IRON RIVER—A second half switch to a man defense gave Kingsford the edge it needed Dec. 17 as the Flivvers outshot West Iron's girls team 17-8 in the third quarter on their way to a 49-42 win at Kingsford. __PUBLIC__

Snow postponed the Wykons' scheduled Dec. 20 home game against Hancock. West Iron enters the holiday break 1-4 overall and 0-2 in the West Pac Conference.

Escaping traps: The Flivvers used a trapping defense throughout the first half, but Coach Mike Dallavalle said the Wykons handled it well, passing the ball upcourt and not dribbling much.

"We broke the press easily for layups, and Kylee Erickson was hot in the first quarter—to the point where Kingsford pulled the press off." West Iron led 18-14 after one.

The Wykons also did well on defense, with Megan Miatech and Emilie Christensen coming up big on rebounds. West Iron had a big 40-27 edge in rebounds in the game, with Miatech claiming 14 caroms and Christensen taking 11.

New plan: West Iron led by seven late in the first half and had a 29-25 lead at halftime. But after the break, Kingsford switched to a man-to-man defense, and Erickson, who scored 12 points in the first half, added just two in the second half.

Meanwhile, Kingsford stepped up its scoring. Dallavalle said the Wykons executed well for a while in the second half. "We were getting the ball inside, but we weren't making anything." The Flivvers rallied to lead 42-37 after three.

In the fourth, West Iron rallied to within 44-40, but Sam Fleming hit a three with five minutes left, making it 47-40, and then went into delay mode for most of the final four minutes. Missed Flivver free throws kept the game close until Carlee Benzie hit two freebies with 36 seconds left.

Kingsford played tough defense, Dallavalle noted. West Iron's guards worked the ball inside well, but the officials didn't call many fouls.

New threat: Erickson led the Wykons with 14 points, including four triples, and teammate Alexis Golfis stepped up with a trio of treys and nine points. The coach liked seeing the sophomore shooting the long distance shots. "She will give us an added dimension now.

"Overall," Dallavalle said, "the girls played very well, and I am excited about the way we handled full-court pressure." Cassi Pellizzer handled the ball well when Erickson had to give it up, and Erickson played solid defense on Fleming, holding her to 12 points.

"If we can finish around the basket and keep knocking down outside shots," the coach said, "we will show great progress."

Numbers: WIC stats: 16-52 (31%) FG; 3-8 (38%) FT; 40 rebounds. Kingsford stats: 17-41 FG (41%); 10-16 FT (63%); 27 rebs.

Wykon stats: Kylee Erickson, 14 pts, 6 asts; Alexis Golfis, 9 pts; Emilie Christensen, 8 pts, 11 rebs; Megan Miatech, 7 pts, 14 rebs. Kingsford scoring: Carlee Benzie, 15 pts; Sam Fleming, 12 pts, 4 asts; Courtney Qualley, 12 pts.

Wykons	18	11	8	5	--	42
Flivvers	14	11	17	7	--	49

Coming up: The Wykons return to action at Forest Park on Jan. 4. They host North Dickinson Jan. 8.