

# Riverton gets revenge against Bingham

By Bruce Smith  
Matchup

Bingham's victory over Riverton earlier this season rubbed Silverwolves coach Ence the wrong way. It was the only black mark on Riverton's region schedule. On Tuesday night, the Silverwolves seized the opportunity to avenge the loss.

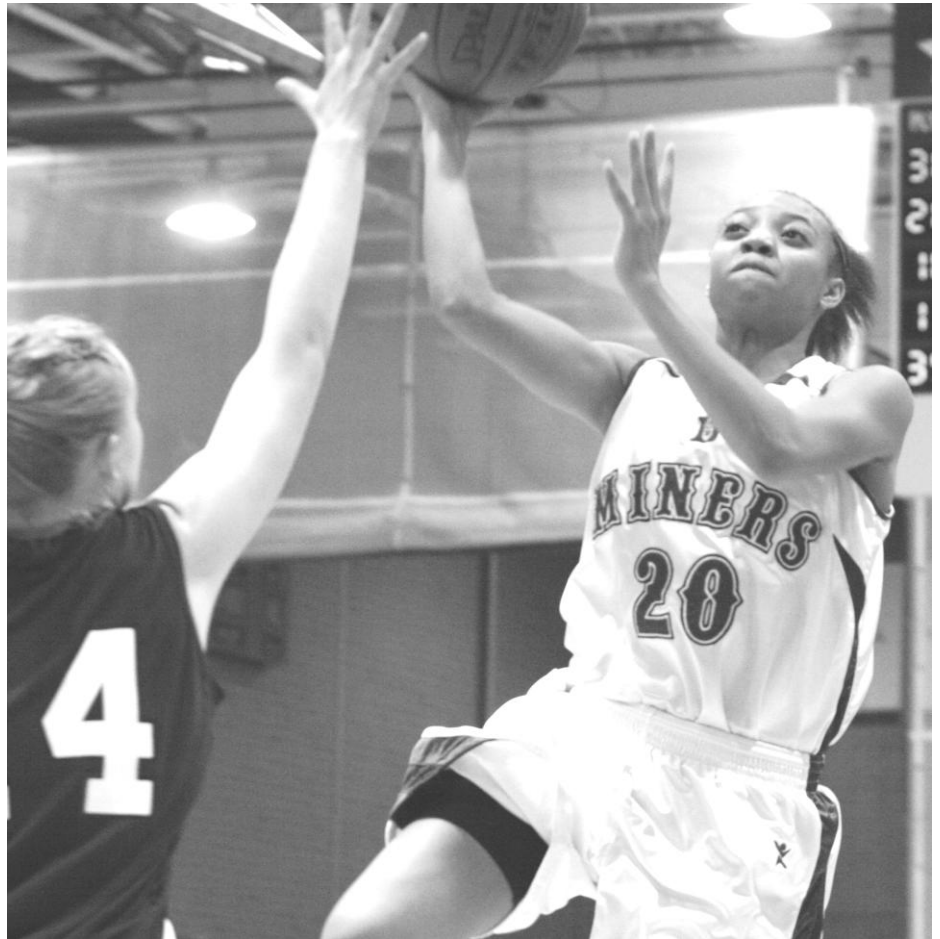
No loss rubs Ence the right way. With both teams so evenly matched, Riverton's 56-42 win at Bingham helped set things straight.

Riverton (17-2) knocked off the Miners (15-4) and basically gave Ence's team a clear path to an outright Region 3 championship.

The contest was tight at first, but guard Jamie Smith helped the Silverwolves break down Bingham's defense to roll in the second half. It was a very different performance from the team's Jan. 13 game, when the Miners took control down the stretch.

"Coach just told us to keep our composure and keep our game together," said Whitney Saunders, who finished with a game-high 21 points. "I'm really excited. This game just means the whole world to us. We worked hard for this."

Riverton's defense was strong throughout, and the Miners' cold shooting didn't help matters. Bingham shot a



Leticia Lewis eyes the basket while driving toward a Riverton defender.

season low 26 percent and guard Summer Yack, who led the team in scoring, didn't get a point in the first half. Brooke Blonquist, who scored 23 in the Miners' earlier win, had just six this time.

Yack did end up scoring 13 in the second half, and Bingham's three-point shooting kept it in the game. But a long scoreless streak in the fourth quarter ended any hopes for a comeback.

Although the Silver-

wolves gave up plenty of turnovers in the first half against Bingham's pressure, they took charge in the second half and were able to find open players in the post. In particular, the Miners seemed to have no answer for Saunders, whose career-best night was highlighted by 11 points in the fourth quarter.

"A lot of good teams have fallen to that trap

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**LEFT: Brooke Blonquist dribbles downcourt on the break.**

**ABOVE: Jillian Powell**

**GAME SUMMARY**

Riverton	8	10	16	22	-	56
Bingham	6	12	9	15	-	42

**RIVERTON (56)** – Gerika Ballard 0 2-2 2, Morganne Campbell 5 2-6 12, Lauren Bond 1 0-0 2, Kylee Hogue 4 4-9 12, Whitney Saunders 8 5-6 21, Jamie Smith 2 0-0 5, Chelsey Taylor 1 0-0 2, Andy Denos 0 0-0 0. Totals 21 13-23 56.

**BINGHAM (42)** – Summer Yack 4 2-2 13, Chantee Renouard 0 0-0 0, Leticia Lewis 1 0-0 2, Jillian Powell 1 2-2 5, Brooke Blonquist 3 0-2 6, Lateesha Richards 1 0-0 3, Mackenzie Bruggeman 1 0-0 2, Katie Lloyd 3 0-0 7, Ana Kaili 0 4-4 4, Shelby Richards 0 0-0 0, Karlene Tuimauga 0 0-0 0. Totals 14 8-10 42.

**Total fouls:** Bingham 23, Riverton 9. Fouled out: None.

**Three-point goals:** Riverton 1 (Smith), Bingham 6 (Yack 3, Richards, Lloyd, Powell).

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defense, including us in our game before,” Ence said. “We handled the pressure a lot better in this game and took time to find the right person. It was a great overall game for us.”

Bingham coach Rand Rasmussen said his team was outplayed in every aspect of the game, including coaching, and said he should have prepared his team better. Bingham now has to turn around for games against Herriman and West Jordan before the state playoffs, which could be a

challenge for a team with 12 sophomores and freshmen.

“There’s really nothing positive about this game for us,” Rasmussen said. “The only thing you could say is that we’re going to find out what kind of team we are. We can either bounce back or run home with our tails between our legs. I hope we bounce back.”

- The Salt Lake Tribune contributed to this story