

East vs. Highland in tournament final

By Mike Sorensen

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East coach Dick Milne is worried. Even though his team beat Orem 65-61 Thursday night to move into the finals of the Valley Holiday Prep Basketball Tournament, Milne isn't resting easy.

You see, he has three big problems. No. 1, his team has played sloppily in both tournament wins and he can't understand why. No. 2, two of his top guards suffered injuries in Thursday night's game. No. 3, his team must now face Highland in an 8 p.m. final Friday night for the Leopards' toughest test of the young season.

The first problem is correctable, the second questionable, but the third is there regardless.

"We just couldn't seem to get untracked again tonight, just like in the first game (against Granite)," said Milne, "we got it going in spurts — enough to win."

East fell behind 12-10 after a quarter, but poured in 31 points in the second period to go up by 13 at half, 41-28. The Tigers slowly whittled away the lead, but the closest they got was within four at the final buzzer.

Going into the final against Highland the Leopards find themselves hurting at guard. Starter Tim Lunt threw his back out early in the second half and top reserve Paul Schmutz hurt his ankle early in the game. They might

play, but won't be at full strength for the final.

Probably the biggest problem of all is Highland. East and Highland have had a rivalry going for 20 years now and this year it will be as intense as ever, since the schools are two of the state's best.

And this first encounter will produce the first loss of the season for one school, since East stands 6-0 and the Rams 5-0 at this juncture.

It will be an interesting match, with Highland having to contend with East's big height advantage while the Leopards must find a way to get through the Rams' tenacious press.

Ram coach Larry Maxwell summed it up for both coaches, saying: "you just have to do your own thing, and hope you can do it better."

Thursday evening East relied on the scoring of Brad Boyle and Dave Johnson, who put in 21 and 20 points respectively. Orem's Jeff Edwards led his club with 17.

In the first contest of the evening, West and Granite staged the closest game of the tourney, with West coming out on top 58-57.

The Panthers led throughout the game but nearly lost when Granite had a chance with a last-second shot. But it fell off and the Panthers found themselves in a 4 p.m. consolation game with Alta Friday. Skyline and Orem play for third place at 6 p.m.



East High's Dick Milne
... his Leopards are 6-0.



Highland's Larry Maxwell
... in tournament final.