

Riverton tames all in Roy tourney

Silverwolves down Royals, Murray to keep streak intact

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

Traveling up Interstate 15 to Roy High School for the Royals' four-team tournament had a familiar feel for Mallory Bostic and the Riverton girls basketball team.

In the first game – against host Roy – the Silverwolves broke open a big lead, but that advantage was in danger in the fourth quarter.

Ten days earlier, the Silverwolves had blown a big fourth-quarter lead against Bountiful, only to win in the final seconds.

On Friday night, the Silverwolves absorbed the late run from Roy and were able to come away with a 60-48 victory.

"We kind of did break down a little bit, but we were able to stop them," Bostic said. "We had a lot of motivation."

On Saturday afternoon, Riverton went up the road again and played Murray for the mythical league title and rolled to a 53-27 win. With the victories, the Silverwolves remained undefeated and looked forward to a big game against Alta the following week.

The big game of this tournament – at least for the home team – was the opener. After taking a 21-point lead late



Gerika Ballard looks toward the basket and tries to get past a defender to score.

in the third quarter, the Silverwolves (6-0) allowed Roy to climb back into the game when the Royals (4-3) finally were able to find an offensive flow.

Jordynn Barrera, who finished with 26 points, and Kaitlyn Hurley, who added 15, sparked a 10-2 Royals run to open the fourth quarter.

But the Silverwolves were able to keep pace from there, never letting their cushion drop to fewer than eight points.

"We're really well meshed," said Bostic, who finished with 13 points.

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GAME SUMMARY

Riverton	23	12	12	13	-	60
Roy	9	10	9	20	-	48

RIVERTON (60) – Mallory Bostic 5 0-1 13, Jamie Smith 1 6-6 8, Gerika Ballard 3 0-2 6, Elyssa Marchant 1 0-0 2, Whitney Saunders 6 2-2 14, Shelby Richards 2 1-2 6, Tiena Afu 4 1-2 9, Pume Currie 1 0-0 2, Kirsten Spencer 0 0-0 0, Rachel McDougal 0 0-0 0. Totals 23 10-15 60.

ROY (48) – Jaden Whaley 0 0-0 0, Kaitlyn Hurley 4 6-6 15, Sydnee Bodily 0 1-4 1, Jordynn Barrera 10 6-9 26, Whitney Hatch 2 0-4 4, Taryn Davies 0 0-0 0, Lexi Hadley 0 0-0 0, Aubrey Porter 1 0-0 2. Totals 17 13-23 48.

Total fouls: Riverton 18, Roy 15. **Fouled out:** None.

Three-point goals: Riverton 4 (Bostic 3, Richards), Roy 1 (Hurley).

Coach Ence's comments (vs. Roy):

Roy has a nice big old gym, sort of dark, but a good facility. I scouted Roy a few days earlier and noted they were a dangerous team. They ran well with an organized sideline fast break almost every possession. In the old days we called it a "cherry picker" but, nevertheless, it makes you get back on defense fast.

They had a terrific junior scorer and defend in a 1-3-1 zone, which was the only team that used that defense all year against us. Whit and Mallory helped us get going early and we moved the ball extremely well. Roy got going but we were very strong and owned a 19-point lead after three quarters. However, they seemed to make all the shots in the fourth quarter and we struggled again with turnovers.

They cut the lead down to five before we iced it with free throws.

"Big T" Afu was big off the bench and Pume was strong on defense - as usual. Our coaching staff was concerned about us losing big leads in the fourth quarter, and felt we needed to find a cure before it costs us a winnable game.



Whitney Saunders scored in double figures in both games as Riverton stayed undefeated.

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"Everybody relies on each other, and everybody trusts each other. We're just a really good team this year."

Unlike in previous games, the Silverwolves were able to start fast. They scored 23 points in the first quarter to open a 14-point lead, which they padded the second and third quarters.

"We just started off hard," Bostic said. "Our offense was just there. It was actually our first good start. We haven't been starting off very good, so I was happy about that. We moved the ball good."

Whitney Saunders scored 14 points to lead the Silverwolves, though she got into early foul trouble.

Tiena Afu added nine points off the bench and Riverton also got help from Jamie Smith (8 points), Gerika Ballard (6) and Shelby Richards (6).

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GAME SUMMARY

Riverton	11	13	15	14	-	53
Murray	6	5	13	3	-	27

RIVERTON (53) – Mallory Bostic 1 0-1 2, Jamie Smith 3 0-0 7, Gerika Ballard 1 0-0 2, Elyssa Marchant 0 0-0 0, Whitney Saunders 3 7-10 13, Kirsten Spencer 3 0-0 6, Kiana Tai 1 0-0 2, Tiena Afu 1 1-2 3, Shelby Richards 6 1-3 13, Pume Currie 1 0-0 2, Morgan Littlewood 0 1-2 1, Rachel McDougal 1 0-0 2. Totals 21 10-18 53.

MURRAY (27) – Christal Milne 2 2-2 6, Brooke Barker 3 2-5 8, Lexi Davies 1 2-4 4, Lauren Bell 1 0-0 3, Brittany Golder 1 0-1 3, Bailey Leiter 0 1-2 1, Nyon Benj 1 0-0 2, Samantha James 0 0-0 0, Jen Anderson 0 0-0 0, Cassidy Howe 0 0-0 0. Totals 9 7-14 27.

Total fouls: Riverton 17, Murray 16. **Fouled out:** None.

Three-point goals: Riverton 1 (Smith), Murray 2 (Bell, Golder).

Riverton 53, Murray 27

On Saturday afternoon, Whitney Saunders and Shelby Richards scored 13 points apiece and the Riverton defense held Murray in check to claim another non-region victory.

For Richards, it was her first game back since suffering an arm injury. Riverton led throughout. The Silverwolves had a 24-11 halftime advantage, but really poured it on in the fourth quarter and that allowed almost everyone on the roster a chance to get into the game.

Coach Ence's comments: A Saturday afternoon game in the middle of December is not a great idea. Both the Murray coach and I laughed that we should have just moved the game to Murray instead of traveling an hour to play at Roy High. It was a nice win, but it had a real sluggish pace. Our half-court trap was relentless and physical. The girls made numerous steals, but didn't convert on the offensive end very often. Shelby made some great defensive plays and the game became a big win eventually.

Eleven of our players scored points, and we did not let the other team back in the game.