

The Lawrence North boys' basketball team took down the #1 ranked team in the state, beating North Central 56-53 in front of a packed Keefer Gym crowd! The Wildcats got out to an early lead but the Panthers fought back to take a one-point lead at the half. It was a back and forth second half, with North Central taking a 5-point lead late in the game. Down 53-48 with 1:30 to go in the game, the Wildcats got a big three-point play from freshman guard Mike Saunders to make it 53-51. The Wildcat defense got a steal, and Dexter Shouse was fouled going to the bucket. He calmly sank two free throws to make it 53-53 with 1:10 to play. The defense came up big again with about 50 seconds to play, giving LN a chance to win it at the end. The Cats took off about 30 seconds off the clock with great ball movement, and then Coach Keefer called a timeout with 21 seconds to play. The "Dean of Marion County Coaches" drew up a play and the Wildcats executed it to perfection. Antwaan Cushingberry got the ball at the top of the key, drove to his left where Kevin Easley set a pick. The ole pick and roll was in action as Cush hit Kevin for an open three-point shot with 10 seconds left that found nothing but the bottom of the net to make it LN 56 NC 53. The Wildcat defense smothered North Central on the other end of the court, not allowing a last second shot by the Panthers. It was a great atmosphere of Indiana high school basketball between two great teams and two great coaches! These two teams will most likely meet again later in the sectional tournament, and it should be yet another great game in the Lawrence North vs North Central rivalry.