

# Boys Basketball: MSL Wins Conference Battle With WSC

on January 08, 2025

The annual WSC/MSL Challenge for boys basketball wrapped up its two days of action at Buffalo Grove Saturday, Jan. 4, but it was the Mid-Suburban League teams coming out on top at the end of the day.

The MSL squads posted an impressive 8-3 record over the West Suburban Conference squads, with all 11 games being played at Buffalo Grove over a two-day span.

Here's a look at how the WSC/MSL Challenge went down:

Saturday, Jan. 4

**Rolling Meadows 39, Downers Grove North 37:** Rolling Meadows (13-2) was able to hold off a strong Downers Grove North squad after being led by Ian Miletic (14 points) and Lazar Lazarevic (8 pts., 5 assists). DGN led 20-11 at half, but Meadows closed the deficit to 30-28 entering the fourth.

**Hinsdale Central 70, Hersey 46:** Hersey (12-2) was dealt just its second loss of the season after Hinsdale Central (13-2) put on a clinic against the Huskies. Central led 34-16 at half. Hersey was led by Charlie Pomis with 16 points, while Central was guided by Dillon Orozco, who dropped 27 points on Hersey.

**Fremd 78, Oak Park-River Forest 61:** Fremd (14-1) rolled past OPRF (7-7) for the Vikings 12th straight win as they surpassed 1,000 points scored as a team this season. Fremd is averaging a little over 67 points per game and they eclipsed their average by 11 points in the win. It is tied for the second most points they scored in a game this season. Fremd led 41-22 at half and never looked back. The Vikings were led by Jordan Williams (25

points).

**Palatine 64, Glenbard West 56:** Tony Balanganayi (16 points) and Darrin Dick (16 pts.) combined for 32 points to help Palatine pull away in the second half on their way to a 64-56 win. Palatine led 29-28 at half with Kasey May pacing the team with 10 points. TJ Williams led Glenbard West with 15 points.

**York 52, Hoffman Estates 40:** In the upset, York (6-8) was led by Connor Fitzgerald with 21 points, while Hoffman Estates (12-4) was led by Daiquan Daniels (13 pts.) and St. Viator transfer Joey Hernandez (8 pts.).

**Buffalo Grove 62, Willowbrook 60:** Buffalo Grove (5-10) jumped out to a 33-26 halftime lead over Willowbrook, before holding on to win an exciting battle late. Buffalo Grove was 1-8 in their last nine games entering the event, but they finally broke out of the rut against the Warriors (3-7). Buffalo Grove was paced by Alex Sirbu (23 points, 21 rebounds) and Ernie Karnauchovas (21 pts.).

Friday, Jan. 3

**Prospect 63, Proviso East 59:** Prospect (6-9) was led by Ryan Lifton with 15 points as the Knights pulled through against a tough Proviso East (7-7) squad. Ben Schneider (13 pts.) and Jack Skoog (10 pts., 8 rebounds) also had big games for Prospect.

**Addison Trail 75, Conant 69:** It was an amazing battle between Addison Trail's Luke Smith (40 points) and Conant's Bradley Biedke (30 pts.), but in the end it was the Blazers pulling out the win over the Cougars.

**Wheeling 40, Morton 29:** Wheeling (7-8) was led by Zach Neukirch (11 points), Brent Collar (8 pts.) and Nathaniel Rouse, Jr (8 pts.) in a great win to start the year. The Wildcats led 15-6 after one quarter and 24-21 at half. Wheeling held a 28-25 lead entering the fourth, before outscoring Morton

12-4 in the final quarter.

**Elk Grove 79, Leyden 74:** Elk Grove (2-12) had its best game of the season as they nearly hit 80 points to stun a hobbled Leyden squad. Elk Grove was led by Cooper Casterton (30 points), while Leyden was led by Nicholas Gattuso (22 pts.).

Other scores:

**Schaumburg 55, Downers Grove South 30**