

Sports

Wolves smother Trevians 57-43, play Evanston next

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The oldest member of the Niles West Wolves was nine years from being born in 1976. That year, of course, was the year that West last won a CSL South title. That could change, as the Wolves put themselves in prime position to win a title with their 57-43 triumph over the New Trier Trevians. The win also set up a winner-take-all showdown at home against Evanston for the CSL South crown.

Coach Dave Genis, who was a junior in high school back in 1976, was extremely pleased with his team's defensive intensity.



Sophomore Sead Odzic (25) scores.

"Defensively, we made them work extremely hard to get a look at the basket, and at times, we forced them into making tough passes to guys who took some bad shots," Genis added.

Perhaps the defensive star of the Wolves is guard Jimmy Thengil. Matched up against the Trevians' best player, guard Brett Sortal, Thengil continuously disrupted the Trevians' offense and earned praise from Genis.

"I think Jimmy Thengil is every bit, probably better than (Brett) Sortal when it comes to individual defense," Genis noted, comparing Thengil to the Trevians' defensive ace.

Thengil wasn't alone, however, in stopping the Trevians' offensive attack. Alternating between a 1-1-3 match-up zone and a straight man-to-man, West succeeded in flustering a watered-down New Trier backcourt, one that was short-handed due to the suspension of guard Louis Powell. Genis,

though, downplayed the suspension.

"I won't speculate how the game would have been different with the suspended players in there," Genis said.

Meanwhile, on the offensive end, the Wolves were carried once again by guards Sead Odzic and Jarryd Loyd. Odzic hit four three-pointers en route to a team high 22 points. Loyd followed with 13 and had seven assists as well.

For their fine play this season, Loyd and Odzic were named to the CSL all-conference squad. If their team wins Friday night against Evanston, they will have another award. This time it will be conference champ.



Junior Walter Mendenhall (35) skies.