

Riverton wins wacky 5A semifinal

Smith's hustle plays move 'Wolves forward after overtime win

By Trevor Phibbs
Deseret News

In a game that was as wild, wacky and exciting as a traveling circus, Riverton's Jamie Smith was the ringmaster — minus the topcoat or tails.

Smith's crazy night featured a half-court shot as time expired in the third quarter and a have-to-see-it-to-believe-it offensive rebound after she missed two free throws in Riverton's 54-47 overtime win over Fremont in the 5A semifinals Friday at Salt Lake Community College.

With 32.9 seconds remaining in overtime, Smith stepped to the line after Fremont desperately fouled. The purple-wearing Silverwolves (21-3) elected to surrender a potential rebound to prepare for defense, so they left their remaining four players on the opposite end.

Smith's first attempt rattled off. The second was headed for the same result, and she knew it. As the Fremont (13-11) players watched the ball bounce gently off the iron, Smith snuck between them and corralled the offensive rebound.

"I was just (angry)," she explained. "You always think about, 'You miss the free throws in the state game and you lose



Pume Currie celebrates with her Riverton teammates immediately after the win.

it.' I wasn't going to let that happen. So, I fought for the board and we happened to get possession. It worked out in our favor."

With a second opportunity from the stripe, Smith pushed Riverton's lead to two possessions and closed out Fremont's season.

"That was a huge hustle play," Riverton coach Ron Ence said. "It surprised me. I was just shaking my head at the missed

free throw and I looked up and we got our hands on the loose ball. That was really exciting."

With win, Riverton advanced to play Layton, which upset undefeated Bingham, in the championship bout Saturday at 4 p.m.

Fourth-seeded Fremont forced overtime when sophomore Shelbee Molen gunned her fourth three-pointer with 50.9

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RIVERTON BASKETBALL: Silverwolves 54, Fremont 47 (OT)

COACH ENCE'S COMMENTS: This was a rematch of the preseason game we played back at the end of November. We had a big win then, but met under much different circumstances - a pressure packed semifinal game and a chance to play in the championship the next day.

Like us, Fremont survived a close game the first round, and had a comfortable blowout win in the quarterfinal. As coaches, we could see they were playing very good basketball with improved confidence and discipline.

It turned out to be intense and physical. Every time I thought we would begin to distance ourselves from them, they would hit a big three-point shot or run and nice play to get a layup. It was strange that we led at halftime, when not one of our seniors scored a point in the second quarter.

We had great energy after halftime and led by nine points going into the fourth quarter, part in thanks to Jamie Smith's half-court shot at the buzzer. But they did not quit and completely shut us down, tying up the game and sending it to overtime.

Several players made key deflections and steals on defense, and we sealed the win in overtime to get our second appearance in the title game!



GAME SUMMARY

Fremont	10	11	11	13	2	-	47
Riverton	10	13	18	4	9	-	54

FREMONT (47) – McKenzie Burrows 1 2-2 4, Chelsea Grange 0 0-2 0, Shelby Molen 4 2-2 14, Amanda Wayment 3 2-2 8, Tanesha Daniels 4 1-3 9, Harley Hansen 3 0-1 6, Kealani Sagapolu 3 0-0 6, Sydnee Ward 0 0-0 0. Totals 18 7-12 47.

RIVERTON (54) – Mallory Bostic 3 1-2 7, Jamie Smith 2 3-6 7, Gerika Ballard 0 2-2 2, Shelby Richards 5 5-7 16, Whitney Saunders 6 2-2 14, Pume Currie 0 2-4 2, Tiena Afu 2 1-2 5, Elyssa Marchant 0 0-0 0. Totals 18 16-25 54.

Total fouls: Fremont 18, Riverton 15.
Fouled out: Wayment.

Three-point goals: Fremont 4 (Molen 4), Riverton 2 (Smith, Richards).

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TOP LEFT: Elyssa Marchant TOP RIGHT: Shelby Richards
MIDDLE: Jamie Smith

seconds remaining in regulation. Molen finished with 14 points.

“Exciting tournament game. There’s a part of me that says that’s the way it should be. (Fremont coach) Lisa (Dalebout) has done some amazing things with that program since she’s been there,” Ence said. “We knew it would be a really good game because we played them earlier in the year. They’re the hot team of the tournament.”

Riverton fell behind early, 7-2, but behind Shelby Richards and Mallory Bostic — two multifaceted guards — eventually had a 23-21 lead at the break.

“Shelby played a great game,” Ence said. “At the first of the game, it looked like she was trying to force it and caught herself in a lot of traffic. We just asked her, ‘be more selective,’ and she did that.”

After Fremont regained the lead, 24-23, with 6:16 left in the third quarter off Molen’s

uncontested three-pointer, Riverton embarked on a 14-4 run, 12 of which came courtesy of Richards and Whitney Saunders.

Then, after Fremont mishandled the ball at the end of the quarter, Smith emerged from a loose-ball scramble and buried a half-court heave to give Riverton a 41-32 lead.

“It’s something you always dream about,” Smith said. “It was a great hustle play because we turned it over on defense. I got lucky to get the ball.”

Fremont, with three juniors, one senior and a sophomore in its starting lineup, turned the tables in the fourth and outscored Riverton 13-4 in the final eight minutes to force overtime.

“We just had to buckle down on defense and that’s what we’re known for,” Smith said.

The message was heard. Riverton held Fremont to two points and without a single field goal in the extra time.