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New Coaches Lead Preps In Cage Wars

By Roger Graves
Tribune Sports Writer

Player turnover is an annual ritual in high school basketball. Sophomores come and seniors go. New faces dot starting lineups with the arrival of each new season.

But this may be the year you can't tell the coaches without a program in Region One.

Gone are long-time coaching geniuses such as Clearfield's Roger Reid, Bountiful's John Robison and Viewmont's Jim Cleverly. In all, five of eight Region One coaches who guided their respective teams during the 1977-78 season have been replaced (for one reason or another). When the 1978-79 season is christened Friday night, only three "old-timers"—Weber's Dick Comelly, Roy's Ted Smith and Layton's Doug Moon—will be easily recognized.

The five new coaches on the block, meanwhile, will begin the Region One season anew hoping to establish their teams as contenders and establish a little job security.

Opening Night Schedule

Friday's opening night schedule will see first-year Bonneville coach Gary Alverson visiting Clearfield and new coach Craig Hansen, while Bountiful "rookie" Mike Hall travels to Sky View, where new coach Ken Thompson hopes to initiate the league season on a winning note. Roy's Smith and Layton's Moon will renew acquaintances at Layton, while Weber's Comelly hosts Viewmont and first-year coach Ron Johansen.

All coaches considered, it should be an intriguing opening night.

Weber will rely on returnees Mark Montgomery, Bruce Thorpe and Brad Hall against Viewmont at 7:30 p.m. Friday. But the region's top game may be the Roy-Layton matchup.

Roy, which ruled the region with a 12-2 record last year, should again challenge for the league championship with seniors Mark Sindle, Fred Fernandes, Nate Herring and Kevin Christensen supplying the firepower. Layton is also blessed with a pool of talent in Gordon Anderson, Brandon Flint and Dave Burke.

Region Six Schedule

While Region One becomes the first Class 4-A league to begin 1978-79 play, Region Six moves into the third week of competition with the Dixie-Cedar City rivalry highlighting the schedule.

Dixie (1-0) has had an entire week to prepare for Cedar (0-2) following a Wednesday bye, but the Redmen and Craig Jensen (who pelped in 31 points against Spanish Fork) will have an ambush scheduled. Tim Palmer, Brad Lutchey and Randy O'Neil hope to remain unbeaten for Dixie.

Provo (2-0) hopes to maintain its perfect ways by hosting Springville (1-1). American Fork (1-0) entertains Pleasant Grove (1-1), and Spanish Fork (1-1) visits Payson (1-1) to round out the Region Six schedule Friday. All games are set for 7:30 p.m.

In Region Eight Friday, Milford initiates the season at Gunnison (0-1), Beaver (1-0) travels to Enterprise (0-1), and Parowan (0-1) hosts North Sevier (1-0).

Prep Basketball Schedule

Friday's Games

REGION ONE
City of Layton, 7:30 p.m.
Bonneville at Clearfield, 7:30 p.m.
Bountiful at Sky View, 7:30 p.m.
Roy at Layton City, 7:30 p.m.
Davis at Cedar City, 7:30 p.m.
Viewmont at Weber, 7:30 p.m.
Juan Diego at Juan Diego, 7:30 p.m.

Spanish Fork at Payson, 7:30 p.m.

REGION EIGHT
Milford at Gunnison, 7:30 p.m.
Beaver at Enterprise, 7:30 p.m.
North Sevier at Parowan, 7:30 p.m.

Tooele at Ben Lomond, 7:30 p.m.
Bear River at Logan Tournament
Kaysville-Centerville at Kearns
Syracuse vs. Stockton, 6 p.m.
Kearns vs. Cottonwood, 8 p.m.

Johnson, East Defeat Pesky Orem

By Roger Graves
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East High's Dave Johnson isn't sure who to thank for the current rule he is playing in the Leopards' perfect season. Should the 6-4-at-5 senior thank adversity, which sidelined second-year starter Greg Grant with a wrist injury? Or should he express his appreciation to East coach Dick Miles? Or should he thank fate for the opportunity?

Whomever deserves the credit, Johnson sent his thank you notes via a steady stream of lay-ins, jump shots and 20 points Thursday to power East past pesky Orem, 66-61, and into the finals of the Salt Lake Valley Basketball Tournament at Highland High.

Johnson Takes Charge

Johnson, who popped in 16 first-half points and helped the Leopards erase an early six-point deficit, took charge for the Leopards Thursday evening in the wake of another wave of adversity. East, which trailed throughout the first period, saw starting guards Tim Lunt and Paul Schmutz retire to the bench with injuries. To further complicate matters, center Rich Gremillion was in foul trouble throughout the game and saw only brief action.

That left Johnson and Brad Boyle carrying the Leopard load. And they did so admirably.

Orem rode the marksmanship of Chris McMullin and Jeff Edwards to a 13-10 first-quarter edge, but the Golden Tigers then turned ice cold. With Boyle and Johnson responsible for all but two points, East outscored Orem 21-16 during the second period to assume a 41-28 halftime advantage. The 19-minute dry spell at the beginning of the second quarter cost Orem the game.

The Golden Tigers outscored East in every quarter of the game—except the pivotal second. And Orem had to pop in six straight points during the final 40 seconds to pull within four points at the final horn.

It was not a masterful showing for East, which now takes on host Highland for the tournament championship Friday at 8 p.m.

East Scoring Parade

"I feel as though we lost the game," said East's Milne, who saw his team improve to 6-0. "That's the hardest game I've ever had to sit through. We couldn't get anyone to play, and we never had five people playing together. The loss of the two guards could really hurt us against Highland and its full-court press."

Boyle, who caught fire in the second half after Johnson carried the first-half load, poured in 21 points to lead East, while Johnson's 20 represented the Leopards' only other double figure scorer in a game which featured three technical fouls and three players disqualified via fouls. Edwards paced Orem with 17 points, while McMullin and Dave McGinn added 11.

In a consolation bracket game Thursday, Carey Lloyd vaished a pair of free throws with nine seconds remaining to carry West to a scintillating 56-57 victory over Region Three rival Granite.

Farmer Comeback

Gordon Shingleton, who collected 21 points on the evening, helped West secure a 42-38 lead entering the final eight minutes. But Granite's Kevin Kuhn and a trapping defense provided the fuel for a Farmer comeback which fell one point short. Kuhn was the lone Granite player to reach double digits with 10 points, while Lloyd popped in 16 for the Panthers.

West meets Alta for the consolation championship of the tournament Friday at 4 p.m. Skyline and Orem will then vie for third and fifth place at 6 p.m., with Highland and East putting their respective perfect records on the line in the title game at 8 p.m.

Borg Defeats Ramirez in WTT Match

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica (AP) — Bjorn Borg, the No. 1 seed registered an easy 6-1, 6-2 victory over Mexico's Raul Ramirez in a $10,000 winner-take-all match at the $320,000 World Championship Tennis Challenge Cup tournament at Montego Bay Thursday.

Earlier in the day, Romanian Ilie Nastase stopped Dick Stockton 6-3, 6-4 to earn his first $10,000 in the tournament.

And in a match marred by harsh verbal disputes, Peter Fleming, a last-minute substitute for Vitas Gerulaitis, beat 18-year-old John McEnroe 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in two hours and eight minutes.

Fleming trailed McEnroe 5-4 in the first set, with Fleming serving. At 30-15, McEnroe hotly disputed a linesman's call and was booed by the crowd.

Fleming went on to take the set 5-4, then won the tiebreaker 7-5.

Utah Attendance Leads WAC

DENVER (AP) — Utah had a record year in total attendance and three other Western Athletic Conference schools recorded home-game attendance increases during the 1978 college football season, conference officials report.

Utah had a total attendance of 130,600, with a per-game average of 26,122 in the 30,000-seat Rice Stadium. Last year, Utah averaged 22,567 persons per game.

Utah also had the largest increase of all WAC teams in per-game average attendance, recording a jump of 13.6 percent. New Mexico's attendance increased 13.5 percent, to an average of 16,340 persons per game. Texas El Paso increased 12 percent, while Colorado State reported a more modest 7 percent increase.

San Diego State, which had the highest total attendance record of any current WAC team with 178,847, recorded an 8.5 percent decrease in per-game average attendance. Brigham Young and Wyoming reported decreases of 1 percent and 7.5 percent, respectively.

As a league, the seven WAC schools averaged 24,965 for 36 home games, with an overall attendance mark of 964,300.

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