

# Down Dixie 74-61 For Title Cedar Redmen capture State Basketball Crown



**STATE CHAMPS.** The Cedar High School Redmen captured the Class 2A basketball championship Saturday in Provo. They are, front row, left to right: Arnie Graff, manager; Robert Shirts, Lindy Davis, Ray Meyers, Joe Burns

and Tony Stephenson. Back row, l to r: Lee Holmes, Brad Blackner, Steve Hair, Scott Burns, Kim Nielson, Coby Leavitt, E. J. Corry, Mike Hair, Coach Dick Hobbs, principal Gerald Hawley and assistant coach Dave Sargent.

We're Number One!

That chant began to ring out loud and clear Saturday night at the Marriot Center on the Brigham Young University campus in Provo as the Cedar High School Redmen began a methodical initiation of the Dixie Flyers to become the State Class 2A basketball champions for 1975.

The chant was heard early in the game as the Redmen moved out to a 6-0 lead and continued to dominate the game until late in the third quarter when Coach Dick Hobbs called off the heavy artillery and gave every member of his squad an opportunity to play.

The Redmen wound up with a 74-61 victory over the Flyers to capture the State Crown which has been so elusive for so many years for Cedar High School.

It was the first basketball crown won by the school since its separation from the college and ironically, it is the last year that the Redmen will be playing in the 2A division of the state classification. Next year the Redmen will compete in the larger 3A classification.

## Tournament Jitters

The hard fought victory did not come easy, however, for the Redmen.

The tournament jitters almost strangled the Redmen in the first encounter of the tournament on Thursday when a gutty Morgan crew, last year's state champions forced the Redmen into overtime before bowing to the eventual state champions.

Against Morgan the Redmen could never quite put their game together and although they lead throughout most of the contest, it was never by a decisive margin.

As a matter of fact it was late in the fourth quarter when the battle really got down to serious business.

Coby Leavitt, Cedar's great all-American center was in foul trouble early in the contest, picking up his third foul early in the second quarter and his fifth and final foul in the fourth period.

Some outstanding shooting by Steve Hair in the fourth quarter picked up the tempo and put the Redmen out in front for what looked to be a victory, Morgan came charging back however and Stan Nielsen of the Trojans was fouled under the bucket with 19 seconds remaining. His two shot foul could have put the Trojans ahead in the contest, but he connected on only one sending the game into overtime.

Brad Blackner turned out to be the hero of the game in the overtime as he picked up two important steals and pushed in a pair of 20 footers to give the Redmen the boost they needed in the final 53 to 51 victory.

Also getting an important bucket in the overtime period was Scott Burns, who went on to turn in a stellar tournament performance in subsequent games.

Scoring was low in the contest and Steve Hair was top man with 12 points followed by Mike with 10 and Leavitt with 9. Burns and Blackner each had eight and Robert Shirts contributed six.

## Battle with Richfield

Moving into the semi-finals the Redmen were again hard pressed to come up with a victory over Richfield. The Wildcats had bombed Union 81 to 52 in the opening round

and went into the semi-finals as the hottest shooting club in the tournament.

The Redmen pulled off a 62-57 victory, but again it was a battle to the finish. With one and one half minutes remaining in the contest Coach Hobb's crew held a slim 59-57 advantage, but Leavitt connected from the field and Steve Hair hit one of two from the foul line to ice the victory.

The Redmen led by as much as nine points on several occasions including at the end of the third period when they held a 49 to 40 edge. In the first three minutes of the fourth period however, the Wildcats outscored the Redmen 9 to 2 and narrowed the margin for the battle to the wire.

It was a big night for Leavitt as he poured in 33 points in the contest to match the high single game scoring record for the tournament.

He was assisted by Scott Burns who connected from the outside. Burns connected on two from the field and on a pair of foul pitches midway in the fourth period to give the Redmen the edge they needed.

## Championship Smooth

After two sub-par, near catastrophies in the opening rounds of the tournament the Redmen displayed their true championship capabilities against the Dixie Flyers Saturday night.

From the outset it was a team effort as the Redmen controlled all phases of the game. Never behind the Redmen built up a big lead and with 3:31 left in the third period commanded a 30 point margin at 51-21.

The Flyers came back to narrow the gap, but the game was never in question.

The second period of play iced the championship contest as the Redmen scored almost at will, controlled both the offensive and defensive bankboards and in general dominated the action.

Burns with his outside shooting led the scoring with 19 points, but five of the Redmen were in double figures. Leavitt tallied 16 as well as controlling the boards, Mike and Steve Hair were impressive and Brad Blackner controlled the tempo of the game from the backcourt.

## Region Eight Finals

Ironically the battle for the championship narrowed down to a battle between the two entries from Region Eight, Dixie and Cedar, and further was a battle between the two biggest schools in the tournament. Dixie lists it's enrollment at 729 and Cedar High at 670. Both schools will move into 3A division of competition next year and will not be eligible to complete in the 2A classification.

For Coach Hobbs and his Redmen the State title climaxed a season unprecedented in the history of the school. The three victories at the state tournament gave the Redmen a record of 20 wins and no losses against Utah schools during the current basketball season.

In recognition of that success the team and cheerleaders were escorted through the town aboard fire trucks as they returned Sunday afternoon. Thousands of people turned out to welcome the champions home.

Monday, in a special assembly team captain, Coby Leavitt and Mike Hair, presented studentbody president, Bret Smith, with the State Trophy.