

# Rockies place Eagles to big win over Dallas

By Brent Checketts

Deseret News sports writer

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 Black Hawks.

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 breakthrough 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 narrow the Eagle lead to 2-1.

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

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 category.

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 thought 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 Oilers.

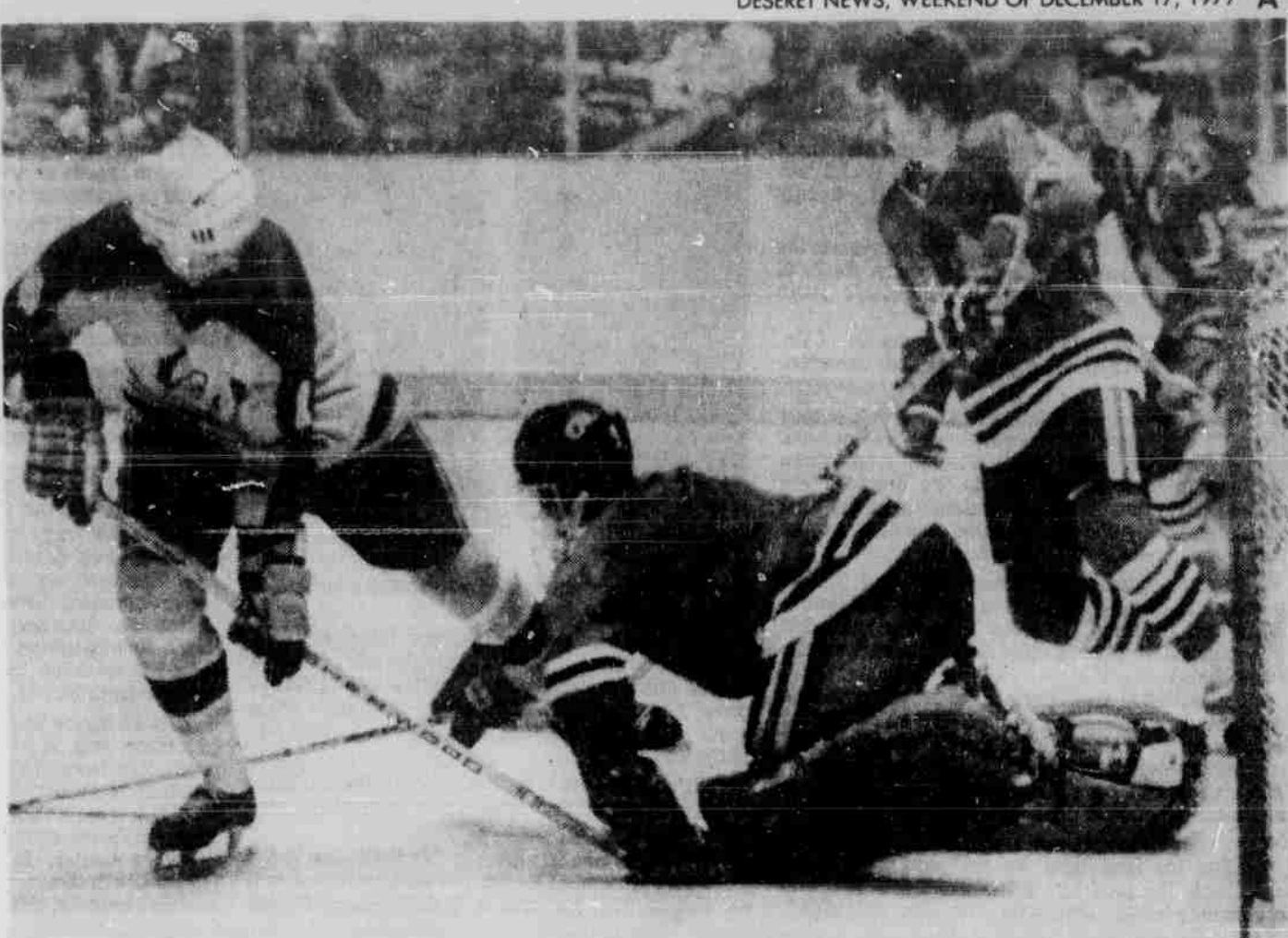
After that it's home for 10 days of rest, since games scheduled at Phoenix next Tuesday and Thursday went by the boards when Phoenix jumped the league.

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 them all out.

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



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 Benap has made changes in offensive movement and starting personnel for the surprisingly tough Huskies of the Pac-8. Benap was distressed after the Aggie's overtime loss to Weber last Saturday and blamed a "defensive let-down. 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 6-foot-7 senior Kim Stewart, who averages about 18.

## 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 Valley Tournament title game at Highland Friday.

In the other games, West survived an East uprising to take third place with a 65-44 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 Baucum, who shot 14-for-17 and 2-for-3 for 30 points and added 13 rebounds to lead both teams. He made the all-tournament 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

tourney games

Coach Maxwell said Baucum "saw Mike was covered and decided he had to go to work. We have a couple of other kids who can do the same thing." Maxwell attributed the Rams' second-half 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.

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

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 Parsons (15).

Roy kept pace in defeating Layton in a tight game — the biggest difference was the final score. Nichols' 19 points were coupled with Jeff Sholter'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.

## Deseret news scoreboard

### Prep cage results

Friday's Results

#### REGION ONE

Wolverine 75, Viewmont 40  
Roy 45, Layton 35  
Clearfield 76, Bonneville 58  
Sky View 62, Bountiful 57

#### REGION FIVE

Murray 75, Cypress 49  
Tooele 75, Canyon 45  
Carbon 71, Utah 45

#### REGION SIX

Provo 75, Springville 55  
American Fork 65, Pleasant Grove 44  
Timewind 45, Jordan 35

#### REGION EIGHT

Midland 74, North Sevier 72 (OT)  
Pilot 61, Bryce Valley 56  
Weber 61, Escalante 53  
Panguitch 62, Valley 43  
Kanab 62, Panguitch 43

#### Practice Games

Wood Creek 58, Hillcrest 41  
Bingham 75, Cottonwood 51  
Granville 61, Delta 51  
Granger 61, Jordan 41  
West 61, East 41

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