

Slow start dooms Riverton's hopes

Silverwolves rally, but fall to Bingham in heated rivalry game

By Jason Nowa
For the Deseret News

Rival high schools Bingham and Riverton faced off in a high-intensity region game Thursday night at Riverton.

With a pumped-up crowd behind them, the Riverton Silverwolves seemed poised to beat the Miners and erase the one-game difference between the two teams in the Region 4 standings.

Bingham had other ideas.

The Miners jumped out to a quick lead and made things tough on their rival the rest of the way. Bingham ultimately beat the 'Wolves 49-39 Thursday to stay undefeated this season and improve to 4-0 in region. Riverton lost for the second straight time.

Bingham started the game on a 10-0 run before Riverton was forced to take a timeout to stop the Miners' momentum. The Silverwolves found themselves trying to chase their way back the rest of the game.

Bingham held Riverton's top scorer, Whitney Saunders, scoreless in the first half.

"Bingham is the real deal. They were real aggressive on Whitney and they were really clicking. We just weren't today. We had a bad start to the game



Shelby Richards goes toward the basket.

(and) found ourselves trying to overcome that the rest of the way," said Riverton coach Ron Ence.

The Silverwolves did manage to close the margin and trailed just 19-13 at halftime.

However, Bingham opened the second half a lot like the first. An 8-0 run boosted the



After a scoreless first half, Whitney Saunders finished with 16 points.

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RIVERTON BASKETBALL: Bingham 49, Silverwolves 39



TOP LEFT: Pume Currie keeps her eye on the basket and puts up a shot.

TOP RIGHT: Gerika Ballard gets between two Bingham defenders.

MIDDLE: Coach Ron Ence and the rest of the Riverton staff sit during pregame.



Coach Ence's

comments: Bingham came into the game as the No. 1 team in the state. With seven seniors and four girls committed to college offers, they were the team to beat this year.

I liked our matchups. Being at home and coming off a loss, I felt we'd be more than ready and motivated. Then ough! We were flat as a pancake and never recovered.

Poor passing, poor decision-making and poor shooting added up quickly against a good team and they made us pay. They were clearly better tonight on both ends of the floor.

The bright spot for us was how hard we played down to the last second. No quit at all. We need to have great play to go along with our great effort and we'll be fine. At 13-2, we were still one of the top three teams in the state. I needed the girls to think about that and stay focused.

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margin to 27-13, which was its largest lead of the game. Riverton again rallied – with a 7-0 spurt, keyed by former Miner Shelby Richards. She had five of those seven points during the run and finished with nine points.

Thursday's contest was a series of scoring runs. It seemed each team would follow each other's own attack. Bingham led by 12 heading to the fourth quarter, but Riverton again put on the burners to pull within 33-27.

Saunders finally found a way around Bingham's defense. She heated up in the fourth to bring her team back into the game. She scored 14 of her 16 points in the period.

Ashton Henderson topped Bingham. She had 13 of her game-high 18 points in the final period - when Bingham needed them the most.

GAME SUMMARY

Bingham	14	5	14	16	- 49
Riverton	8	5	8	18	- 39

BINGHAM (49) – Madi Aulai-Roe 1 2-4 4, Ashton Henderson 4 8-8 18, Mackenzie Bruggeman 2 3-4 7, Jilian Powell 3 2-4 9, Sheradyn Parker 2 0-0 5, Cheril Lyman 0 0-0 0, Whitney Daniels 1 4-5 6, Mo Washington 0 0-0 0. Totals 13 19-25 49.

RIVERTON (39) – Mallory Bostic 1 0-0 2, Jamie Smith 0 0-0 0, Gerika Ballard 3 0-0 6, Pume Currie 1 0-0 2, Whitney Saunders 5 6-8 16, Shelby Richards 3 2-4 9, Tiena Afu 1 2-3 4, Emily Marchant 0 0-0 0, Kirsten Spencer 0 0-0 0. Totals 14 10-15 39.

Total fouls: Riverton 19, Bingham 14.

Fouled out: Currie.

Three-point goals: Bingham 4 (Henderson 2, Powell, Parker), Riverton 1 (Richards).