

Lady Silverwolves win it all

By Greg James
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Riverton High School can raise a girls' basketball championship banner in the rafters of the gymnasium after its 41-37 finals victory over Layton High School on Feb 23.

"I am elated for these kids. Riverton hangs around every year, and we finally got over that mountain. They all laid it on the line," Silverwolves coach Ron Ence said after his team's win.

Senior Gerika Ballard led the Silverwolves with 13 points. She had to leave the game early in the first quarter when she appeared to get hit hard in the stomach. She was actually battling food poisoning and had not eaten more than saltine crackers before the game. After a few minutes, she was able to return.

"It is my senior year and my last game to play with all of my friends. I left no regrets," Ballard said after the game.

The Silverwolves' interior defense held the Lancers to 16 points in the first half. After three quarters, the score was tied 31-31.

Senior Jamie Smith hit her only three-pointer of the game with 6:30 left. Her bucket ignited the Silverwolves.

"I knew we needed to make baskets. Coach didn't tell us; we knew we needed to be aggressive. I am so excited. This



Riverton players and coaches pose for a quick photo after their championship win.

is something I have always dreamed about," Smith said.

Whitney Saunders was named the all-tournament MVP, and Shelby Richards made the all-tournament team.

"Whitney gets it done every game on offense and defense. She is a great senior player," Ence said.

The Silverwolves won their first-round game, 54-50, over Brighton. Saunders scored 14 and Tiena Afu pitched in 10 in the victory.

The second round saw them beat Davis, 58-31. They jumped out to a 12-0 lead in the first two minutes 26 seconds and never looked back. Saunders scored 12 points in the victory.

In the semifinals, they squeaked out a 54-47 overtime win over Freemont. The game was highlighted by a half-court buzzer beater by Smith. She also grabbed a rebound off a missed free throw, although Freemont out-numbered her four to one. Richards scored 16, and Saunders had 14.

The players on the team were seniors Jamie Smith, Gerika Ballard, Elyssa Marchant, Rachel McDougal, Pume Currie and Whitney Saunders; juniors Mallory Bostic, Jordan Landis, Alisha Hopkin, Shelby Richards and Jennica Hogue; sophomores Kirsten Spencer, Tess Campbell, Kiana Tai, Rebecca McDougal and Morgan Littlewood; and freshman Tiena Afu.