

# Riverton moves back in the race

Big defensive effort lifts Silverwolves by AF and into second-place tie

By Bruce Smith  
Matchup

The Riverton Silverwolves knew the best way to beat nemesis American Fork would be with defense, and then they went out and proved.

Jamie Smith provided a good portion of the offense, but it was the way the team stifled American Fork's post players that was the difference in the Silverwolves' 48-34 Region 4 win.

"The girls all gave a very determined defensive effort, particularly on their posts that killed us last time," said Riverton coach Ron Ence. "After allowing their two inside players 28 points three weeks ago, this time we held them to just four points, so Gerika (Ballard), Whitney (Saunders) and 'Big T' (Tiena Afu) deserve much of the credit."

The Cavemen's Maile Richardson and Erin Bergeson were the big scorers in American Fork's win last time. Playing on Riverton's home court, the Silverwolves' play created a second-place tie between the teams with just two games remaining.

On the other end, Mallory Bostic, Saunders, Elyssa Marchant and Ballard also chipped in on offense.



Tiena Afu tries to get through a couple of American Fork defenders for a basket.

"We play as a team and feed off each other," Smith said. "We all score evenly. We'll be looking for one person and pass it off, then someone else will get hot. We all build off each other. It's an awesome feeling to play that way."

At the start, however, both teams were ice cold. American Fork was scoreless

through the first four minutes of the game, while Riverton didn't get its first points until Ballard's basket five minutes into the contest.

While the points began flowing for Riverton late in the first quarter, American Fork struggled to keep up. The

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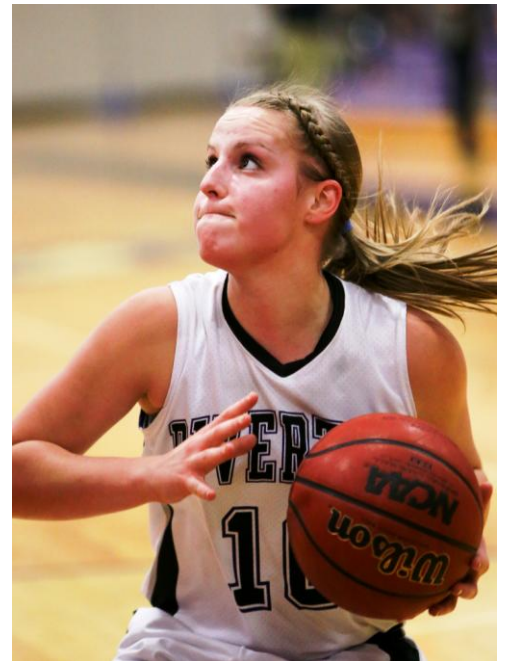
# RIVERTON BASKETBALL: Silverwolves 48, American Fork 34



**TOP LEFT:** Shelby Richards gets past the American Fork defense for a basket.

**TOP RIGHT:** Whitney Saunders and Gerika Ballard talk about eye troubles.

**MIDDLE RIGHT:** Jamie Smith



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Silverwolves put together a 26-10 run to end the half and led by 10 points (28-18) at the break.

“Both teams started slow,” Ence said. “Any team that gets down needs to take a deep breath, not panic and chip away. We kept our composure playing one of the top teams in the state.”

Riverton maintained a double-digit lead throughout the second half, but Bergeson’s lone basket at the third-quarter buzzer pulled American Fork within 36-26. The Silverwolves answered with a 12-2 run to start the fourth quarter, with several players getting their opportunity to contribute.

“We’re certainly one of those teams that count on a contribution from 8-9 players,” Ence said. “I don’t have an iron five. It’s a good win because American Fork is so fast and talented. They’re one of the best-shooting teams in all of 5A. Their coach knows where to put them on the floor.”

Riverton’s defense had a lot to do with American Fork’s inability to score.

“They’re a good team, but we stepped up and played good trap defense,” Smith said. “We had nothing to lose. We’re hoping to get a higher seed for playoffs.”

Ballard had 12 rebounds for Riverton. Cassidy Fraughton had nine points and eight rebounds to lead American Fork.

## GAME SUMMARY

American Fork	8	10	8	8	-	34
Riverton	9	19	8	12	-	48

**AMERICAN FORK (34)** – Bryanna Adams 3 0-0 6, Cassidy Fraughton 3 2-2 9, Jaylee Shepherd 3 0-0 7, Amy Bergeson 0 0-0 0, Maile Richardson 1 0-3 2, Megan Eliason 2 2-3 6, Erin Bergeson 1 0-0 2, Kora Jewell 1 0-0 2, Allyn Breinholt 0 0-0 0. Totals 14 4-8 34.

**RIVERTON (48)** – Mallory Bostic 4 0-2 9, Gerika Ballard 3 0-0 6, Shelby Richards 1 0-0 2, Elyssa Marchant 3 0-0 6, Whitney Saunders 3 2-3 8, Pume Currie 1 2-2 4, Jamie Smith 4 2-3 11, Tiena Afu 1 0-0 2. Totals 20 6-10 48.

**Total fouls:** American Fork 15, Riverton 14. **Fouled out:** None.

**Three-point goals:** American Fork 2 (Fraughton, Shepherd), Riverton 2 (Bostic, Smith).