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West Word Web Exclusives



Boys hoops vastly improved

Adriana Zalloni
World Editor

Senior forward Boris Cayemitte scored a career-high 26 points as the boys basketball team recorded a rare 59-53 win over the Wildkits of Evanston Township (ETHS) last Friday in the Contest Gym.

The victory, coupled with a 59-42 win over Loyola Academy on Tuesday, brings the Wolves' record to 6-3 (2-1 in the Central Suburban League South) in head coach Bob Williams' inaugural season at the helm.

"The players are working diligently to be successful," Williams said. "We found out that we can be more competitive with the best teams in the state."

Against ETHS, junior guard Tony Pierce added 11 points to help Cayemitte secure the victory.

Junior forward Lauris Herth, a recent transfer from Winnetka's North Shore Country Day School, has begun to make his presence felt for his new team, scoring 14 to lead the Wolves over the Ramblers.

The previous Friday, Dec. 11, the Wolves won a bizarre contest against Glenbrook South. The Wolves failed to score a field goal in the last quarter, nearly squandering a 14-point lead. Late free throws and two critical blocked shots by Cayemitte sealed the nailbiter.

Perhaps the defining game of the season so far, however, was the one that got away, a 53-49 loss to bitter rival New Trier on Dec 8. According to Williams, the team played well for most of the game but couldn't seal the deal.

"We were up by four points with under three minutes to go," Williams said. "[However], we did not finish the game with confidence and lost by four. [Although] we did not play up to potential, we have continued to improve each game."

The Wolves extracted a measure of revenge for the football team by trouncing district rivals Niles North 70-53 on Dec. 1.

"We played well in the second half and showed the confidence needed to be successful at the end of the game," Williams said. "It was satisfying to see our hard work paid off."

During Thanksgiving week's 36th annual Billy Schnurr Tournament the Wolves defeated Urban Prep 68-43 on Nov. 23. However, they lost to Glenbrook North (69-55) and Lake Forest (65-56). Lake Forest went on to take the championship.

Despite a number of lackluster seasons, the Wolves' current success does not surprise team members, who attribute the team's improvement to Williams' tutelage.

"Our whole mindset and work ethic is different this year. It makes us better as a whole," senior guard Marlowe Soriano said. "[Williams] makes us work harder. He teaches us to be more disciplined and to focus better."

Junior forward Patrick O'Connor agrees.

"The largest improvement I have seen is a change in mindset over the summer," O'Connor said. "We are learning to do things the right way, and we are starting to see some of the benefits."

Williams believes the team's success comes from the team's ability to give intense effort at every game and practice. He provided his keys for what the team must do to continue its successful season.

"We need to continue to focus on [improving] our abilities to run an effective offense to get scores on the inside and to rebound more effectively at both ends of the floor," Williams said. "Our defense is a strength that we will continue to improve upon as championship teams are built."



Rodney Metellus guards the basket.
Photo by Sarah Espinosa.