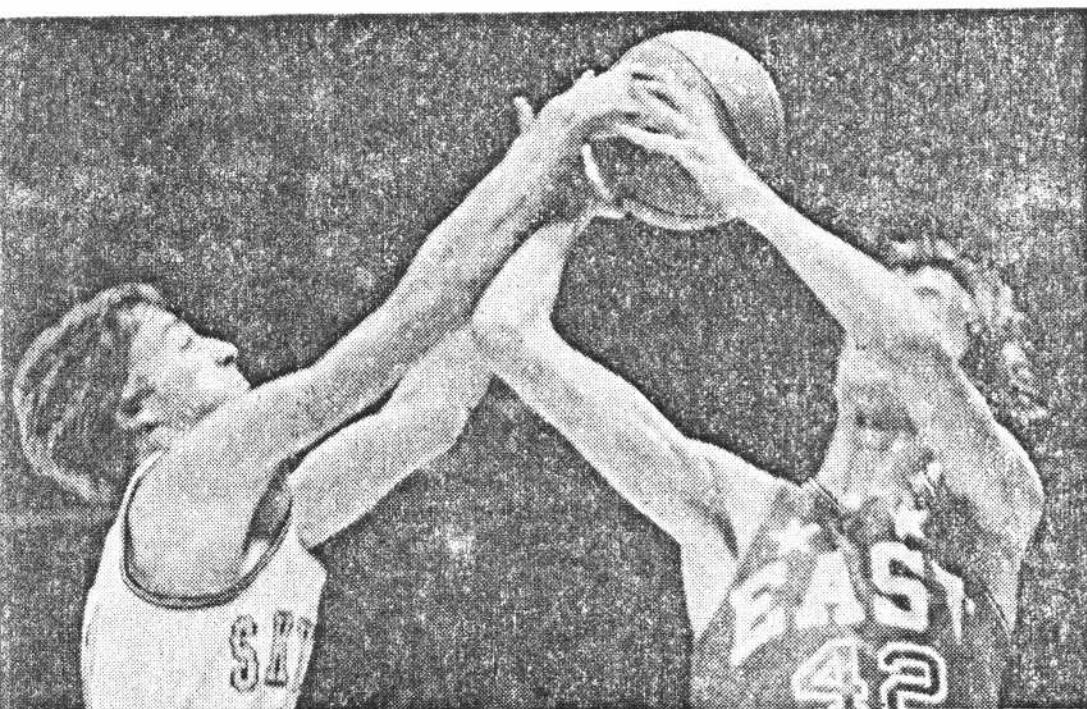


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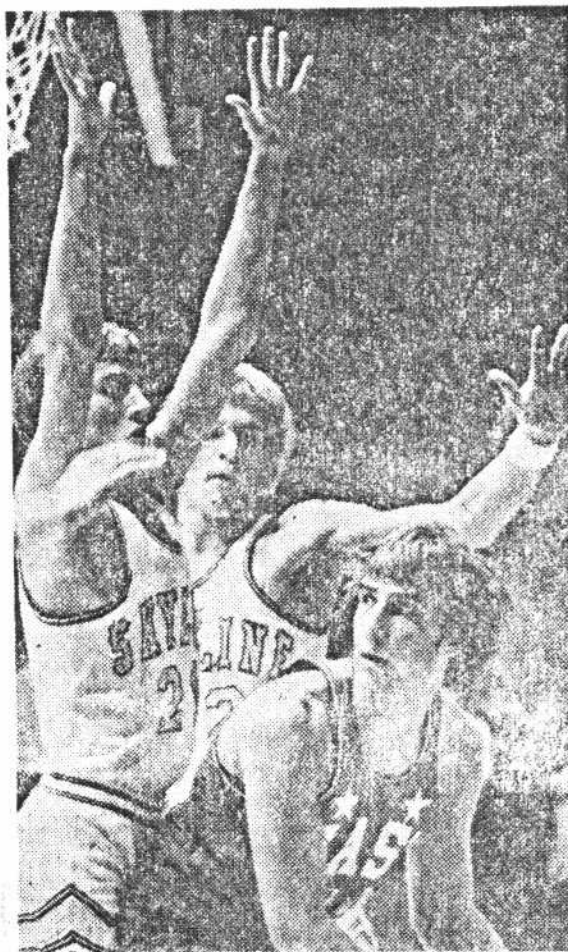
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Salt Lake City, Utah—Friday Morning—December 16, 1977



"I've got it!" Brad Boyle (42) of East battles for ball with Skyline's Paul

Rasmussen during action Thursday night in Salt Lake City prep basketball meet.



Skyline D By Leopards

By Roger Graves
Tribune Sports Writer

This was to be the year Skyline High would come crashing back down to Earth. It was predetermined by many that 1977-78 would be a rebuilding venture for the Eagles, with a no-name basketball team quickly making people forget those two straight 4-A state championships.

It didn't turn out that way. The "no names" are merely new names.

Skyline may not be the intimidating, dominating force it was in 1975 and 1976. But its 77-68 victory over East Thursday night in a Salt Lake Valley Basketball Tournament encounter proved the Eagles, circa 1977-78, are for real. The triumph also destroyed East's five-game winning streak and gave Skyline an invitation to the tournament finals Friday at 8 p.m. against host Highland.

Eagles Never Trail

The defending champion Eagles, who own a 16-1 tournament record stretching back to the 1975 state tournament, struck with piston-stroke regularity against East. Skyline led from start to finish, while the Leopards sputtered during the first half.

Skyline broke away from a 6-6 deadlock early in the game, with Steve Clark, Brandon Bennett, Greg Snyder, Eric Slaymaker and Paul Rasmussen each swishing jumpers to power the Eagles to a sudden 14-6 advantage. Slaymaker continued his accuracy from 20 feet to lift Skyline to a 21-13 lead after the opening eight minutes.

Rasmussen, a 6-2 junior marksman, popped in three successive jump shots from the right angle to elevate Skyline to a 41-29 halftime edge. It was then that East made its only major comeback. Brad Boyle, a 6-5 junior, poured in 10 consecutive points to begin the third quarter to pull the Leopards within eight at 48-40.

However, East coach Dick Milne was nailed for a technical foul which disturbed the Leopard momentum. Slaymaker cashed in on one of two technical tosses and Rasmussen connected on another fielder to lift Skyline out of danger at 51-40. The Eagles then

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