

Injured East Rises to No. 1 in 4-A Captains Poll

CLASS 4-A

Record Pts.

1. East	(12-2)	102
2. Highland	(14-2)	97
3. Clearfield	(13-1)	91
4. Skyline	(11-3)	83
5. Hillcrest	(11-3)	78
6. Brighton	(11-3)	72
7. Viewmont	(10-6)	63
8. Weber	(9-5)	58
9. Layton	(8-5)	51
10. West	(5-8)	45

CLASS 2-A

Record Pts.

1. S. Sevier	(11-2)	98
2. Grantsville	(10-3)	95
3. San Juan	(11-2)	91
4. Richfield	(7-5)	84
5. Wasatch	(10-3)	75
6. Emery	(10-3)	67
7. Millard	(7-5)	60
8. Lehi	(6-4)	58
9. Juab	(8-5)	53
10. N. Sanpete	(7-6)	50

CLASS 3-A

Record Pts.

1. Woods Cross	(10-3)	102
2. Provo	(12-2)	101
3. Dixie	(12-1)	95
4. Am. Fork	(11-3)	86
5. Logan	(9-4)	80
6. Ogden	(8-4)	74
7. Murray	(7-4)	66
8. Judge	(6-5)	59
9. Cyprus	(6-5)	52
10. Tooele	(6-5)	48

CLASS 1-A

Record Pts.

1. S. Summit	(11-1)	104
2. Milford	(12-2)	96
3. Kanab	(11-2)	92
4. Wendover	(11-3)	85
5. Piute	(10-3)	78
6. Gunnison	(6-5)	70
7. N. Sevier	(10-5)	64
8. Dugway	(9-4)	60
9. St. Joseph	(9-3)	54
10. N. Rich	(6-6)	47

By Roger Graves

Tribune Sports Writer

He looked out of place in street clothes, helplessly sitting on the bench, watching and wishing he was physically able to aid his struggling teammates. His 6-foot-6 physique and attentive posture gave him away. It was apparent Rich Gremillion knew basketball and belonged in the game.

It was also evident that warming the bench may be the most difficult undertaking Gremillion has encountered during his long love affair with basketball.

Why wasn't the effervescent young man who had guided East High to a peerless Region Three record not in uniform? Why was Rich Gremillion not decked out in his patriotic red, white and blue uniform, a wardrobe which has become synonymous with perfection this season? Why was Gremillion not electrifying the crowd with a twisting dunk or pouring in his usual 18 or 25 points?

Unusual Broken Finger

The ring finger on his right hand held the answer. The previous game against Granite, Rich Gremillion had instinctively tried to avoid a collision by sticking out his right hand. When the contact came, his finger was bent in a precarious manner. He immediately knew it wasn't right and left the game in the first quarter.

He didn't return.

"I'll miss two or three weeks," said Gremillion with a sigh. "It was really a weird break because it is broken from the top of the ring finger to the bottom. It required surgery, but it doesn't feel too bad now. The doctor had to put a couple of steel pins in to hold it and took out a bone chip. I'll have the stitches taken out Tuesday."

Gremillion, a bright, bubbly, poised senior, had previously missed six pre-season games with a knee injury. Now, he has a cast on his right hand which

CAPTAINS POLL



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stretches to five inches below his elbow. It has not been a particularly lucky season for East or Gremillion in the health department.

"We've definitely had our share of bad luck," agreed Gremillion. "Boyle (Brad) had it during his junior year, (Greg) Grant missed the first of the season with a broken wrist, I had the knee injury, and several of our other teammates have been hurt by injuries. If this keeps up, Dave Johnson will be next."

Indeed, it has been a trying year for East Coach Dick Milne, who has been forced to juggle his lineup on a weekly basis to keep fresh, healthy bodies on the court. Yet, despite this medley of misfortune, East has sculptured a 5-0 record in Region Three and risen to 12-2 overall.

"I'm just crossing my fingers every day now," kidded Milne, whose Leopards are ranked No. 1 in this week's Class 4-A Tribune Captains Poll. "I would say right now that Gremillion will miss five games. Gremillion and Grant (who average 21.3 and 24.7 points when healthy) have missed 17 games between them, so we've had to shuffle people in and out. I really feel sorry for the kids themselves. This is their last year, and they've worked many hours to get where they are."

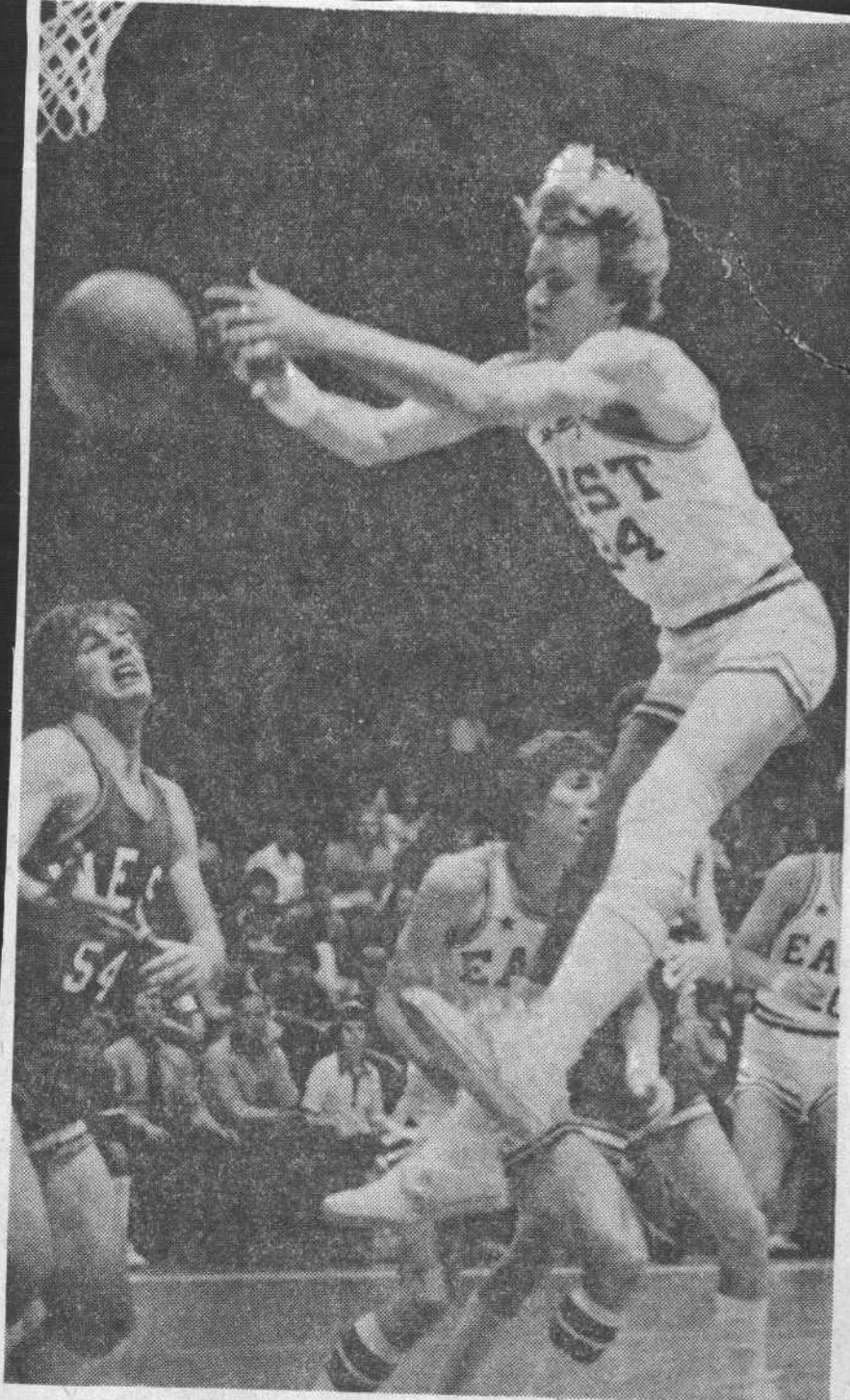
East was noticeably nervous in the wake of Gremillion's loss Friday, but maintained its composure to edge Cottonwood, 67-64. And since Skyline upended Highland last week, East was a natural for the No. 1 position in the Captains Poll. However, the Rams (14-2) moved only one notch to No. 2 and could conceivably regain their No. 1 perch when they invade East Tuesday afternoon.

Several Poll Changes

East was not the only new No. 1 team in the weekly Captains Poll. Woods Cross maintained its hold on the top position in the Class 3-A poll and South Sevier is still at the top of the class in the 2-A fraternity (despite losing to rival Richfield Friday). Ah, but South Summit (11-1) has replaced Milford as the No. 1 team in the Class 1-A ratings.

South Summit exhibited its explosiveness by zipping to a 40-point victory over South Rich Friday night, and Kent Frazier's Wildcats own a glossy 4-0 record in Region Eleven. Five good reasons for South Summit's success in 1979 are Glayde Stembridge, Russ Muir, Perry Lewis, Neal Gines and Greg Potter. Former 1-A king Milford dropped to No. 2 this week after losing at home to Gunnison.

Woods Cross narrowly out-pointed Provo to keep its numero uno position in the 3-A poll, while Dixie climbed to third, American Fork dropped to fourth, and Logan moved into fifth. Grantsville, which beat fourth-rated Wasatch in Heber City Friday, climbed to No. 2 behind South Sevier in the 2-A rankings, while San Juan sagged to third and Richfield jumped to fourth.



No injury here! Healthy Rich Gremillion of East shows off a scissor step while pursuing

—Tribune Staff Photo by Paul Fraughton
rebound against West. Rich is now sidelined with a broken finger, will miss five games