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Sports

Veni, vidi, Vikings

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The Niles North Vikings girls' team more than avenged an earlier defeat at the hands of the Wolves on Thursday, Feb. 19, punishing the West squad 45-18 in the regional final.

On December 6, the Wolves upset the 12th-ranked Vikings 38-32 as part of a basket-ball-packed West vs. North weekend.

Despite its lopsided final score, the regional final wasn't always a one-sided game. In fact, it was quite the contrary. Junior Hailee Sullivan knocked down a three to give West an early 3-2 lead. Junior Jesse Plaia followed with four quick points inside to give the Wolves a 7-2 advantage. West led 9-4 at the end of the first quarter, but was about to be buried in a purple avalanche of points.

The combination of Christina Davidson hitting everything from the outside and Natasha Williams using her imposing frame to dominate the paint sparked the unfathomable 29-0 North run. The Wolves did not score from midway through the first quarter until Plaia made a free throw with 2:30 left in the third quarter. The Vikings outscored West by a combined score of 31-1 in the second and third quarters.

Needless to say, there wasn't a whole lot of meaningful action in the final frame. One bright spot in an otherwise dismal affair was the fact that head Coach Lou Metallo was able to get his seniors into the game, for their final chance to hit the hardwood in a Niles West uniform.

The Vikings benefited from the rout as well, as North coach Joel Kessler was able to rest Davidson and Williams, who both left to a thunderous response from the massive throng of Viking fans and cheerleaders who made the crosstown trek for the regional title game.

When the final horn sounded, the scoreboard read 45-18, and the Wolves had no answers as to how the giant collapse occurred.

Senior Barbara Williams was at loss for words after the game.

"I honestly don't know what to tell you. It was bad," Williams said.

Hailee Sullivan (11) breaks the North press as Julia Varsamis (1) prepares to set a screen. Photo by Jordan Simon