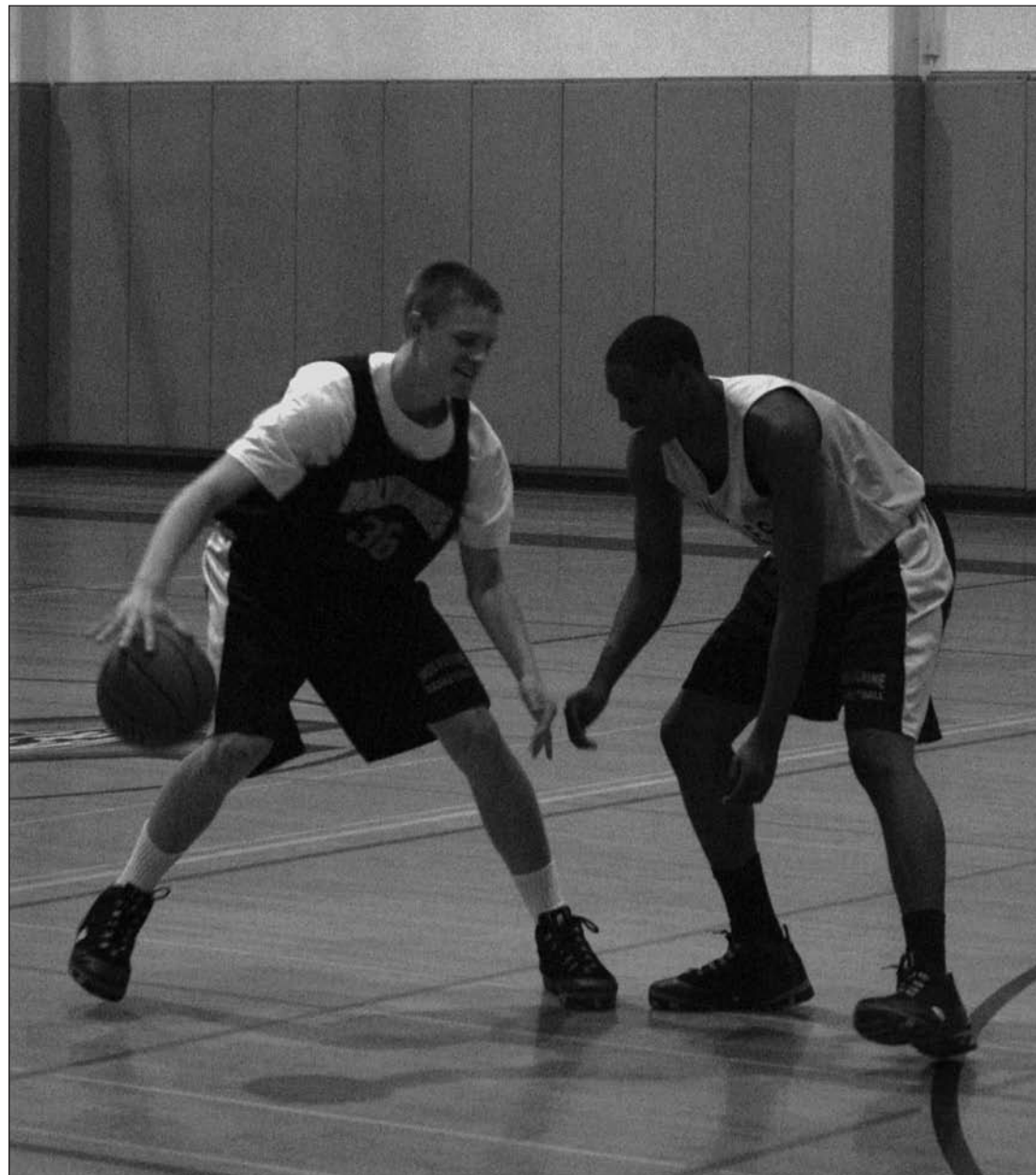


# Showdown in PQ

Feb. 3: WV vs. MC

As Westview's basketball and soccer teams prepare to face down MC, here's a quick look at what's been done, what needs to be done, and how all that will affect the outcome of the games. *The Nexus* investigates how the teams have fared this season and what the Westview fan should look for in these key games.



Jessica Chang

Peter Rubis (11) dribbles in practice as Justin Allison (11) attempts to guard. Heading into Tuesday's game, the Wolverines have already defeated the Sundevils in their first game of the season.

## Players' size and versatility to greatly benefit boys basketball

Andrew Baek  
STAFF WRITER

The boys basketball victory against Mt. Carmel on Jan. 9 hardly came without the struggle to overcome its weaknesses that could have potentially detracted from the team's performance.

What was meant to be a clean win against Westview's rival deteriorated into an intense clash between the teams.

With only 0.3 seconds left in the game, Westview scored one last basket in order to secure the nail-biting 43-42 victory.

On Tuesday, the varsity team will receive another chance to emerge victorious against Mt. Carmel.

Co-captain Nathan Omega (12) said he can apply the lessons learned from the first bout against the Sundevils to prepare for the next.

"We must learn to actually take the game more seriously from the get-go," Omega said. "We all know that we came into the game being a little too confident about our team. We need to be ready, and to expect more from [the opposing team]. With [our attitude] last time, we just weren't ready as a team and as players. That is probably what led to the close game."

Omega said it was easy for Westview to feel confident quickly because Mt. Carmel's basketball team is mostly comprised of relatively newer players that are pulling the weight of a varsity basketball team.

Furthermore, small forward Mike Keatley (12) says that, although overconfidence is a limitation that at times hampers the team's

full potential, there are other areas in which the team can improve in order to maximize performance.

"We need to definitely take care of the ball," Keatley said. "On offense, we turn the ball over quite a lot in some games. That's probably one of our biggest weaknesses."

Keatley also says that the team can improve on consistently maintaining a tough defense in order to prevent the opposing team from scoring.

"Our second weakness would probably be keeping the [opposing] team out of the paint defensively. Our coach always says that we play [strong defense] for the first fifteen seconds, and then after that, we slow down and don't play good defense."

However, Westview's team has its share of advantages that will benefit the players on the court.

For example, power forward Peter Rubis (11), due to his enormous versatility that fares well with his senior teammates, is expected to play a huge role in upcoming games, including against Mt. Carmel.

"I think [Rubis] is doing a really good job," Omega said. "I think the rest of the team is still finding their place on the court, because we're a really young team. Peter is only a junior, and he's doing pretty well. Even for future references especially next year, he's someone to look out for."

Size is another feature that Westview's varsity team applies to its strategic advantage.

"Our coach always tells us that we're not the most athletic team," Omega said. "However, we do have size to our benefit. We may

have strayed away from using this advantage in the past few games. However, I'm sure it'll incorporate itself on its own."

Omega says that such an advantage makes room for impulsive intuition that can potentially and successfully elude Mt. Carmel's tough defense.

"For example, when I see a big guy getting guarded by a relatively smaller guy, I'm just going to throw it to him," he said. "It's instinct, because you know he'll be able to dominate."

As a result, the team remains highly optimistic of its ability to compete on the court.

"I think if we come out and do what we need to do, then everything will take care of itself, and we'll come out on top like last time," Keatley said.

### WV vs. MC 07-09 Season Totals

	WV	MC
Total Wins	15	14
Total Losses	30	34
Percentage of Wins	33%	29%
Percentage of Losses	67%	71%

### WV vs. MC 08-09 Season Stat

08-09 Overall Record 4-11-0 | 2-19-1

Sidebar by Ashley Moy

## Girls basketball to take on Sundevils in third rematch of season Tuesday

Helen Bavin  
FEATURES EDITOR

Basketball will be facing Mt. Carmel on Tuesday for the third time this season.

After two close losses, Coach Bob McHefhey said the team isn't necessarily going to change their approach, but said that the game will depend on Westview's defense.

"We know what Mt. Carmel's tendencies are and whether we can play defense well enough to stop their tendencies is what it will come down to," McHefhey said.

After a 55-50 loss to Mt. Carmel in overtime on Jan. 9, McHefhey said Mt. Carmel will use experience to their advantage.

"They don't get rattled in a close game or overtime, they really know what they are doing," McHefhey said. "They have two seniors and their other two main players are juniors. We know them very well, we've played them, so far, 15 times in the last four years."

Some of Mt. Carmel's tendencies are to depend on Maggie Doremus' three-pointers, Alex Johnson's drives left and through the inside to the basket, and going to the free throw line often.

Melissa Peng (10) guards Doremus and said that her tremendous shot causes Peng to stay on her as much as possible and follow her through when she is about to shoot. Although one of Westview's leading scorers didn't have a good game on Jan. 9, McHefhey said other girls stepped up and had better games.

"So in terms of how many points we scored, that's about right," McHefhey said. "We did a good job on defense with them and that needs to continue."

Peng said she felt Westview's defensive strategies were solid because of the way they kept up with Mt. Carmel.

Unlike most teams who stay in the zone, Mt. Carmel doesn't just place a player in a certain area. Instead they usually set out a man and switch back and forth between zone and man depending on how well they play defense.

Ally Crocker (12) said this actually benefited her team.

"That helped us out a lot because we just added a new zone offense this year called 'score,'" Crocker said. "Using this, we know that if we get to the post on time in the game, the options are passing inside and outside."

Offensively, Crocker said the team has been working on their passes during practices.

"We worked on ball strength because [Mt. Carmel] has a lot of quick players and a lot of us got picked off really easily," Crocker said. "That's not just for Mt. Carmel, that's for all of our games."

During their last game, Westview had to focus on outside shots because of Mt. Carmel's strong defense inside of the key.

Although it was a struggle to score, McHefhey said it was just something the team had to work around.

"Whatever they give us, we'll take," McHefhey said. "Whether that's down inside or whether it's

outside. It wasn't necessarily a game plan that way, but what shots we get we take them, whether they are inside or outside."

Crocker said that after playing against Mt. Carmel multiple times, they are making adjustments according to previous experience.

McHefhey said that although Westview will be looking to stop block Mt. Carmel's strengths, Mt. Carmel will also be changing their strategy in order to work against Westview's strengths.

"[Mt. Carmel] will also make adjustments because they know what we do, so it comes down to which team, at that time, does what they know to do better," McHefhey said.

### Girls Basketball 06-09 Season Totals

	WV	MC
Total Wins	67	59
Total Losses	21	25

### 2008-2009 Season Stats

Total Points	1039	1178
Overall Record	16-6-0	16-5-0
Win Percentage	72.7	76.2

Sidebar by Andrew Baek



Tim Chu

Simmone Kelly (11) prepares to take a shot during her practice. The team plans to improve their offense by working on passing and ball control.

## Girls soccer to improve consistency and focus in match against Sundevils

Dominic Lucisano  
STAFF WRITER

With a 15-1-3 record, Westview girls soccer is at the top of the Valley League and will face cross-town rival Mt. Carmel Feb. 3 at 5 p.m.

The Sundevils have won nine out of 16 games, placing them second in the league.

In the past three years, Mt. Carmel is 1-4 against Westview, scoring only 1 goal against the Wolverines while giving up 10.

The team has been recognized for their record, as they have been ranked 9th in the nation by ESPN.com. They have also been ranked fifth in California, and second in the county.

The Wolverines are in first place in the Valley league, with an undefeated league record of 5-0. Head coach Peter Stogsdill said that the team is staying focused in preparation for this game.

"We try to focus on being prepared to play to the best of our ability and treat this like any other game," Stogsdill said. "If we do that, we feel like that should be good to beat teams."

Although winning remains important to the team, Stogsdill said these rivalry

games mean do go beyond a win or a loss.

"Rivalries are always a lot of fun, it means that we come to the game instantly motivated to play the game," Stogsdill said. "Through the last couple of years we have dominated the series; however, they did beat us last season on the last game of the regular season. It was the first time they have beaten us in four years."

So far this year, Westview continued its dominance over Mt. Carmel with a 2-0 shutout earlier this month at Westview.

Defender Nikki Rendler (11) and forward Shannon Hardy (10) scored the goals for the Wolverines, while Ari Zargarian (10) and Kelsey Warner (12) split time in goal in the victory.

Hardy said that the victory over Mt. Carmel earlier will excite the team, but the team cannot get carried away.

"We need to come out like last time and control the game," Hardy said. "We will be looking for another victory against our rivals, but we have to stay focused as if it was any other game"

Stogsdill said he believes that the way to win on game day will be to continue the team's style of controlling the game that has been shown throughout the year.

### WV vs. MC 06-09 Season Totals

	WV	MC
Total Goals	10	1
Total Wins	4	1

### 2008-2009 Season Stats

Total Goals	52	30
Goals Against	11	16
Overall Record	15-1-3	9-6-1

Sidebar by Andrew Baek, Dominic Lucisano

"The strengths of the team this year have been our willingness to fight to the very end of games," Stogsdill said. "Early on, we pulled out some wins and ties against good teams by scoring late goals. [But] lately, we have scored early goals and then kind of controlled the game from the start, but I think the thing we have to focus on most is playing a consistent game from start to finish."

## Ball possession takes focus for boy's soccer against Sundevils

Yoojin Kim  
STAFF WRITER

Boys soccer heads into a rivalry matchup against Mt. Carmel Tuesday with an undefeated record in the Valley League and a seven-game win streak.

After defeating the Sundevils earlier in the season, 3-2, coach Martin Coughlin said that he is confident that the Wolverines will have many opportunities to score.

"We have so many players on our team that have the potential to score, even including some of our defenders," he said.

Out of their first 14 games, the Wolverines have scored a total of 53 goals and only allowed 17 goals.

Currently ranked at No. 1 in the league, Westview's powerful offense will face off against Mt. Carmel's equally strong second-ranked offense.

"There are a couple of exceptionally good soccer players on their team that if you give them a couple of chances, they'll take

them," Coughlin said. "We haven't gotten scored on that often this year, but we gave up two against Mt. Carmel."

To prevent the Sundevils from scoring in the upcoming game, the Wolverines have been practicing keeping possession of the ball.

"If we keep possession, that means that the great offense from Mt. Carmel is not going to matter that much," Coughlin said. Instead of focusing on the opposing team's strengths, Westview is working on perfecting their own plays.

"We're a good enough team where as long as we concentrate on ourselves, we'll get the job done," Coughlin said. "We're not going to base our whole tactics around stopping Mt. Carmel. They have to stop us."

Because most of the Sundevils and Wolverines play together on the same club teams, they have formed a unique connection on the field, leading to more intense matches.

"The guys are really com-

petitive because it's their friends," Coughlin said. "But mostly, it's healthy competition. The [arguments] are more unique to those games because the rivalry's so intense."

Because Mt. Carmel is currently ranked right under Westview, not only are the Sundevils local opponents, but they are also the nearest competitors in their league, making the matches more competitive.

Although Mt. Carmel has been Westview's biggest rival, the Wolverines will approach the match similar to all the other games.

"We're trying to keep in mind everything that we do for every game in Westview soccer, which is keeping possession of the ball, creating goal-scoring chances and finishing those chances because that's what [the] Westview boys soccer program is about," Coughlin said. "I think the game will be close again, but I think our guys can do it. I think our guys can get the results we want."