East Melts Ice, Wins, 20-10, Over Farmers

By Roger Graves
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Members of the opposition have tried virtually every trick, every strategy in the book against undefeated East this year. Orem attempted to languish the Leopards with a deliberate style of play in December. It didn't work. Olympus tried a four-corner offense in January. It failed.

However, Granite went all the way Tuesday afternoon at East. The Farmers employed a good ol' take-the-air-out-of-the-ball stall. Granite held the ball for minutes each trip down court. But again, East held the last laugh, maintaining its poise to coast to a 20-10 triumph and stretch its Region Three record to 10-0.

"It's a great argument for adoption of the 30-second clock, isn't it?" said East Coach Dick Milne post game. "I thought our kids reacted well to the stall. Sometimes, a team will lose its poise and patience under those circumstances, but I thought everyone kept their composure to make the slowdown backfire."

After East missed the first shot of the game, Granite immediately went into a holding pattern. Obviously, Farmers' Coach Dave Mascaro figured it was his team's only chance to prevail. However, East's Greg Grant came up with a steal and a resplendent dunk to give the Leopards a 2-0 advantage, and East never again trailed. But there were some interesting moments.

For instance, East assumed a 10-5 halftime lead and was in complete control when Granite put the basketball in a deep, deep freeze. While the Farmers basically stood outside with the ball, East assumed the posture of man asleep on a park bench inside. When the third quarter was history, Granite had outscored the Leopards 1-0 to trim its deficit to 10-6. However, Grant, Rich Gremillion and George Furgis came to life in the final eight minutes to outscore the Farmers 10-4 and secure the one-sided victory.

When queried as to what he told his troops at halftime, Milne chuckled and said, "I just told 'em to keep on shooting." Grant led all scorers with seven points, as East clinched no worse than a tie for the Region Three championship.
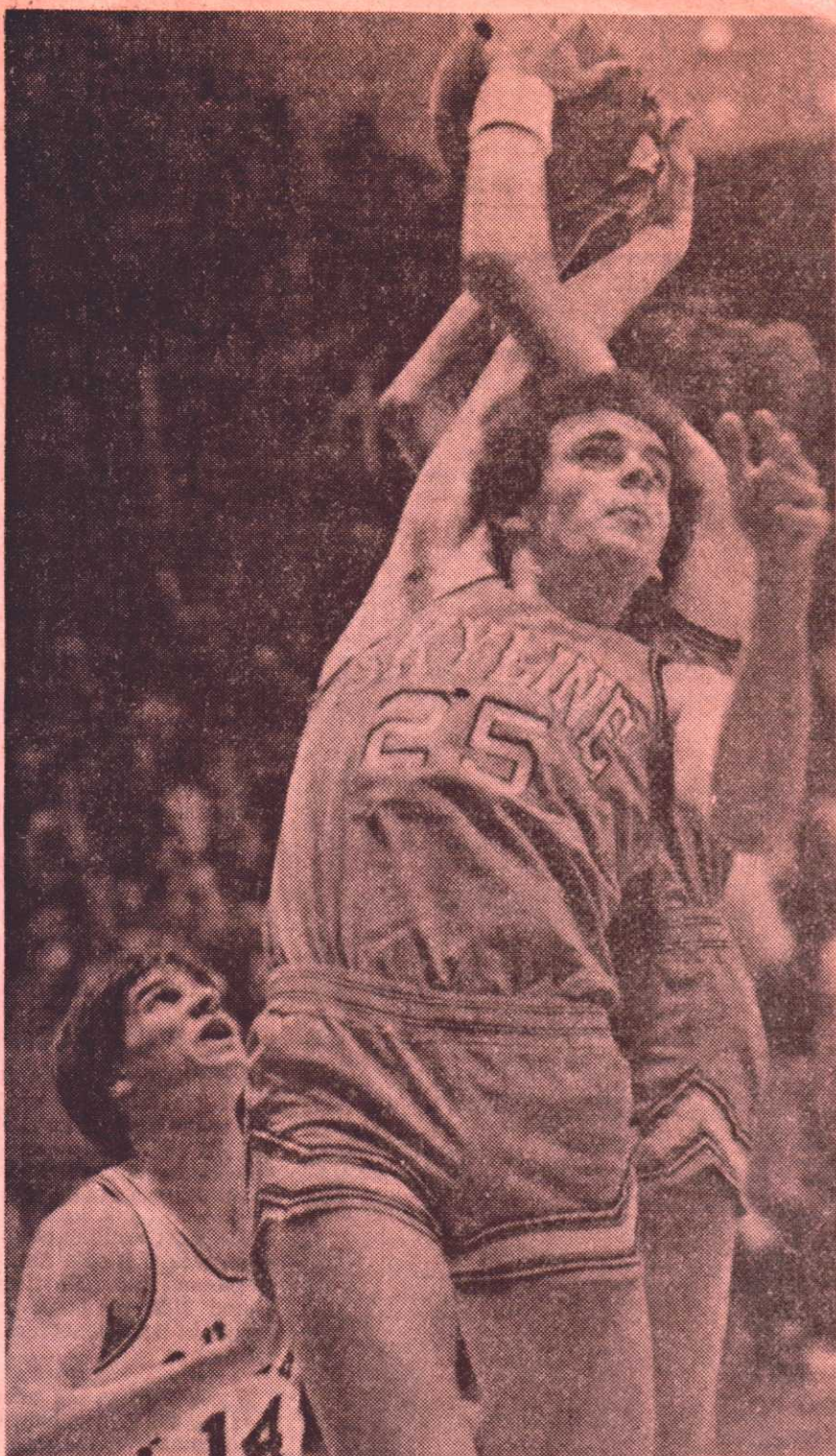
Highland and Skyline, each in quest of second place in Region Three, favored a more staccato pace Tuesday. But the pace was too fast for Skyline in the end, as the Rams broke away in the third period to engineer a 75-64 victory and climb to 8-2 in the league.

Skyline (8-3), which trailed by five to seven points throughout the first half, crept to within four at 47-43 when Scott Spurrier connected on a soft jumper with 1:55 left in the third period.

But Highland then tightened its britches. Gordon Kener swished an 18-footer, Mike Maxwell completed a three-point play and fired in a 15-footer, and Bill Moon scored on a drive with two seconds remaining in the third quarter. Then, Maxwell authored another acrobatic three-point play to begin the fourth period, which staked Highland to a 59-43 lead and iced the triumph.

East may be the talk of Region Three with its 10-game winning streak, but West High is equally proud of its modest three-game victory skein. The Panthers clinched no worse than a tie for a state berth Tuesday by turning back pesky Olympus, 63-59.

West outshot Olympus 19-8 in the pivotal third period to ice the win, as Gordon Shingleton pumped in 16 points, and Craig Child and Carey Lloyd 14 apiece for the Panthers.

—Tribune Staff Photo by Tim Kelly

Skyline's Brandon Bennett, (25) is unaware teammate Jeff Anderson (hidden) has rebound Tuesday in duel with Highland. Ram Spencer Hewlett (left) watches in vain.