

Weber Club Gallops Past Chico

By Lex Hemphill
Tribune Sports Writer

OGDEN — Weber State's game Monday night against Chico State didn't matter a lot to some of the Wildcats, but it meant plenty to freshman center Darryl Brown.

Brown scored a game high 19 points to help the Wildcats gain a 76-57 victory over the Division Two California school.

Weber's 9-4

The victory, coming in Weber's last non-conference game at home this year, lifted the Wildcats' record to 9-4, while Chico fell to 2-13.

A crowd of 5,202, the season-low in the new Dee Events Center, witnessed the game. That crowd would have been the largest in Weber history prior to this season in the new arena.

Brown, who wasn't afraid to shoot when he got the ball, hit on six of nine shots from the floor, including a number of pretty tap-ins. He also hit seven of nine free throws and grabbed six rebounds.

Brown got his chance at a lot of playing time, because Weber State coach Neil McCarthy benched regular seven-foot center Richard Smith for the whole game. Brown, of course, was grateful for his chance.

"I think I can do this against a Utah team," said the confident freshman after his career-high point game. "I've just been waiting for my chance. I think the coach is getting more confidence in me. As he gets more confidence in me, I think I'll get more chances to play."

Smith Benched

Brown played 25 minutes, and Kurt Moore, who started at center in place of Smith, played 29 minutes. The two players combined for 26 points, which is Smith's single-game high this year.

Smith had a disastrous road trip in Weber's weekend swing to Gonzaga and Idaho. He scored a total of only three points in those two games.

"We wanted to sit him down and relax him," said McCarthy, who feels that the big sophomore has been pressing. "It wouldn't have improved him to play tonight anyway."

It was hardly an awesome performance by the Wildcats against a poor Chico team that had left its best player, Jim Schreiner, back home. After a lackluster win over Idaho Saturday, McCarthy has developed a theory about his team.

"I think we play to our competition," said McCarthy. "When we play a bad team, we play badly. When we play a great team, we play great."

Poor Shooting

Weber shot only 42 percent from the floor, one of its worst shooting nights of the year.

Bruce Collins, who Monday had been named Big Sky Conference co-player of the week for his 40-point weekend in the Northwest, shot only four for 17 from the floor in his 38 minutes of play. He wound up with just 13 points.

Dave Johnson, who McCarthy noted had been playing with the flu and might have been out there too long Monday, led Weber with 11 rebounds before fouling out with 4:21 left in the game. Ben Howland followed Brown in the Weber scoring column with 17 points and also handed out nine assists.

Chico put only two players in double figures, as Dave Reiland and Tom Papatkakis each scored 10 points.

Besides going without Smith for the whole game, Weber State also went without the services of sixth man Rob McKone. McKone had sprained an ankle on the Tartan floor in Idaho Saturday. He could have been used if needed, but Weber never had the need.

The Wildcats never really put on a good spurt in this game. They led by 12 points at the half and were still anchored to that 12-point lead until Dennis Green hit a couple of outside jumpers to captain an 8-2 run that gave Weber a 54-36 lead with 13 minutes to play.

Weber's largest lead of the game was 21 points at 76-55, and that came after Brown hit a three-point play to complete his big evening with 37 seconds left in the game.

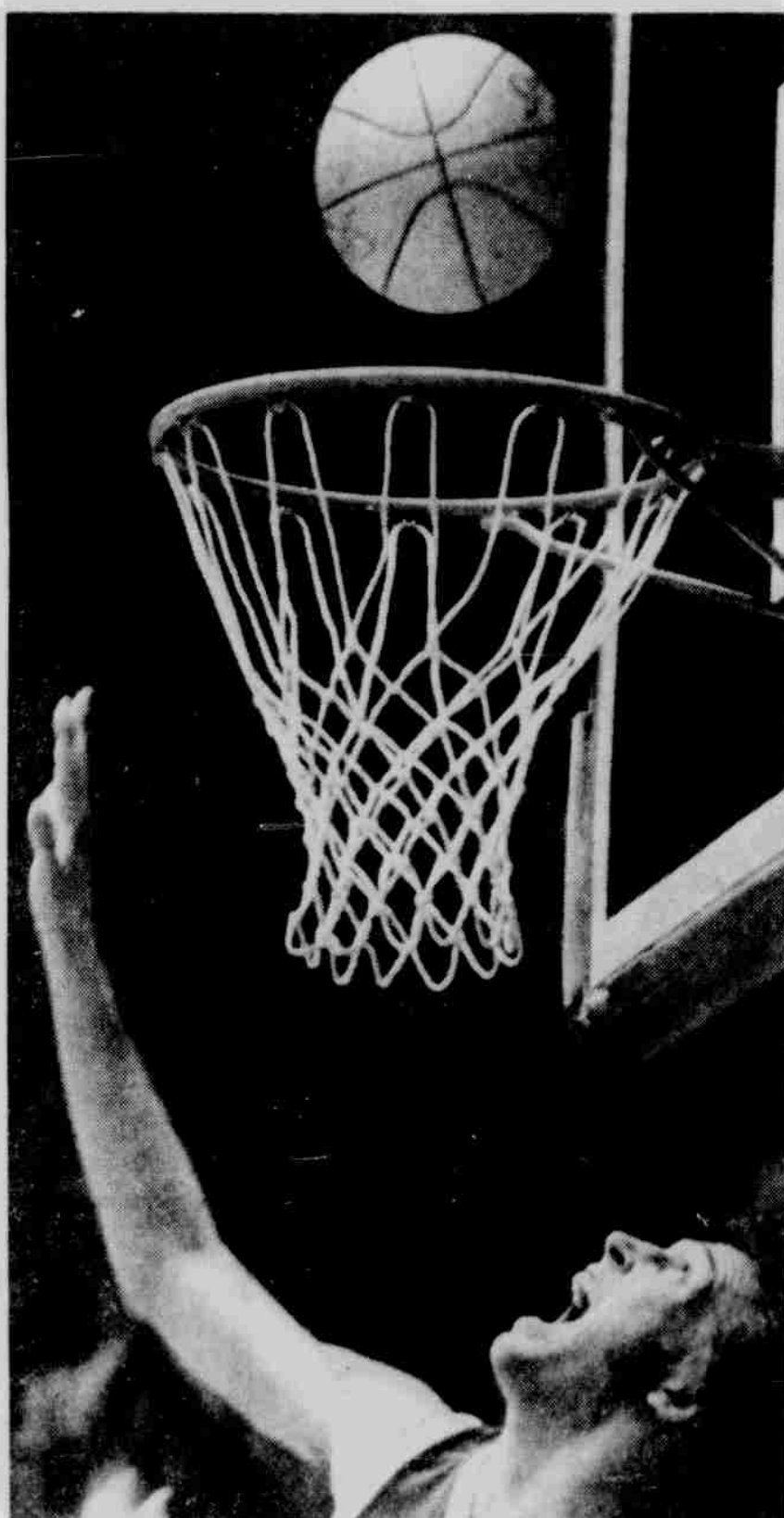
Despite shooting only 37 percent from the floor, Weber State was still able to pull out to a 36-24 lead at halftime.

Weber led from the very beginning and had a 7-2 edge when the game was only two minutes old. The Wildcats were able to extend that lead to 11 points with 7½ minutes to go, but Chico came back on two drives by guard Hugh Hearn to pull within 28-22 with three minutes left.



Nevada-Reno's Johnny High lives up to his name as he sails high into the air with a jump shot

Monday evening at the Special Events Center. The University of Utah captured an 80-70 non-conference basketball victory over the Wolfpack. Utah stars Jeff Judkins (55) and Danny Vranes watch.



Nevada-Reno's Larry Johnson leaps high in the air as the ball sails toward basket in Special Events Center Monday.

Utes Thwart Wolf Pack Behind Williams' Play

By Roger Graves
Tribune Sports Writer

Earl Williams' forte is defense. But Williams' seemingly hidden offensive talents emerged Monday night to power the University of Utah past Nevada-Reno, 80-70, before 13,423 ecstatic fans in the Special Events Center.

Williams, whose last-second marksmanship rescued the Utes against then third-ranked Kentucky last year, answered a "dare" from Reno's two-three zone defense and popped in 10 points during the second half to rally Utah to its fifth straight victory.

Gives Williams Jumpers

"They (Reno) were sloughing off on me," Williams explained. "If we were going to win, I had to take those 15 to 20-footers from the wing. They were asking me to shoot, so I did."

And, oh, how Williams shot.

The 6-5 guard, whom Ute coach Jerry Pimm refers to as "The Pearl," connected on nine of 15 from the field to equal his career high of 18 points on an evening in which it was needed most.

Perhaps Nevada-Reno coach Jim Carey caught a glimpse of Williams' 39.3 shooting percentage from the field, and decided to concentrate defensively on Utah's Jeff Judkins. If that was Carey's strategy, he likely won't make the mistake again.

"Earl's actually a good shooter," offered Buster Matheny, who helped captain the Ute comeback by collecting 10 points during the final 20 minutes and six rebounds.

"Earl just needs some confidence," continued Matheny, who popped in 20 points for the game. "He comes out here in practice and sticks the ball in the basket any time he wants to. But then he only takes three or four shots during the game. But I think Earl got some confidence tonight."

Of course, Williams was not without many compatriots during the second half Utah comeback. Judkins helped fuel the rally by pouring in 17 points on the evening, and Greg Deane came off the bench to amass 12 points and inject a bit of movement into a Utah offense which was guilty of standing around at times. Ute Michael Gray also hit four-of-four fielders and put in nine points.

The Utes were also aided by Nevada-Reno in a sense. The Wolf Pack, which shot 52.8 percent from the field during the first half, cooled to an embarrassing 27.5 percent during the final 20 minutes. They finished the game with a 39.5 percentage. Meanwhile, Utah was consistent from the field while shooting 52.9 percent in the first half and 53.3 in the second half for a 53.1 game percentage.

Williams swished his first of three 20-footers with

12:33 remaining to tie the game at 53-53, and give the Utes new life. Then, the staccato-paced contest was tied at 55, 57, 59 and 61 before Williams scored on a follow and then popped in another 20-footer to power Utah to a sudden 65-61 advantage.

Reno Comes Back

However, Reno's hot-shooting guardline, which features juniors Michael Gray and Johnny High, provided the Wolfpack with four quick points, and it was again anyone's game.

But Williams again rose to the occasion when he accepted a picture-pass from Ute guard Scott Martin and connected on a layup with 5:56 left which gave the Utes a 70-64 lead.

Reno's Steve Hunter trimmed the deficit to 70-66 on an 18-footer, and it appeared the Wolf Pack was priming for yet another comeback. But on a night in which things did not go so well for the Utes in the first half, a bit of good fortune helped Utah solidify the victory.

With 3:05 showing on the clock, Buster Matheny drove the lane and rose high above the playing surface to drop in a layup to power the Utes to a 72-66 advantage. However, when Matheny returned to earth, he came down on Hunter and whistles blew.

Commotion Follows

After the referees conferred with one another, it was determined that Matheny would be charged with an offensive foul. That decision was unpopular with Reno coach Jim Carey, who violently protested the call. Carey was immediately slapped with a technical foul and the basket by Matheny was allowed nonetheless.

Of course, the technical caused mass confusion again. But when another conference was history, Hunter journeyed to the free throw line to swish two foul shots for Reno which trimmed the deficit to 72-68.

Utah's Jeff Judkins then appeared at the opposite end of the court to drop in two technical foul shots for the Utes, which again supplied the home club with a six-point cushion at 74-68.

But since the technical was assessed to Carey while the clock was actually stopped, a jump ball had to be employed to determine who would get the basketball. The Utes got the better deal when Danny Vranes controlled the tip, and the Utes immediately went into a spread offense.

Utah then iced the victory when Matheny connected on a layup with 41 seconds left to hand Utah a 76-70 lead. Greg Deane and Matheny then extended the final margin to 10 points by hitting two free throws apiece during the final 26 seconds.

Nevada-Reno's "Fly 'n' High" guards, Michael Gray and Johnny High, combined for 37 points, with Gray popping in 19 and High 18. Hunter had 10 points coming off the bench for the Wolf Pack while Edgar Jones also picked up 10 points and yanked down 12 rebounds.

The "Fly 'n' High" show wasted little time warming to the task, with Reno's Gray and High combining for the final 12 points of the first half to power the Wolf Pack to a 44-41 edge at halftime.

Nevada-Reno took its largest lead of the first half when Gray popped in back-to-back 22-footers to lift the Wolf Pack to a 38-32 lead with two minutes remaining. But Utah's Earl Williams countered with a pair of jump shots, and Michael Grey converted on a breakaway three-point play at the buzzer to pull the Utes within three points at halftime.

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Unbeaten Teams to Duel in Prep Contests

By Roger Graves
Tribune Sports Writer

To own an unblemished record in early January pales considerably when compared to possessing a perfect mark in March. But it sure beats the alternative, as any of the nine undefeated coaches in the Class 4-A ranks will tell you.

A record that begins with anything and ends in zero is desirable anytime of the year. But this good fortune cannot last forever. And many of the current "kings" will likely taste their first defeat of the season when "two-a-weeks" begin in the 4-A realm Tuesday.

It will be a busy week for Regions One, Two and Three, with teams scheduled to play both Tuesday and Friday. This "two-a-week" pattern will continue every other week until March.

Highland Hints Skyline

The number of 4-A unbeaten is certain to dwindle in Region Three Tuesday afternoon. In the spotlight game, Highland (2-0) hosts Skyline (1-0) in a replay of the 1975 state championship game and a rerun of the Salt Lake Valley Holiday Basketball Tournament in December.

The Eagle kept pace with the Rams in the Salt Lake tournament finale during the first half, but the second half belonged to

Highland and led to a one-sided Rams' triumph.

Highland has already knocked off two of the region's three powerhouses in Olympus and West to initiate the league season. In fact, no 4-A team has been able to solve the

Tuesday's Games	
REGION ONE	
Weber at Roy, 7:30 p.m.	Bonneville at Sky View, 7:30 p.m.
Clearfield at Bountiful, 7:30 p.m.	Viewmont at Layton, 7:30 p.m.
REGION TWO	
Granger at Brighton, 7:30 p.m.	Orem at Kearns, 7:30 p.m.
Jordan at Hillcrest, 7:30 p.m.	
REGION THREE	
Granite at West, 8:15 p.m.	Skiing at Highland, 8 p.m.
Cottonwood at East, 8 p.m.	
REGION FIVE	
Murray at Cotton, 7:30 p.m.	Utah at Union, 7:30 p.m.
Carbon at Tooele, 7:30 p.m.	
Wednesday's Games	
REGION SIX	
Dixie at Springville, 7:30 p.m.	Provo at Spanish Fork, 7:30 p.m.
Pleasant Grove at Cedar City, 7:30 p.m.	Timpanah at Payson, 7:30 p.m.

Rams' mystery during the 1977-78 season (Highland is 9-1, losing only to 3-A Provo).

The inside-outside punch of Mike Maxwell and John Baucum has helped Highland embarrass many opponents, while guard Gordon Kener, and front-liners Alex Priskos and Bill Moon also have matured into keen marksmen. Skyline breezed past Granite to

begin the league season Friday, and Steve Clark (6-5), Brandon Bennett (25 points against the Farmers), Eric Slaymaker, Paul Rasmussen and Greg Snyder will be anxious to avenge that preseason setback to the Rams.

West (1-1) hosts Granite (0-2), and Cottonwood (1-1) visits East (0-1) in other Region Three matchups Tuesday. The Colts have become the surprise team of the league, after blasting Granite, 102-88, and losing a squeaker to Olympus by two points. Perrin Anderl, Brian Williams and Royal Richards should again face a close contest against East's Brad Boyle, Doug Milne and Rich Gremillion.

Weber Tests Roy

Another unbeaten force must fall by the wayside in Region One's spotlight game Tuesday evening (7:30 p.m.). Roy (3-0) hosts Weber (3-0), with both squads anxious to emerge as the league frontrunner.

The Royals depend on a successful blend of offense and defense (Roy has limited the opposition to an average of 54.5 points per game), with Fred Fernandez, Jeff Scholter, Mark Sindle, Mike Nichols and Craig Manning providing the firepower. The Royals already own a victory over Olympus, and would like to add Weber to its list of "conquered."

Clearfield (3-0) will also put its perfect status on the line Tuesday, with Bountiful (1-2) hoping to upset the Falcon applicator on the Braves' floor. Meanwhile, Bonneville (0-3) seeks its first win at Sky View (1-2), and Viewmont goes after victory number one at Layton (1-2).

Region Two Games

Three unbeaten teams will jeopardize their status in Region Two contests Tuesday (all at 7:30 p.m.). Kearns (1-0), which outlasted Jordan to open the season, will host Orem (0-0); Hillcrest (1-0) entertains Jordan (0-1), and Brighton (0-1) rolls out the red carpet for Granger (0-1). Bingham (1-0) will enjoy a day off.

Kearns could become the surprise of the league, with Brad Staker, Mike Ricketts, Bryan Stanton, Brett Monson and Steve Goodwin gunning for victory number two. Monson popped in 19 points during the Cougars' opening triumph against Jordan. It will be opening night for Orem, with Shawn Anderson, Nathan Hyde, Lynn Gilbert, Steve Payne and Bob Warren expected to bounce back after dropping a 20-point decision to long-time rival Provo last week.

The 4-A ranks will not totally rule the proceedings Tuesday evening. Murray, the only undefeated team in Region Five at 3-0, travels to Cyprus (1-3). Tooele (2-1) entertains Carbon (3-1), and Union (0-3) takes on Uintah (0-3).