

January 9, 2017

# Millard West Boys Basketball

## Wildcat Report

Special Edition

## Millard West Tops Metro Tournament — And Now the Rankings

Millard West has its first in-season No. 1 ranking in the Nebraska Top 10.

The only other time the Wildcats were No. 1 was in the pre-season ratings for 1999-2000. That team, with center Kyle Baker, Dan Bruce, and Zac Robinson among the key players, lost twice in the second week of December and had four losses before January. Yet, those Wildcats are still the school's only team to make the Class A boys semifinals.

The new Wildcats are the first to win the Metro Conference's holiday tournament, a feat that elevates them to No. 1 in the state.

Their winning path had a shaky beginning. They didn't play well against Omaha Northwest, which is now 2-8, in the first round Dec. 30 and eked out a 60-55 win.

Coach Bill Morrison said the players met after that game. What followed were last week's wins of 54-26 over then-Class A

No. 1 Omaha South, 60-48 over then-No. 3 Omaha North, and 71-56 over then-No. 4 Papillion-La Vista in the final.

"They fixed a couple things that needed to be fixed" he said. "We still have a long ways to go, though. We have big goals."

### Class A Top 10 — Jan. 9

1. Millard West
2. Papillion-La Vista
3. Omaha Creighton Prep
4. Norfolk
5. Lincoln East
6. Omaha Burke
7. Omaha South
8. Millard North
9. Omaha Central
10. Omaha North

Senior guard Shae Wyatt led the tournament in scoring with 89 points. Morrison said six or seven other Wildcats also have had games of 10 points or more.

Of them, Colby Gomes and Simon Hay have been the most consistent scorers supporting Wyatt.

For Millard West to remain at No. 1 will require Herculean play in the coming month. After a Tuesday home game with Lincoln North Star (2-9), the Wildcats have eight games in a row against teams with winning records.

The grind starts with Friday's rematch with Papillion-La Vista (8-3)— the preseason favorite in Class A had been No. 5 in the Top 10 before the Metro tourney but is back to No. 2.

After that are games Saturday at home against Bellevue West (6-5), Jan. 19 at suddenly dangerous, new No. 6 Omaha Burke (5-4), Jan. 20 at No. 8 Millard North (7-3), Jan. 24 at No. 5 Lincoln East (8-2), Jan.

27 at home against Omaha Central (7-3), Feb. 3 at home against Lincoln Pius X (6-1) and Feb. 4 at No. 4 Norfolk (9-2).