance to play Gretna again in the Metro Tournament," Morrison said. "I am looking forward to seeing how our guys respond for the re-match."

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|-----|----|----|----|----|----|
| GHS | 21 | 18 | 25 | 17 | 81 |
| MW | 15 | 15 | 8 | 27 | 65 |

GHS — T Wilkins 6, A Wilkins 14, Pokorski 15, Wilcoxon 18, Vieth 14, Rice 3, Schendt 2, Cook 9.

MW — Carmichael 6, Carson 17, Gassen 10, Frohloff 4, Long 6, Fortune 10, Kozney 3, LaBorde 2, Walker 7.



Lower Levels

Reserves

The Reserve team won their first game of the season by beating Bellevue East 75-51

The first half highlighted a lot of scoring by each team. West led 41-36 going into the break.

West was able to continue scoring and clamp down on defense win by a margin of 24 points.

Samson Baker led the Wildcats with 16 points. Ryan Beightol scored 14. Evan Ward added 13, and Solomon Baker contributed 11 points.

Other scorers included Teager 2, Batliner 4, Benton 2, Frazier 6, Gustafson 2, Johnson 5.

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| MW | 22 | 19 | 17 | 17 | 75 |
| BE | 18 | 18 | 9 | 6 | 51 |

Elkhorn South outscored the Wildcats in each of the first three quarters to pull away for the victory.

West trailed by five after the first quarter and ten and the half. In the third quarter, South was able to stretched the lead to 23 points.

Ryan Beightol and Cale Frazier led the Wildcats with 12 and 11 points. Other scorers include Teager 3, Gustafson 2, Batliner 3, Sa Baker 4, Lucks 2, So Baker 9.

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| MW | 15 | 9 | 9 | 13 | 46 |
| ES | 20 | 14 | 22 | 13 | 69 |

The Reserve team scored 21 points in the 4th quarter but lost to Omaha Skutt 66-62.

Skutt used a 19-12 2nd quarter to take a 28-24 lead into the half. The two teams tied in both the 3rd and 4th quarters.

Skutt built a lead early in the 4th quarter that West could not overcome, despite four 3's in the quarter.

Ryan Beightol led the Wildcats with 20 points and Cale Frazier added 11.

Other scoring: Ward 6, So Baker 4, Sa Baker 5, Gustafson 2, Benton 8, Batliner 4, Teager 3.

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| MW | 12 | 12 | 17 | 21 | 62 |
| SC | 9 | 19 | 17 | 21 | 66 |

Jr. Varsity

The Wildcats knew that their game with Elkhorn South might be one of the toughest games of the season so far. The way the first half played out, they were correct. At halftime, Elkhorn South had an 8 point lead.

After a feisty locker room talk, the second half was a different story. Millard West outscored Elkhorn South 29-17 in the 2nd half.

Great team defense with some transition opportunities was a big reason for the turn-around. This game was also the best the Wildcats shot from the free throw line, going 14/17 for the game.

Jayden Kozney led the Wildcats with 19 points. Vince Long contributed 12 points. Colvin Zimmerman chipped in 11 points.

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| MW | 14 | 14 | 15 | 24 | 67 |
| ES | 15 | 21 | 6 | 11 | 53 |

The Millard West JV boys started the game on fire by hitting four 3-pointers by three different players in the 1st quarter. Their defense also played with intensity to take a 12 point lead into the 2nd quarter.

Gretna would not go away easily. The game was back and forth in the 2nd quarter with Gretna finishing a 6-0 run to trim the Wildcats lead to 7 points by halftime.

The 2nd half continued to be back and forth with Gretna pressing and Millard West attacking for layups. A key play by Colvin Zimmerman on the defensive end, drawing a charge in transition, allowed the Wildcats to pull away from the Dragons.

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|-----|----|----|----|----|----|
| MW | 25 | 15 | 23 | 12 | 75 |
| GHS | 13 | 20 | 19 | 15 | 67 |

WILDCAT BASKETBALL

Lower Levels

Freshmen A

Elkhorn South's first half defense helped them build an early lead by forcing the Wildcats to turn the ball over. The Storm led 16-9 after the first quarter.

West was able to stay close in the 2nd quarter by clamping down on defense themselves and trailed 19-24 at the half.

Every time the Wildcats tried to cut into the Storm lead, Elkhorn South had an answer to prevent any come-back attempts.

Ben LaBorde and Gavin Miller led the team with 11 points each. Other scorers included J Morrison 1, Williams 7, Olsen 6, Erickson 5.

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| MW | 9 | 10 | 14 | 8 | 41 |
| ES | 16 | 8 | 22 | 10 | 56 |

The Wildcats lost to Omaha Skutt despite a 4th quarter comeback attempt, 58-55.

The Skyhawks built a let in the first quarter largely in-part due to 2nd chance points after offensive rebounds.

West trailed by 3 after the 1st quarter and seven at the half. West regained the lead in the 3rd quarter, but Skutt was able to take it right back.

The Wildcats outscored Skutt in the 4th quarter. They came close to taking the lead a few times in, but, each time, Skutt would make a big play to hold the lead. The game ended with a deep 3-pointer by Jackson Van Winkle that fell just short of the goal at the buzzer.

Gavin Miller led the Wildcats with 19 points. Matt Erickson added 12 points

Other scoring for West included Cauble 9, J Morrison 2, LaBorde 2, Van Winkle 5, Williams 4, Olsen 2.

| | | | | | |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| MW | 10 | 14 | 12 | 19 | 55 |
| Skutt | 13 | 18 | 14 | 13 | 58 |

Millard West outscored the Packers in all four quarters to pull away to a 20-point victory, 61-41. Five different Wildcats combined for nine 3-pointers in the game.

West led 30-22 at the half before they out-scored Omaha South 25-12 in the 3rd quarter.

Three Wildcats scored in double digits. Gavin Olsen led the way with 27 points. Ben LaBorde and Matt Erickson scored 14 and 12 points respectively.

Other scoring for West were Cauble 5, J Morrison 3, Miller 5,

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| MW | 18 | 12 | 25 | 11 | 66 |
| OS | 13 | 9 | 12 | 7 | 41 |



Freshmen B

The Wildcats got their 2nd win of the season with a 80-56 victory over Elkhorn South.

The Wildcats came out strong, taking the lead at the start of the game and never looking back.

The offense was led by Jackson Van Winkle with 23 points. Other Wildcats scoring were Combs 11, Cauble 10, Simons 8, Malik 7, Unger, Schramm and Teter 5 each, J Morrison, Sander, and I Morrison 2 each.

| | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| MW | 17 | 14 | 20 | 29 | 80 |
| ES | 6 | 12 | 21 | 17 | 56 |

The Wildcats won their home opener to get their 3rd win of the season.

The Wildcats defense held the Skyhawks to 7 points in the first half and 29pts total.

The Wildcats offense got off to a fast start and kept the lead the whole game. Offensively the Wildcats were led by Jameson Malik and Jacob Morrison who each had 13pts. Other Wildcats scoring were Kozney 11pts, Unger 9pts, Simons and Combs 6pts, Sander 4pts, and Teter 3pts.

| | | | | | |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| MW | 19 | 15 | 16 | 15 | 65 |
| Skutt | 2 | 5 | 11 | 11 | 29 |

2023-2024

www.millardwesthoops.com

Beadle & Russell Both Win League Championship



Weekly Practice / Game Schedule

Monday, Dec 18

Practice

JV/V 3:40—5:40

9th 3:40—5:10

Res 5:30—7:10

Games

No Games

Tuesday, Dec 19

Practice

JV/V 3:40-5:40

9th 3:40—5:10

Games

Res vs Bennington 6:00

Wednesday, Dec 20

Practice

JV/V 3:40—5:10

9th TBA

Games

Res at Prep Tourney 5:30

Thursday, Dec 21

Practice

JV/V 10:30—Noon

9th Noon-1:30

Games

Res at Prep Tourney TBA

Friday, Dec 22

Practice

Boys 8:30 a.m.

Games

Var vs Buena Vista

At Westview

Game at Noon

Bus leaves 10:00

All players can ride bus!

Moratorium December 23-27

Players can not use any

Millard Public Schools

Facilities

Practice/Game times are always subject to change.

December 18, 2023



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