illcrest, retires 'the Jug'

Deseret News sports writer

The game was everything it was built up to be. A full house of frenzied fans. The region lead on the line. A close five-points-or-less game all the way. The climax of a tradition.

When it was all over it added up to a 64-59 Brighton victory over Hillcrest in overtime.

Although it wasn't necessarily the most important aspect of the contest, the "Battle of the Jug" was at stake, not only for the game, but forever.

After a 10-year tradition of trading the "Jug" back and forth after each school's victory, it all came down to this one game. And even though the Huskies may have won most of the "Battles" over the years, the "Jug" will be retired in the Brighton trophy case — for good.

The Bengals led for almost the entire game, but it looked almost certain for a brief period that the Huskies would be taking the "Jug" home with them.

Hillcrest scored 10 straight points to go up 55-50 with 2:15 left in regulation. At this point most teams would have started thinking of ways to forget about their troubles once the game was over. But not Brighton.

Mike Hudson and Alan Sorenson put in clutch 15-footers, and after Hillerest's Bob DeMarco made one of two foul pitches, Brighton wound the clock down to 10 seconds when 6-foot-1 forward Dan Hill sank a turnaround 10-footer to send the game into overtime.

In the overtime, Brad Steinke made a couple of his long-range bombs to give Brighton a 60-59 lead after Gene Player hit a foul shot and Bob Keyes hit a 22-footer.

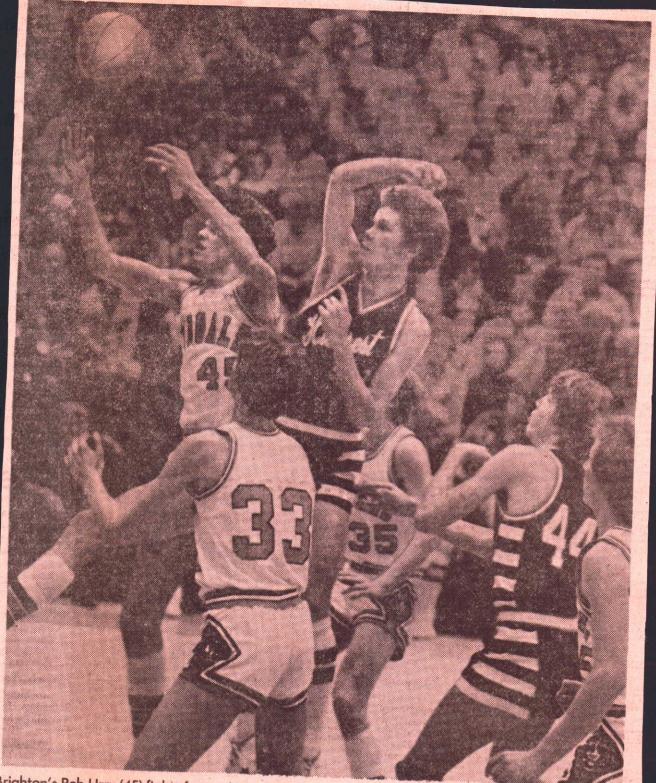
Then with the Huskies trying to work the ball inside, Bengal center Rob Urry intercepted a pass with 1:15 left and from there, Brighton salted the game away with Kent Crump scoring a cripple layup and Hill sinking two free throws.

"The team showed me a lot of class tonight," exclaimed an exuberant coach Duke Reid of Brighton. "Most teams would have folded being down by five. But our guys took the good shots, and stopped their (Hillcrest's) shots."

When he called a timeout with 24 seconds remaining in regulation and his team down by two, Reid said he had no special strategy set up.

"We didn't have any set play," he said. "Whoever had the good shot was supposed to take it. Dan Hill isn't the greatest shooter in the world, but in the clutch he's the one to go to. He's our glue."

Brighton's little guards, 5-foot-9 Brad Steinke and 5-foot-11 Mike Hudson were the top scorers for the Bengals with 18 and 17 points, respectively. And they were each partly responsible for



Brighton's Rob Urry (45) fights for a rebound with Hillcrest's Gene Player while Alan Sorenson (33) and Marc Brown (44) wait. Brighton won in overtime 64-59.

olding Hillcrest's Mike Bernardo, ormally a 20-point scorer, to just 10

The Huskies' leading scorer on the ght was reserve Gene Player, who me up with 18 points, mostly from the me spot, 10 feet to the right side of the

Brighton now owns a half game lead

over the Huskies with a 6-2 record. The away from a 30-28 halftime lead. Huskies fell to 6-3 into a tie with Orem, which put the clamps on defending champs Bingham 71-59.

Orem pretty well controlled the tempo throughout its game. Junior Bill Bradshaw came off the bench to ignite some fast-break baskets in the third

Chris McMullin and Dave Bennion each had 15 for the Tigers, while Tom Roberts had 18 and Mike Crellin 16 for

the Miners The Alta Hawks intensified the Region Two home stretch race by eliminating Kearns 63-61 on Glen Walquarter to allow the Tigers to break beck's winning shot with eight seconds

left.

"I feel super," said Alta coach Tom Stewart. "This is a great way to cap off a special week. The groundwork's been laid here — you'll see some fine things coming out of Alta."

Kearns led most of the first half, boasting a 36-28 halftime lead. But something caught fire in the young Hawks until they caught up and won it at the end.

Troy Bucy led the Alta scoring with 16 followed by Walbeck and Dave Mills with 12 each. Brett Monson had 25 for the Cougars.

Region Three

It was anybody's guess right down to the final buzzer as to who was going to win in East's sweaty 60-59 overtime

victory over the proud and fiesty West Panthers.

Following the game East coach Dick Milne said, "It was the worst game we've ever played and won."

Neither team was on the mark when it came to scoring. The only spectacular moments came in the final moments of regulation and overtime.

With 35 seconds left in regulation, East's Dave Johnson sank a 10-footer and then with 21 seconds remaining West's Carey Lloyd got a bucket and ft ended in a 51-51 tie.

In the overtime East's Paul Schmutz hit a foul pitch to put the Leopards up by one at 58-57. Then with three seconds to go, West's Gordon Shingleton hit what looked like the winning basket. But East called time out, set up a play to Greg Grant, who took a long pass, turned and hit one at the buzzer.

Highland saw a large lead evaporate in the final quarter before holding on for a 90-85 victory. Mike Maxwell exploded for 40 points and Gordon Kener scored 25 to lead the Rams. Dave Barnett hit for 26 and Jim Brown 25 for the Colts.

In a battle of the bottom two teams, Granite broke a five-game losing streak by topping Olympus 67-63. Kevin Kuhn led the way with 22 points, while Blair Oliphant had 23 for the luckless Titans.

Region One

"We had our greatest offensive effort of the season," shouted Layton coach Doug Moon after his 89-72 runaway victory over Viewmont. "They tried to press us and we got a lot of easy stuff down low."

Gordon Anderson had a big night with 13 baskets from the field and two for two from the line for 28 points. Close behind his scoring splurge was Brandon Flint, who finished with 25 points. Another Lancer scoring in double figures was Matt Stireman with 16.

Viewmont had balanced scoring from Jim Miller (18), Richard Downs (15), Paul Hansen (14), and Brad Thacker (13).

Bountiful pulled one of the biggest upsets of the year by topping league-

leading Clearfield 68-61, giving the Falcons only their second loss of the entire season.

"When you go from rags to riches it puts pressure on the old coach," moaned Bountiful coach Mike Hall. "We lost to the last-place team (Bonneville) on Tuesday, then tripped the league's best on Friday and now people are beginning to raise eyebrows at me. But we'll take the win."

Blaine Benard hit nine of 14 from the field and added two foul shots to lead all scorers with 20 points. Teammate Jim Perkins got 18 points. Clark Mabey cast in 12 points and pulled down 11 rebounds, and Scott Stewart pulled down 16 boards for the Braves.

The Falcons got 16 points from Roger Vincent, 14 from Russell Florence, and 10 from Larry Read.

Region Four

"We're going after the championship," said a cautious but elated coach Wayne Baker of Woods Cross.

Baker's Wildcats took another step towards claiming the Region Four title with an 81-69 triumph over the visiting Bears of Bear River Friday evening.

"Of course the key to our winning the title is our capability of winning on the road in the next couple of weeks," continued Baker. The Woods Cross bunch, which have now won nine straight league games, put their unblemished mark on the line next Tuesday when they travel to Logan to play the Grizzlies who are 7-2.

Woods Cross, which has enjoyed success through most of the season with the employment of its sticky zone defense, went to a man-to-man defense for much of the contest with the Bears.

"I was semi-happy with our man-to-man, but it still has a way to go," said Baker.

Five to six points was all that separated the two teams until the closing minutes of the second stanza. That was when the Wildcats' Mark McCleery began snatching rebounds and quickly finding an outlet man that time after time led to fast break baskets.

South High claimed its first victory of the season, league or otherwise, by edging Ben Lomond 55-53.

The Cubs missed nine of ten free throws in the closing minutes, but their hot shooting in the first three quarters forced the Scotties to play catch-up ball all night.

Besides helping the South defense to sparkle, Hal Sorenson notched 19 points while Anthony Nelson chipped in 18. Robby Tillman had 24 points to lead Ben Lomond.

Logan improved its record to 7-2 with an impressive 86-73 win over the Davis Darts.

Jeff Emery led Davis with 23 points