

Riverton holds on

Saunders' basket ends Bountiful's hopes and keeps Silverwolves undefeated

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

The Riverton girls basketball seemed headed for another easy victory Tuesday night. However, the Bountiful Braves had a different idea in the fourth quarter.

Whitney Saunders' layup with seven seconds left was the deciding score in this non-region game between 5A and 4A powers. However, Riverton wasn't comfortable until the Braves' Jenny Skedros missed a shot from the top of the key and the buzzer sounded.

"Bountiful, all of a sudden could do no wrong, and we could not do anything right," said Riverton coach Ron Ence. "Only a great executed 'power' play to Whitney saved us from an embarrassing meltdown. Bountiful ended up being a good team to beat."

The Braves ended up winning their region and took one game at state. They rallied from a 13-point deficit here, taking advantage of turnovers created from their full-court pressure.

Saunders proved to be the difference. She scored a game-high 18 points and was the only Riverton player to reach double figures.

"It was good for us to feel that feeling," said Saunders, whose team had won their first three contests by an average of 13.7 points. "Knowing that we're not ahead by that much and that it's still a game — it was good.

"Our teamwork was so good," she added. "Even when I was on the bench, I was so happy because my team was playing so good."

The Braves turned the tables in the fourth, forcing turnovers, which led to quality shots on the offensive end. A 17-4 Bountiful run — capped by a 3-pointer from Ashley Eyring — tied the game for the Braves.

But Saunders responded with her biggest shot of the night, the game-winning layup, to put the



Whitney Saunders gets good position to score the game-winning basket in Riverton's victory over Bountiful. Saunders finished with 18 points as the Silverwolves stayed undefeated on the season.

GAME SUMMARY

Riverton	8	23	10	6	-	47
Bountiful	14	6	8	17	-	45

RIVERTON (47) – Mallory Bostic 1 1-2 3, Kirsten Spencer 2 1-2 6, Jamie Smith 1 0-0 3, Gerika Ballard 2 1-2 5, Tiena Afu 3 0-0 6, Elyssa Marchant 0 0-0 0, Pume Currie 1 4-6 6, Whitney Saunders 8 2-2 18. Totals 18 11-14 47.

BOUNTIFUL (45) – Josie Walton 1 0-0 2, Morgan Cook 0 1-2 1, Kennedy Merrick 3 0-0 6, Jenny Skedros 1 0-0 2, Jordyn Turville 2 0-0 4, Ashley Eyring 3 4-4 13, Tianna Dougher 7 0-0 15, Charity Cole 1 0-0 2. Totals 18 5-6 45.

Total fouls: Bountiful 15, Riverton 10. **Fouled out:** None.

Three-point goals: Riverton 2 (Spencer, Smith), Bountiful 4 (Eyring 3, Dougher).

Silverwolves back ahead and Bountiful didn't have enough time to work the ball around for a better shot.

"[Bountiful] rose to the challenge," Ence said. "They flustered us as much as we flustered them the rest of the game. I hope we've learned our lesson to take better care of the ball down the stretch."

Tiana Dougher had 15 points to pace the Braves, who fell to 2-2 on the year.