

Miners steal a win from Riverton

By Bruce Smith
MatchupUT.com

A good game between the Bingham and Riverton girls basketball teams is about as common as snow in January.

As Bingham coach **Rand Rasmussen** says: “you can count on it.”

As the snow fell outside Riverton High School Thursday night, Rasmussen’s Miners battled back from a nine-point deficit to beat Riverton 61-57 and prevent the Silverwolves from taking command in the Region 3 race.

The Miners’ victory created a three-way tie between Riverton, Bingham and Taylorsville, and prevented the Silverwolves from taking the lead role this early in the season.

“We had a ‘come to Jesus’ meeting this past week after we lost to Taylorsville,” said Rasmussen. “I told the girls that we couldn’t afford to lose today. If we did, we’d have to start talking about third place.”

The Miners haven’t finished that low in the region standings since 2004-05. For a long time Thursday, a second straight loss seemed likely. Things didn’t start to go right for Bingham until late the game. The Miners stayed close, thanks Bingham’s depth, which led to wholesale (five player) substitutions every few



Brooke Blonquist tries to get around a Riverton defender. Blonquist had one of her best games as a Miners while leading the team to victory.

minutes, and the inside play of **Brooke Blonquist**, who led the Miners’ comeback from a difficult loss to Taylorsville by scoring a season-high 23 points on 9-12 shooting.

Somehow, Blonquist did all that damage even though Riverton dominated inside, claiming a 33-20 advantage on the boards.

“It was good to see

Brooke come back and play a good game today,” said Rasmussen, noting that she had just two points Tuesday night. “She had a good touch, and some good moves.”

Her play was lone bright spot until late. The game seemed to belong to the Silverwolves, who saw their 11-

Continued on next page

BINGHAM BASKETBALL: Miners 61, Riverton 57



Continued from previous page

game winning streak end even though they led up until the final minute of the game.

Helped by Morganne Campbell’s shooting (19 points, including 3-3 from three-point land) and Jamie Smith’s ballhandling, Riverton scored the first seven points of the fourth quarter and built a 48-39 lead.

Smith, however, had to leave the game with an injury a few minutes later. Bingham took advantage behind Blonquist and **Summer Yack**, who had 10 of her 15 points in the final quarter.

Yack was the player Bingham wanted to handle the ball and she responded, nailing 5-of-6 free throws, which gave Bingham their first lead.

Trailing 59-57, Riverton called timeout to discuss a play. The Silverwolves seemed to have an open shot, but Campbell instead tried to dish it to a teammate under the basket, and Bingham batted it away.

“We had some good looks,” said Riverton coach Ron Ence, whose team shot just under 50 percent from the field but committed 22 turnovers. “They made the biggest plays.”

LEFT: Ana Kaili tries to decide where to shoot or pass the ball teammate Mackenzie Bruggeman.

ABOVE: Coach Rand Rasmussen has a discussion with a referee.

GAME SUMMARY				
Bingham	9	15	15	22 - 61
Riverton	13	13	17	14 - 57
BINGHAM (61) – Summer Yack 4-15 5-6 15, Leticia Lewis 1-3 3-4 5, Jilian Powell 0-1 0-0 0, Chantee Renouard 1-3 0-0 2, Brooke Blonquist 9-12 5-9 23, Ashton Henderson 2-2 0-0 5, Lateesha Richards 4-8 0-0 8, Ana Kaili 1-2 1-2 3, Mackenzie Bruggeman 0-1 0-0 0, Katie Lloyd 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 22-47 14-33 61.				
RIVERTON (57) – Morganne Campbell 6-9 4-4 19, Gerika Ballard 2-2 3-4 7, Lauren Bond 1-5 3-4 5, Kylee Hogue 4-7 2-3 10, Whitney Saunders 2-5 1-2 5, Jamie Smith 3-7 0-0 6, Pume Currie 0-2 0-1 0, Chelsey Taylor 2-4 0-0 4, Andy Denos 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 20-41 14-20 57.				
Total fouls: Riverton 17, Bingham 16. Fouled out: Lewis (Bingham). Technical fouls: None.				
Three-point shooting: Bingham 3-10 (Yack 2, Henderson). Riverton 3-5 (Campbell 3).				
Rebounds: Bingham 20 (Blonquist 7), Riverton 33 (Hogue, Saunders 8).				
Turnovers: Bingham 16, Riverton 22.				