

Coach relishes JV's perfect season

Team stays united, plays with a lot of heart and rolls to 20-0 record

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

The Riverton junior varsity girls basketball team has had a long history of success. The 2012-13 season was no different and coach Jodi Lee appreciated each player's individual efforts.

"This was a good year," she said. "Our strength was our heart and determination. This was a group that was a joy to coach. I didn't have to push them. They pushed themselves."

The Silverwolves finished the year undefeated – 20-0. Only six games were decided by 10 points or fewer. That allowed Lee to insert a lot of different players and they all gained valuable experience that will likely prove useful with the varsity program next year.

"Two of our games stood out," recalled Lee. "We played Alta and were down 16 points and then – lo and behold – in the second half, we started playing well and won in overtime. That's when I first thought this group could be special."

The other big game was at home against American Fork, where the Silverwolves again had to rally for a 53-45 win.

"They (the Cavemen) came out and stung us because



they were really unhappy about losing to us earlier at their place," Lee said.

Riverton also defeated rival Bingham twice. The second time was a decisive 44-13 win on the Miners' home floor. Lee said the worst game was at Lone Peak, but Tess Campbell came through to lead the team to victory.

Campbell was a pivotal part of the JV team. A 5-foot-8 sophomore guard, she was the team's second-leading scorer. Campbell was named the team's



TOP: Team MVP Tess Campbell

BELOW: Kirsten Spencer

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JV season results (20-0)

Date	Opponent	W/L	Score	Notes
Nov. 27	MTN. CREST	W	54-34	Began the season with a 17-point first quarter. Kirsten Spencer had 11 points and Jordan Landis nine.
Nov. 29	at Fremont	W	49-25	Morgan Littlewood had a 9-point first quarter and Tess Campbell and Kiani Tai led the defensive effort.
Dec. 4	at Bountiful	W	48-32	Kirsten Spencer's 16 points and Kiana Tai's nine led to the road win.
Dec. 6	JORDAN	W	64-23	Ten players contributed to the 64-point outing, including 13 by Littlewood and 10 from Alisha Hopkin.
Dec. 14	at Roy	W	48-20	Spencer scored 13 points, including three treys, and Becca McDougal had nine rebounds.
Dec. 15	vs. Murray	W	54-23	Riverton forced 33 turnovers and Campbell, Afu and McDougal had eight points each.
Dec. 18	at Alta	W (OT)	47-44	Riverton rallied from a 16-point deficit to force OT and then claimed the win.
Dec. 20	VIEWMONT	W	56-16	Team showed poise in deadling with a half-court trap. Seven players scored six or more points.
Dec. 29	at Herriman	W	41-27	A gritty win against rival. Hopkin led the effort with 12 points and six rebounds.
Jan. 3	TAYLORSVILLE	W	62-20	A 20-3 score at the end of the first quarter led to the win. Spencer and Littlewood had 12 points each.
Jan. 8	LEHI*	W	73-22	RHS caught fire and seemed unable to miss a shot. Spencer had 20 points and Jennica Hogue 16.
Jan. 10	LONE PEAK*	W	55-28	Despite an intense defensive strategy from LP, Riverton won 12 th straight. Spencer led with 12 points.
Jan. 15	at American Fork*	W	35-31	Campbell got an early start with eight first-quarter points as Riverton beat its toughest opponent.
Jan. 17	BINGHAM*	W	36-33	An intense game against another rival. Spencer posted 10 points Afu added eight.
Jan. 22	at Lehi*	W	66-34	Dayna Burgess called the shots in easy win. Tai had 13 points and McDougal 10 rebounds.
Jan. 24	at Pleasant Grove*	W	37-27	PG's zone held RHS to 37 points, but Tai scored eight points and Littlewood seven rebounds.
Jan. 31	at Lone Peak*	W	29-25	An ugly game, but Riverton pulled through. Campbell had seven critical third-quarter points.
Feb. 5	AMERICAN FORK*	W	53-45	AF jumped to a 16-5 lead, but RHS claimed the win. Campbell had 16 points.
Feb. 7	at Bingham*	W	44-13	The defense shocked the Miners. Campbell and Littlewood had 10 points each and Hopkin added nine.
Feb. 12	PLEASANT GROVE*	W	43-26	RHS closed out an undefeated season. Spencer had 11 points and Campbell nine.

* - Region 4 games. Home games in CAPS



TOP LEFT: Jordan Landis shows off her smile.

TOP RIGHT: Morgan Littlewood.

BELOW: Players entertain themselves while watching from the bench.



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Most Valuable Player at the post-season banquet because of her defensive presence and leadership on the floor.

"There wasn't a single second of the season I didn't want her on the floor," Lee said.

Kirsten Spencer was the team's top scorer and Lee said the offense revolved around her. She earned the Impact Player award. Jordan Landis led the team in rebounds and was given the Outstanding Hustle honor.

Other top players included 6-5 center Morgan Littlewood, who was Riverton's third-leading scorer and gave the Silverwolves a dominant post. She was helped underneath by Landis, Alisha Hopkin and Rebecca McDougal.

Spencer, Campbell, Kiana Tai and Jennica Hogue had their share of good games from the perimeter. Combined, the group should leave Riverton with good seasons to come.

"I don't think the cupboard is bare at all," Lee said. "This was one united group that wanted to work hard and win. There were no issues or conflicts. I was shedding tears at the banquet because I enjoyed working with them so much."