IRON RIVER—Winter bared its fangs at Iron County again last week, costing West Iron's boys basketball team its only game on the schedule. __PUBLIC__

The Wykons were supposed to visit Iron Mountain Jan. 29, but a snowstorm took care of that. The game has been pushed back to Feb. 19.

West Iron remains 8-4 overall and 3-2 in West Pac Conference play.

The postponement meant the Wykons get 11 days off between their Jan. 25 win over Norway and their next game, Feb. 5 at Kingsford. But Coach Dan Schive said he isn't worried about the unusually long interval.

First, the make-up game eliminates a week-long gap between the L'Anse (Feb. 15) and Hancock (Feb. 22) games. The Wykons only have eight games in the season's final four weeks. "It works out pretty good."

It also gave the team a chance to refocus on some fundamentals during practice. "Last night, I brought Kevin [JV Coach Kevin Leonoff] in, and Kevin worked on the defense, and we amped up the speed in practice. Probably the best practice we've had all year.

"We're going to do that again tonight and Sunday," as they prepared to take on a taller, strong Kingsford team. "A very difficult game to win. We'll go hard and see what happens. But as long as they play well, that's all that matters."

Schive said the team had gotten "a little hesitant" on defense lately, so a little refresher course was in order.

After the trip to Kingsford, the Wykons host Calumet on Feb. 8. They have three games next week: (at Norway, Feb. 11; home vs. Escanaba, Feb. 12; home vs. L'Anse, Feb. 15). Then, two again (at IM, at Hancock), then one (Ishpeming, here). And then it's tournament time.