

No. 1 Rams fall

Skyline wins upset

By Mike Sorensen

Deseret News sports writer

Skyline coach Paul Jeppesen found the secret to stopping No. 1-rated Highland. And it paid off in a 79-71 win at Skyline Tuesday night.

The secret to stopping Highland is shutting down the high-scoring duo of Mike Maxwell and John Baucom and beating the famed Ram press.

Actually most people know this is the way to beat Highland. The problem is putting it into effect, and that's what Skyline did Tuesday night.

Jeppesen wasn't revealing any secrets postgame, but it was evident to those fans in attendance (a poor turnout for such a big game) that Skyline stifled Highland's offense with a variety of defenses and were consistently able to break the Ram full-court press for easy baskets.

The Eagles employed three different defenses, including a triangle and two defenses with Scott Spurrier guarding Maxwell and Brent Layton guarding Baucom, while the other three played a zone. It worked to perfection in the first quarter as Maxwell and Baucom got two points between them, and Skyline ran up to a 20-16 lead that it never relinquished.

By halftime the Skyline lead had doubled, and was up to ten, 56-46, at the end of the third period. In the final quarter Highland threatened to get back in the game several times but could never get closer than six.

"Everyone just played super," said an excited Eagle coach Paul Jeppesen. "We attacked the press real well by looking for the opening and handling the ball well. We shot extremely well in the first half and hit the foul shots when we had to in the second half."

The Eagles shot 55 percent from the field and 81 percent from the line for the evening and finished with an amazingly balanced scoring attack. Brandon Bennett led with 16, while Scott Spurrier, Paul Rasmussen and Brent Layton all had 15. John Mettenet had 10 points on

some key outside jumpers.

Ram coach Larry Maxwell was disappointed but not too upset by the loss. "You've got to give them credit. They're a good team with a good defense and good shooters. We didn't play as well as we could," he said.

Highland's best player of the night was Spencer Hewlett, who finished the night with 28 points. But they all came before the end of the third quarter as he didn't see the ball much in the final period.

Baucom finished the game with just nine points, and Maxwell had 25, but more than half of those came in the final period, many after the issue had been decided.

Skyline and Highland are now tied for second in Region Three with 3-1 records, a game behind East.

But East coach Dick Milne is frustrated. And he has a right to be.

He just got 6-foot-6 Greg Grant back after he was out for over a month with a broken wrist, and in just his second game back, Grant poured in 28 points and pulled down 12 rebounds in leading East past Granite 87-75.

But the bad news for Milne is that Rich Gremillion suffered a broken finger in the first quarter Tuesday night and could be out for awhile. "It's a funny season," said Milne. "You just get one back and you lose another."

Brad Boyle and sophomore George Furgis each had 21 for the Leopards and Kevin Kuhn had 20 for the Farmers.

West won its second in a row, topping Olympus 57-50, behind Gordon Shingleton's 21 points and 18 rebounds.

"It wasn't a spectacular game," said Panther coach Clark Godfrey. "But it was a win—I'll take it."

The Panthers got out in front by 18 early on, got into foul trouble, then went into four corners in the last quarter to preserve the victory. Willie Wright led Olympus with 18 points.