Deseret News sports writer

narrow the Eagle lead to 2-1.

Congratulations should go to the St. Louis Blues' scouting system for this year's crop of rookies.

Three of them were particularly instrumental to the Salt Lake Golden Eagles Friday night at the Salt Palace in an encouraging 3-1 decision over the Dallas

Tony Currie, a fourth-round choice by the Blues over the summer, connected for the game-winning goal 8:48 into the final period, while two more promising rookies - Neil Labatte and Jack Brownschidle - assisted on it.

The marker boosted the Eagles to a 2-0 lead following a breakaway marker by Rick Bourbonnais in the final minute of the second period.

But heroics by the first-year men weren't over. At a 9:39 of the final stanza, Kirk Bowman of the Black Hawks connected from 20 feet out in the slot to

Less than two minutes later, Eagle goalie Ed Staniowski was called for delay of game when he shot

Norton manager blasts Ali

NEW YORK (AP) - Heavyweight contender Ken Norton's manager says the announcement by champion Muhammad Ali that he will meet Norton in September is "just a ploy to get Ali some cheap

Commenting on Ali's bombshell announcement, Bob Biron, Norton's manager, predicted Friday that the Ali-Norton bout will never take place. "It isn't going to happen," he said.

At a news conference Thursday to promote his Feb. 15 title defense in Las Vegas, Nev., against Olympic champion Leon Spinks, Ali suddenly announced that he had signed with promoter Bob Arum to fight Norton in September in a foreign country for a whopping \$12 million.

"It's just a ploy to get Ali some cheap fights," he said. "Come September he will either retire or claim he's hurt. Arum wants to get a couple of cheap fights for Ali to make money. Butch Lewis, one of Arum's assistants, tipped that off in the release when he said. We have Ali signed up for two more fights after

Biron charged Arum and Ali made the announcement to circumvent a promise Ali made to the World Boxing Council in which he said he would not fight anyone after the Spinks bout, that he would begin negotiating by mid-March for a bout against Norton, that an agreement would be reached no later than April 5 and that the bout would be staged within 60 days of the agreement.

"That'll take it into June." Biron said, "so how can Arum suggest the fight be held in September? How can he do that when Ali said he'll fight by

the puck into the crowd.

Suddenly, the Black Hawks had a power play and an excellent chance to tie the game.

That's when Labatte got going again.

About one minute and 20 seconds into the Dallas power play, the lanky Toronto native stole a clearing pass in the Eagles' end, raced all the way up the ice, bounced a shot off Dallas goalie Dave Elenbaas, then batted the rebound off Elenbaas' pads into the net.

The goal was the ninth shorthanded marker of the season for the Eagles, who lead the CHL far and away in that all-important, momentum-switching

Labatte, a second-round draft pick last summer, played both forward and defense Friday and drew praise from Eagle coach Barclay Plager post-game.

Plager, attired in street clothes due to pneumonia and bronchitis, said:

"I thought the win was a particularly good one coming when it did. Everyone played well, and I though Labatte played particularly well

'Several of these guys were sick, but that didn't stop them from doing the job they had to do.'

Another pleasing aspect for the coach Friday was the play of goalie Ed Staniowski in his first game since coming down from the Blues. Staniowski's save total of 16 was not high, but he made several big saves at key times and exuded confidence that seemed to pass on to his teammates.

After being completely outchecked by Tulsa Tuesday, the Salt Lakers surged back with a strong checking game of their own in moving to within one point of the fourth-place Hawks in CHL standings.

"We hadn't beaten these guys until tonight, and we knew they'd move five points ahead of us if they won." Labatte said.

The Salt Lakers will try tonight to carry momentum from the victory into a 6:30 MST game with the Fort Worth Texans in Fort Worth. Then. Sunday, it's on to Tulsa for a 6:30 MST test with the

After that it's home for 10 days of rest, since ames scheduled at Phoenix next Tuesday and Thursday went by the boards when Phoenix jumped The three-games-in-three-nights crush on the

Eagles this weekend became more of a challenge due to a severe charley horse suffered Friday by leading scorer Lyle Bradley. With several players still ill and Bradley hurting,

it was decided rookie Tom Roulston will stay with the Eagles instead of leaving for Port Huron of the International Hockey League. That assignment had been made earlier in the day.

The Eagles more than doubled Dallas in shots (38-17), and only some outstanding goaltending by Elenbaas kept the home team from breaking the game wide open In the first period. Salt Lake fired 17 shots to only two by Dallas, but Elenbaas kicked

He then blanked the Eagles for 19:23 of the second stanza until Bourbonnais broke the spell.



Dallas goalie Dave Elenbaas, who blanked Eagles for almost two periods, thwarts Ken Richardson here.

Ags, Weber in action

Once-beaten Utah State hosts unbeaten Washington tonight for a nonleague basketball game at the Spectrum while Weber State tries to keep its 5-0 string going at Oregon State at Corvallis.

Utah State's coach Dutch Belnap has made changes in offensive movement and starting personnel for the surprisingly tough Huskies of the Pac-8. Belnap was distressed after the Aggies' overtime loss to Weber last Saturday and blamed a "defensive letdown. Some key people got into foul trouble, and then no one would shoot."

Washington is led by junior forward Mike Neill, with a 19-point scoring average, and 6foot-7 senior Kim Stewart, who averages about 18.

CHL standings

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Staniowski (SL), 1		ů	9-17 16-38

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Ute wrestle

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Highland cops title; Clearfield, Roy win By Linda Hamilton

Deseret News sports writer

There's a sign near the Highland Rams' dressing room to remind the team coach Larry Maxwell thinks the third quarter is most important.

They took that warning to heart Friday night, breaking a 30-30 halftime tie with a four-bucket flurry and going on to beat defending state champion Skyline 66-54 in the Salt Lake Valle; Tournament title game at Highland Friday.

In the other games, West survived an East uprising to take third place with a 65-64 win on Arnold Slowman's basket with 14 seconds left, and Granger thumped Jordan 90-58 for the consolation title.

In Region one's opening games, pre-season favorite Clearfield walloped challenging Bonneville 76-58, Roy ripped Layton 65-53 behind Mike Nichols' 19 points, Weber downed Viewmont 70-60 and Sky View slipped past Bountiful 62-57.

Highland's runnin' Rams got an outstanding game from John Baucom, who shot-14-for-17 and 2-for-3 for 30 points and added 13 rebounds to lead both teams. He made the all-tourament team picked by the eight coaches.

Others named to the all-tourney team were East's Brad Boyle, West's Tom Hewitson, Granger's Richard Black, Skyline's Eric Slaymaker and Highland's Mike Maxwell, who earned the Most Valuable Player trophy.

Maxwell had 16 points but a poor shooting night Friday (4-for-17) but got 81 points in three

Coach Maxwell said Baucom "saw Mike was covered and decided he had to go to work. We have a couple of other kids who can do the same ' Maxwell attributed the Rams' secondhalf domination to his third-quarter philosophy and a 1-3-1 zone that put his big men on the wing defensively. That, he said, kept Slaymaker, Greg Snyder and Paul Rasmussen from scoring effectively because they had to shoot over forwards, not guards.

DESERET NEWS, WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 17, 1977 A 7

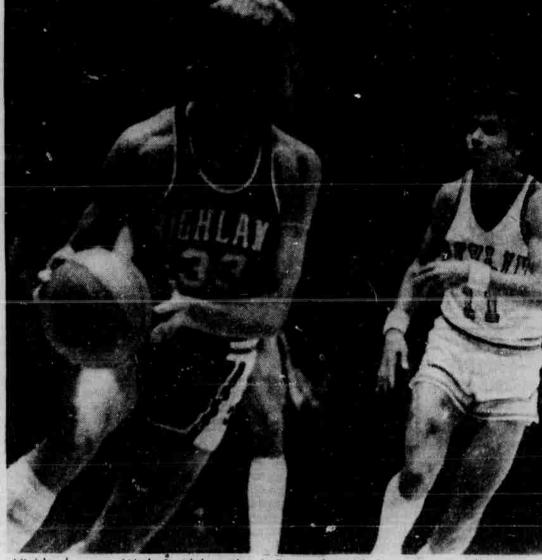
Slaymaker got 12 points for the Eagles. Snyder picked off seven steals in a hustling effort. Maxwell, of Highland, had four steals

In Region One, Clearfield got double-figure performances from four players in disappointing Bonneville — Brian Johnson (15), Scott Wallace (12), Darrin Parry (10) and Kelly

Roy kept pace in defeating Layton in a tight game - the biggest difference was the final score. Nichols' 19 points were coupled with Jeff Sholtec's 12 plus 10 rebounds. Rory Dixon led Layton with 14, and Ben Bubak added 11.

Weber was paced by Steve Trawick's 22 and 17 from Ray Coleman. For Viewmont, senior forward Cory Hanks tanked 20 and Cal Curtis put away 12. Kevin Hess and Mike Yates contributed 10 apiece.

Bountiful led at the half, paced by Irvy Williams' 18 and Scott Pendleton's 13. John Hazen's nine helped, but Sky View tied it at the end of the third quarter and outscored the Braves by five in the fourth.



Highland reserve Wade Smith kept the ball away from Skyline's Greg Snyder as the Rams ran away with a 66-54 Salt Lake Valley championship win Friday.

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Region One

Valley tourney

Region Six

Region Five

WHA standings

Region Eight

New England S. Czechoslovakin 3 Soviet All-Stars 5, Quebec 3, exhibition

LV 103, UTE GALS 70

11; C. Mecham 0, 1-2, 1; S. Chynoweth 8, 6-7, 22; Joiley 1, 2-8, 4. Totals 22, 12-22,

Whittaker 4,3-10, 11, K. Darton 3,0-u, R. Darton 1, 0-0, 2: Coon 6,5-6, 17, K. Jarton 5, 2-5, 12; Jenkins 1, 0-3, 2; Lon ratton 0, 1-2, 1, Totals 25, 11-27, 61. JCack 1, 0-0, 2; Sawyer 1, 0-0, 2; North Sevier 18, 35, 57, 67, (OT), 72, 7, 0-0, 14; Graf 5, 0-0, 10; Cox 12, 9; Millford: Whitney 5, 0-0, 10; Jones 13, 49, 12; Sandorer 0, 0-2, 0, 27; Mayer 3, 2-2, 5; Kirk 9, 1-2, 19; Moody 3, 0-3, 2; Walker 1, 0-0, 2; Totals 33, 1-12, 7, Totals 33, 0-15, 74

Parowan Fife. 6, 2-4, 14; tobinson 5, 3-5, 11; Rolley 5, 0-8, 1-4, 14; Bess 4, 0-1, 8; Benson

College cage

UTES 68. RAIDERS 62

25 1-4 3 0 2 0-0 0-0 0 1 0 34-77 13-23 44 23 34 Score Illinois 43, BYU 3

NFL slate

Utah ski report

KEY HOT LINE