

February 4 , 2018

Millard West Boys Basketball Wildcat Report

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Wildcats Re-acquire Ownership Rights to Q-Street

The Millard West Boys Basketball Team used a strong defensive effort to run past cross-town rival Millard South. The Wildcats outscored the Patriots 31 to 15 in the 2nd half to secure the 61-42 victory.

Evan Meyer was the only player on either team in double digits for the

night with 16 points.

Tristan Gomes helped the Wildcats get off to an early lead. He scored 5 points early in the quarter. A 3-pointer by Zach Olson gave West an early 8-3 lead.

Late in the quarter, The Patriots were able to put together a 6-0 run

and take a 14-12 lead with 1:24 left in the quarter. A basket by Kaedyn Odermann before Meyersick was fouled on a shot and converted the ensuing free throw gave West a 17-14 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The scoring picked up for both teams early in the 2nd quarter. West gained a 26-21 lead on another basket by Meyersick after an offensive rebound with less than 40 seconds left in the half.

Two free throws by Meyersick gave the Wildcats a six point lead, but a 3-pointer by Jack Cooper at the buzzer made the score 30-27 at the half.

"I thought we played really well offensively in the first half," Coach Bill Morrison said. "We let them drive the ball into the paint a little too much and they made their shots to keep it close."

West came out of the half more aggressive on offense in the 2nd half. They were fouled shooting on two of their first four possessions and extended their lead to 34-27 with 6:19 re-

Hoops for Hope Game



Scores

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Freshman A (8-4)

Papio LV W 61-40

Freshman B (9-2)

Papio LV W 48-44

Skutt W 54-50

Reserves (6-7)

Mil North L 56-59

Junior Varsity (16-2)

Prep L 37-52

Lin NE W 62-54

Varsity (9-7)

Prep L 50-59

Mil South W 61-42

Lin NE W 66-32

Rivalry Win Brings Out Display of Emotions

maintaining in the 3rd quarter.

West then switched to a 1-3-1 zone defense and made it tough for the Patriots to get good shots.

"We put our 3 bigs in and went to a zone," Morrison said. "We have been working on it because we wanted to be able to play Gomes, Meyer-sick, and Odermann at the same time. It worked pretty well tonight."

South only scored 2 points in the 3rd quarter as West extended their lead to 45-29 going into the 4th quarter.

"We wanted to stay aggressive, but manage the clock at the same time in

the 4th quarter. We knew they wouldn't quit," Morrison said.

West started the 4th quarter with two turnovers. Two South 3-pointers cut the lead to 47-35 before West took control of the game. The Wildcats scored on eight consecutive possessions including 6 of 6 from the line.

"The West-South game is always a great atmosphere. I was worried that we were a little too excited, but the guy played really hard and still executed the game plan," Morrison said.

"This was probably the best we prepared for a team. We need to

take that into the last two weeks of the season and post season," commented Morrison. "When we heard them call a play, we took it away. I thought it was a big step for our team tonight."

MW	17	13	15	16	61
MS	14	13	2	13	42

MW — Olson 5, Humm 2, Watson 4, Glantz 4, Harmdierks 8, Odermann 8, Beanum 5, Gomes 8, Meyersick.

MS — Locum 7, B. Stenger 2, Thompson 5, Benak 8, DeArmond 8, G Stenger 6, Just 3, Cooper 3



#7 Prep Fends off Challenge From Young #9 Wildcats Team

Omaha Creighton Prep coach Josh Luedtke preaches optimum effort, and his seventh-ranked Junior Jays showed it often enough Tuesday night to post a 59-50 Metro Conference basketball victory over Millard West.

There were moments when Luedtke hoped things might go a bit better — times when the Wildcats would quickly cut into a lead the Junior Jays had just built — but he also understands that maximum focus can be difficult to have in a midweek game.

“Millard West is never going to quit, and we knew they weren’t going to quit on us,” Prep coach Josh Luedtke said. “Overall it seemed like a typical Tuesday night game. It lacked some energy, but overall I thought we did all right.”

Prep went on its first big run early in the second quarter after the opening eight minutes ended with the teams tied at 12. Back-to-back slam dunks by Nebraska recruit Akol Arop and a layup by Robert Peters in the first 1:05 gave Prep an 18-12 lead.

Class A No. 9 Millard West quickly trimmed its deficit to one before Prep bounced back to build a 31-24 halftime lead.

The new-look Wildcats — all five of their starters from the 2017-18 season were seniors — have jelled into a tight unit that, while young, is one of Class A’s most improved squads.

“Our defense is pretty good, and it really wasn’t too bad tonight,” Wildcats coach Bill Morrison said. “They’re such a tough guard because you have to pay attention to Arop, and they’ve got multiple guys who can shoot. When we got

tired, we started making some mistakes.”

Turnovers hurt the 7-7 Wildcats, especially in the second half. The third quarter basically was a draw — the Junior Jays added one point to their halftime lead to take a 44-36 lead — before Prep more than doubled that advantage with a 13-3 run to open the fourth quarter.

Arop and CJ Wolfe, who led all scorers with 13 points apiece, scored all but two of Prep’s points in that run. Wolfe also led all players with 11 rebounds.

Though it was a low-scoring affair, Luedtke said, the team met one of the goals it sets for each game.

“We always preach about trying to get five guys into double figures, and we were able to do that tonight,” Luedtke said. “We’ve got to have great effort and great focus. I think we do it at times, but we have to do it for 32 minutes. We’ve got to get ready to go.”

Spencer Schomers scored 11 points and both Thomas Faber and Peters chipped in 10 for Prep. Senior guard Cam Watson led the Wildcats with 11 points and seven rebounds.

Millard West committed 17 turnovers, including six in the fourth quarter, while Prep turned the ball over just four times.

“We have come a long way and we have a lot of different choices this season,” Morrison said. “But at the same time we have to get better mentally. I still don’t think we’re close to our potential. When one mistake happens, we tend to make a second mistake.”

Because of some postponements earlier in the season, the Wildcats have kicked off a stretch of eight games in the final three weeks of the season. The next four are against teams with sub-.500 records, but the final three are against Class A No. 10 Papillion-La Vista South, Lincoln North Star and Top 10 No. 3 Kearney.

“Our guys have plenty of fight,” Morrison said. “It’s good to know we still have three weeks, and we’re going to have to beat a team like them if we want to do anything at the end of the season.”

MW (7-7).....12 12 12 14-50
At Prep (16-3)....12 19 13 15-59

MW: Dalys Beanum 2-5 0-0 4, Cam Watson 4-11 1-1 11, Nate Glantz 3-10 0-0 6, Max Anderson 1-2 0-0 2, Tristan Gomes 2-4 0-1 4, Zach Olson 2-2 0-0 5, Evan Meyersick 2-6 0-0 4, Dominic DeAngelo-Humm 2-7 1-2 6, Kaedyn Odermann 1-1 1-1 3, Jacob Harmdierks 1-1 0-0 2, Aabid Sidiqi 0-0 2-2 2. Totals 20-49 5-6 50.

CP: Akol Arop 6-8 1-6 13, Robert Peters 5-10 0-0 10, Thomas Faber 3-12 2-2 10, Spencer Schomers 4-10 0-0 11, Mai’jhe Wiley 0-2 2-2 2, CJ Wolfe 5-11 1-1 13, Drew Grinbergs 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 23-54 6-11 59.

3-point goals: MW 5-12, CP 7-22 Total fouls: MW 6, CP 11. Turnovers: MW 17, CP 4. Rebounds: MW 33, CP 25. Field goal percentage: MW .408, CP .426. Free throw percentage: MW .833, CP .545. A-300 (est.)

Wildcats Blast Past Rockets in 2nd Half

The Millard West defense made a statement early in the game that they were ready to play.

offense. After 4 minutes of play, the score remained 2-0 in favor of the Wildcats.



The Wildcats' defense only allowed 2 points in the 1st quarter and held Lincoln Northeast to 4 points in the half before a 3-pointer at the buzzer made the score 20-7.

Evan Meyersick led West with 13 points. Cam Watson and Tristan Gomes added 10 points each.

Pierce Bazil scored 12 points for Lincoln Northeast.

The game started out at a slow pace. West started in their 1-3-1 zone and made it very difficult for the undersized Rockets to get a good look at the basket.

But West had trouble converting on

mark and switched to man-to-man defense. The Wildcats led 11-2 at the end of the first quarter.

"Our 5-man substitution in the first quarter was planned," Morrison said. "It was our 3rd game of the week and we wanted to keep our energy level up by playing everyone."

West's defense forced seven turnovers in the 2nd quarter, including five on the first six possession of the quarter as they built a 16-2 lead with 5:47 left in the half.

West was only able to score twice on their last nine possessions. A three pointer by Carson Busch as the

time ran out made the score 20-7 at the half.

"We thought our zone would give them problems, but we wanted to put more pressure on them and try to speed the tempo up in the 2nd half," Morrison said.

The plan worked. The Wildcats forced three more turnovers early in the 3rd quarter and scored on their first six possession to open up a 31-10 lead. West led 45-19 at the end of the quarter.

The Cats stayed aggressive and scored on seven straight possessions to open the final period and extend their lead to 61-26.

"Our defense was really solid this weekend. "We held the other points to 2 points in two different quarters, and held Northeast to just 7 points in the first half," Morrison said.

"We think our defense is what we need to hang our hat on," Morrison added. "This team plays hard and are really starting to gel. It's a good time to do that."

LNE	2	5	12	13	32
MW	11	9	25	21	66

LNE — Bush 8, Schejbal 4, Bazil 12, Moerer 3, Rnard 2, Fuchs 3

MW — Olson 2, Humm 2, Watson 10, Glantz 8, Harmdierks 5, Odermann 6, Beanum 8, Anderson 2, Gomes 10, Meyersick 13

Lower Levels

Freshmen A

The Freshmen A team won the first three quarters on their way to building a 51-27 lead.

The Wildcats won 61-40 and moved their record to 8-4.

Jaxson Cahoy led all scorers with 22 points. Cahoy scored 17 of those 22 in the 3rd quarter.

The Millard West Freshmen also out-rebounded Papillion by 13.

Freshmen B

The Wildcats Freshmen B get back on the winning track with a 48-44 home win over Papillion-LaVista.

The Wildcats were led offensively by Jaxson Neumann with 10 points. Other Wildcat scoring was Parker 8, Holzer 7, Schaecher 6, Becker and Fialla 4 and Young, Weigent and Spreitzer had 3 points.

The Wildcats' Freshmen B team continue their winning ways with a 54 to 50 win over Skutt Catholic.

Each team won 2 of the 4 quarters but the Wildcats won it at the free throw line again this game. The Wildcats were 12 for 20 from the line.

Caden Becker led the Wildcats with 14 points followed by Neumann who had 9 points. Other Wildcat scoring: Failla had 8, Parker 7, Spreitzer 6, Young and Weigent had 4 points and Traubel rounded it off with 2pts.

Reserves

The Reserves lost their only game of the week 56-59 against Millard

North.

The Wildcats led 32-30 at half, but the Mustangs used a 14-8 3rd quarter to take control of the game.

Spencer Fortune made a lay-up with 10 seconds remaining to tie the score 56-56.

Millard North crossed half court and call a timeout with 3 seconds left. Millard North's desperation heave at the buzzer went in for the win.

Ben Bizal led the Wildcats with 14 points.

Jr. Varsity

In a battle of one loss teams, the JV Boys suffered their 2nd loss of the season, 37-52.

In the first 3 quarters of the game, the Blue Jays were the aggressors. Millard West did not capitalize on

many opportunities they had on the offensive end after playing tough defense.

In the 4th quarter, MW became the aggressors and cut the lead to 7 for multiple possessions but could not get any closer.

Josh Wickstrom led the team with 9 points.

After a big first quarter by the Wildcats, Lincoln Northeast tied up the score at halftime 29-29.

West won both of the last quarters on their way to a 62-54 victory.

The JV Boys were able to pull away in the last 3 minutes of the game to get the victory.

James Conway led the team with 24 points. Ryan Larsen and Chase Hultman contributed 11 and 10 points respectively.



Weekly Practice / Game Schedule

Monday, Feb 4

Practice

Var 3:30-5:00

Games

JV at Burke 6:00
9A at Burke 6:00
Res at Burke 7:30
9B at Burke 7:30
Bus leaves at 4:30

Tuesday, Feb 5

Practice

Boys 3:30
9A — TBA

Games

Var at Bell East 7:15
Bus leaves at 4:45

Wednesday, Feb 6

Practice

Res 6:00 am
V/JV 3:30–5:00
9th 5:00-6:30

Games

No Games

Thursday, Feb 7

Practice

V/JV 3:30-5:10
9th 5:10-6:40

Games

Res vs Bennington 6:30

Friday, Feb 8

Practice

Res 6:00 am
Boys TBA

Games

Var vs Benson 7:15

Saturday, Feb 9

Practice

Boys TBA

Games

9A at Mil North 9:30 am
9B at Mil North 11:00 am
Bus leaves at 8 am
Res vs Elk South 11:00 am
JV vs PLV South 4:00
Var vs PLV South 5:15

Practice/Game times are always subject to change.



mba2mw

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

Future Wildcats are Honored Guests and Millard West

The 8th grade basketball players from Beadle and Russell Middle Schools were invited to attend an “official visit” to Millard West on Saturday. To start the festivities, the players enjoyed pizza and drinks.

Coach Morrison explained the game plan for the Lincoln Northeast. They talked about what the players would expect to see and discussed player tendencies for the Rockets.

They also went through a video session. The players watched game tape from the Varsity team’s win over Millard South the night before. Coach Morrison explained why they go over game tape with the players and that it is a

great learning tool that can help teams improve throughout the season.

Leon Haith and Coach Tauber gave the players a tour of the athletic facilities at Millard West. And, finally, they were able to enjoy a 66-32 victory in the Varsity game. They players were recognized at half-time of the game.

The event is geared toward helping next year’s players know what to expect as part of the high school basketball program. We are looking forward to seeing what kind of mark the Class of 2023 leaves on the Millard West Basketball Program.



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