

# Skyline trims unbeaten East

By Linda Hamilton

Deseret News sports writer

An outstanding second-half display of marksmanship by East High School junior Brad Boyle was not enough to keep the Skyline Eagles from yet another tournament win Thursday night.

Skyline slapped unbeaten East 77-68 to enter tonight's Salt Lake Valley Holiday Basketball Tournament championship game against the host team, Highland, at 8.

East plays the other semifinal loser, West, in a 6 p.m. battle for third and fourth, and Jordan met Granger at 4 p.m. in the consolation finals.

Granger Thursday downed scrappy Kearns 61-58 in the early game. Both teams threatened to walk away with the contest only to see the opponent roar back and swipe the lead. Granger led three times, Kearns twice and it was tied five times.

Victorious Skyline coach Paul Jeppesen proclaimed Thursday's exercise "The best game we've played. I thought East battled hard, but we played well, too."

He thought junior forward Paul Rasmussen played well, and he was dead right. The 6-foot-2 Rasmussen made his first five field goals and finished with 8-for-12 accuracy and two points from the free throw line for 18 total. He added six rebounds.

Senior playmaker Eric Slaymaker led Eagle scoring with 21, and senior center Steve Clark added 13 on 50 percent shooting. Brandon Bennett had just five points but added six rebounds, a blocked shot and three first-half assists. Dave England, 6-4 senior reserve, tied for the game rebounding lead with 14.

East's Boyle also had 14 rebounds and was the top scorer with 24 on 50 percent shooting. Boyle took a while to get untracked, but midway through the second period he made two shots and added five without a miss to open the second half.

East senior Chris Furgis also played well with 5-for-7 shooting from the field and at the line and 10 rebounds.

East led only once — 6-4 on a Doug Milne layup. Skyline countered with consecutive baskets by Clark, Bennett, Slaymaker and Greg Snyder and ran off to a 21-8 lead. The Eagles held at least an eight-point lead from then on.

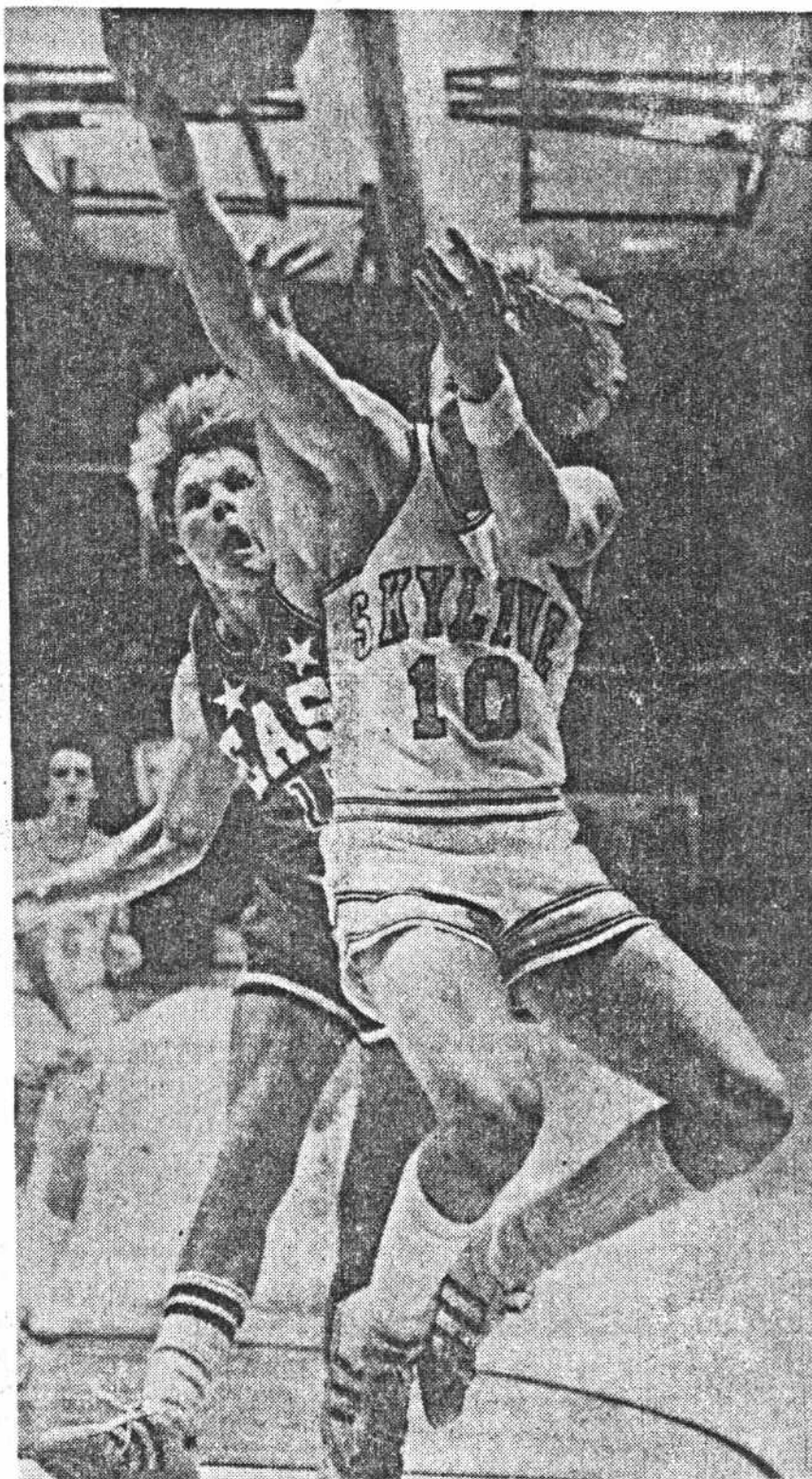
Jeppesen praised his guards for stealing the ball numerous times and getting the fast break going.

The win brought Skyline's record to 3-2 — it lost to Brighton and Viewmont — and dropped East to 5-1.

In the first game, Granger got good shooting from Richard Black (12-for-20) and Clay Clasby and adequate rebounding from Matt Almond and Lee Giles (nine each) in topping Kearns.

The Cougars were led by Brett Monson with 14 points and 13 rebounds and Brad Staker with 18 points and 10 rebounds. But each had cold shooting streaks — missing four or five close-in shots consecutively — and Granger took good advantage.

The Lancers used six points by Clasby and four by Black while Kearns repeatedly missed underneath to build a 14-2 lead. The Cougars got it back to 16-13 when Staker, Monson and Chad Mantle found the range.



Deseret News photo by W. Claudell Johnson

Shrugging off Jeff Davis' protest, Skyline guard Eric Slaymaker goes in for one of his five layups in Thursday's Eagle victory.