



Deseret News prep poll



Roger Vincent of Clearfield pulls ball away from Viewmont's Brad Thacker in 4A prep action.

East No. 1 in final rankings

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If you want a good line on who will be the four prep basketball champions for 1979, bet on two of the following: East, Provo, South Sevier or South Summit.

These are the four No. 1-rated teams in the final Deseret News prep rankings for the 1979 basketball season.

But why bet on just two of them? Because looking at recent history, that's how many of the four will most likely wind up as champions.

Take the last two years for instance.

Last year Bingham and Provo were the top choices in 4A and 3A, respectively, and they both ended up as state champs. But Richfield in 2A and Panguitch in 1A, who were both undefeated and ranked No. 1 going into the state tournaments, were unsuccessful in winning state championships. Millard, No. 4 in the final 2A rankings won it all, while North Sevier, ranked No. 5 in 1A, took the championship.

In '77, it was the 2A and 1A schools that were successful in

upholding their No. 1 status as Richfield took 2A honors and Milford won in 1A. But Skyline topped No. 1 Provo in 4A, while Bingham knocked over No. 1 Pleasant Grove in 3A. Both Skyline and Bingham had been ranked No. 2 in the final poll.

So which two will it be this year? East and South Sevier? Provo and South Summit? Who knows — maybe all four will win championships or maybe none of the four will come out winners.

Changes in rankings

The 1979 prep basketball poll hasn't seen a heckuva lot of changes since the first one back on Jan. 9. Of the original 20 rated teams, 14 find themselves still hanging in there. Only eight teams held the No. 1 position for any length of time this season.

In 4A, Highland started at No. 1, fell as far as No. 4, but climbed back up the No. 2 spot in the final ratings. Clearfield began at No. 2, but some late-season losses relegated them to No. 5 at the end. East started out at No. 3, but moved to No. 1 after a midseason victory over Highland, and stayed there. Skyline started in fifth, steadily climbed until it reached No. 2 last week, but dropped to third after losing to Highland. Roy, after an impressive second-

half season, moved up to finish at No. 4.

Provo and Woods Cross kept the top two spots from day one in the 3A rankings. Judge and Ogden didn't last in the top five more than a couple of weeks and dropped from sight. American Fork and Logan stationed themselves at third and fourth in recent weeks, while Dixie started the year at No. 5, got as high as No. 3, but ended up back at No. 5.

In 2A, South Sevier, San Juan and Grantsville began at Nos. 1, 2 and 3, respectively, and finished the year in the same way. In fact, except for one week when San Juan tied for the top spot, the order hasn't changed all season. Wasatch and Richfield were in the top five at the beginning and through much of the year but Emery and Millard nailed down the other two final 2A positions.

The 1A rankings were probably the most mixed up of any this season. Milford, Kanab and South Summit all had a hold of the prime spot during the season. Milford started at No. 1, but South Summit ended up there. Gunnison moved into the big five early in the year, knocking out North Sevier, while poor Piute began at No. 4, won 10 straight league games and could get no higher than fifth in the final rankings.

Class 4-A

Team	Record	Pts.
1. East	18-2	25
2. Highland	19-3	19
3. Skyline	16-5	14
4. Roy	16-5	12
5. Clearfield	16-4	4

Others receiving votes: Hillcrest.

Class 3-A

Team	Record	Pts.
1. Provo	15-2	24
2. Woods Cross	15-3	21
3. American Fork	15-3	15
4. Logan	13-5	8
5. Dixie	14-3	7

Others receiving votes: None.

Class 2-A

Team	Record	Pts.
1. S. Sevier	16-2	24
2. San Juan	16-2	21
3. Grantsville	11-5	14
4. Emery	11-6	10
5. Millard	10-7	3

Others receiving votes: Richfield, Morgan, Wasatch.

Class 1-A

Team	Record	Pts.
1. S. Summit	15-2	21
2. Kanab	14-3	17
3. Milford	15-3	15
4. Gunnison	12-7	11
5. Piute	14-3	8

Others receiving votes: Dugway, North Summit, Green River.