

Highland, East, West nab wins

By Linda Hamilton

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While No. 1 ranked Highland was improving its overall team play Tuesday, East earned an important schoolboy basketball victory over hard-charging Cottonwood, thanks mainly to Jeff Davis' six hipshot free throws.

Davis, whose only scores were those free throws in the final two and one half minutes of the Cottonwood at East Region Three game, kept the Leopards ahead. They couldn't buy a basket in the last 3:22 while the Colts' Rick Nixon put in three from the field and Brian Williams and Royal Richards added one each.

But East prevailed, 74-69, its eighth season victory against three losses and its first conference win. Cottonwood, ranked 10th on the first Deseret News Prep Poll, dropped to 5-4 and 1-2.

East coach Dick Milne pronounced Tuesday's game "100 percent better than we played down at West (last Friday). I was proud today. They got down a couple of times but came back."

Davis, an "on and off starter" this season for Milne, started Tuesday because, at 5-foot-9, "he gets a lot of loose stuff down close to the floor and we needed that." His scrappy play included three steals.

Chris Furgis and Brad Boyle sank the final three free throws in the East win. Colt guard Brian Williams led all scorers with 21. East had five players in double figures, Cottonwood four.

Highland 73, Skyline 64

Center Alex Priskos gave the Rams some fine scoring Tuesday with 17 points, and that is the kind of help coach Larry Maxwell's been looking for. He also had 12 boards.

High scoring Mike Maxwell (26 points) was harrassed by a "box-and-chaser" defense from the Eagles, so turnabout was in order. Larry Maxwell put a box-and-chase on Eagle guard Eric Slaymaker, who was hot in the first quarter and ended with 21.

Maxwell stole the ball twice in the waning minutes to keep top-ranked Highland ahead in a tight game.

West 74, Granite 49

West, ranked sixth and probably the best in Utah with three losses, got its usual balanced scoring from John Ottosson (10), Tom Hewitson (18) and Gordon Shingelton (11) to clobber winless (0-3 in Three) Granite and set up Friday's confrontation at Cottonwood.