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## West Tips Granite, Rams Win

By Roger Graves  
Tribune Sports Writer

Will Skyline High successfully defend its 1976 championship? Can East High stretch its season-opening winning streak beyond five games? Can Highland be beaten on its home court with the prestige of a tournament title at stake?

These and countless other questions will be answered Thursday and Friday when the second annual Salt Lake Valley Basketball Tournament concludes at Highland High School.

The five-day basketball "trial" began Monday and Tuesday when defending tournament titlist Skyline and Region Three champions East, West and Highland advanced to the semifinals.

West, which finished fifth in Region Three last season but shocked the basketball world by earning an invitation to the state semifinals, kicked off the tournament by outlasting pesky Granite, 42-33.

The Panthers relied on a sticky man-to-man defense to prove superior against a youthful Granite five. West rode the marksmanship of Tom Hewitson and Brent Shingleton to a 17-12 first-quarter advantage and maintained a five-to-nine point cushion throughout the 32-minute trial.

The Farmers remained within striking distance at the intermission, with West enjoying a not-so-comfortable 33-21 edge. Granite's Kevin Walker, Kent Bruin and Kevin Kahn sustained a third-period charge which brought the Farmers back to respectability at 48-41. But West outscored the



It's up and through for two! soars above West's Clay Bloom-Granite High's Kent Bruin (40) quist (42) to complete layup.

turning Farmers 14-12 during the final eight minutes to ice the triumph.

Host Highland treated its fans to a scintillating display of basketball en route to a 38-44 victory over Region Two's Jordan in another opening round game Monday evening.

Highland junior Mike Maxwell captained the Highland charge with 13 points

during the opening eight minutes. Meanwhile, backcourt mate Gordon Kener, 6-3 junior John Bauman, and Alex Priskos took turns handing out some picture assists which set up Maxwell for numerous layups.

Maxwell added 11 more points in the second quarter, as Highland ripped to a 52-32 lead. The Rams then assured the victory by outscoring Jordan 30-7 during the third quarter.

Skyline, which has taken home the last two Class 4-A state titles as well as the '76 Holiday tournament title, again proved it is a "tournament team" by whipping Kearns 64-44 in round one Tuesday night.

Skyline, which has only four seniors on its 77 roster, clung to a 12-10 edge against Kearns following the first quarter. But the Cougars suddenly went sour, and

everything turned sweet for the Eagles en route to a 28-16 halftime lead.

Sharpshooting Eric Slaymaker, Brandon Bennett and hustling Greg Snyder extended the advantage to 44-28 in the third period, and the Eagles were safely home with an invitation to the semifinals Thursday at 7:30 p.m. against East.

East took advantage of a slow start to log a 72-56 victory Wednesday, which assured the Leopards of a shot at defending champion Skyline in the semifinals.

East rode the "hot shot" marksmanship of Doug Milne and Brad Boyle to a 17-9 first-quarter edge, and coasted to a 50-38 bulge following three periods. The Leopards then outscored Granger 22-18 during the final eight minutes to put the victory on ice.

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