

**CLASS 5A MVP »**  
**NICK EMERY, LONE PEAK**

# Emery's aspiration: 'To be like Jimmer'

By **BILL ORAM**  
*The Salt Lake Tribune*

It might as well be said now, since it will be repeated throughout the next two years: Nick Emery isn't going to shy away from comparisons to Jimmer Fredette.

Lone Peak students already call Emery, their star sophomore guard and *The Tribune's* 5A MVP, "the Jimmer of Lone Peak."

"It was fun," said Emery, who led the Knights to a state title earlier this month. "That's what I want, to be like Jimmer."

All due respect, of course, to his brother, Jackson, Fredette's wingman at BYU, also a former Lone Peak star. While Emery, who has already received a scholarship offer from the Cougars, said while he aspires to replicate his brother's "fire," he even more admires Fredette's spark — the ability to light it up from anywhere.

Emery had observers at the 5A tournament muttering "Jimmer" with his uninhibited 3-point shooting. Sometimes he was nearer half-court than the 3-point line.

"I don't even think about how far out I shoot," he said.

Why would he, when more often than not the shot seems to go in?

Emery made 70 3-pointers, the most in 5A, and averaged more than 21 points per game. He scored a career-high 36 in a quarterfinal against West Jordan. In that same game, Emery made all 18 of his free-throw attempts.

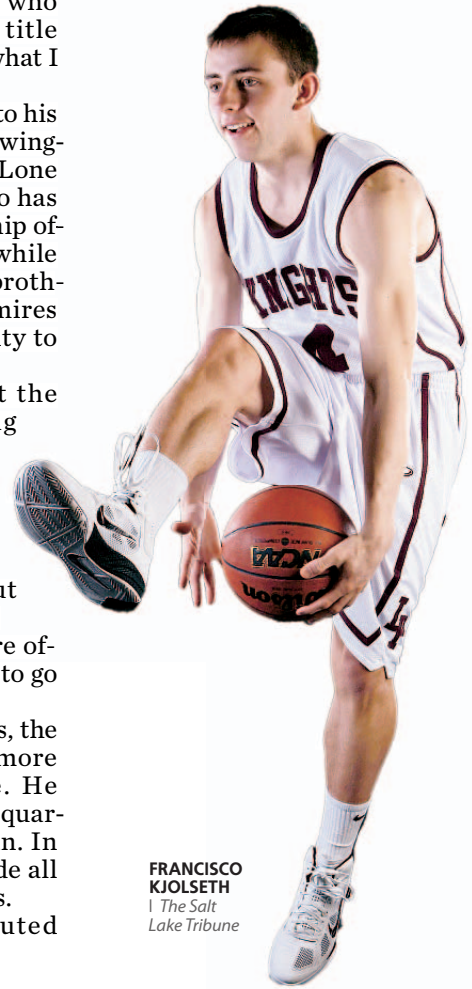
Emery was the undisputed

leader of the best team in the state, despite being just 16.

"There was some pressure," Emery said, "but you've got to play through it and play your own game."

Even when it resembles someone else's.

**boram@sltrib.com**  
**Twitter: @oramb**



FRANCISCO KJOLSETH | *The Salt Lake Tribune*

**CLASS 4A MVP »**  
**SAM ORCHARD, HIGHLAND**

# Orchard controlled the ball, Rams' fate

By **BILL ORAM**  
*The Salt Lake Tribune*

For all the Highland players who were capable of taking over games this season, there was never any question that senior point guard Sam Orchard would be the guy with the ball at the end of a close game.



FRANCISCO KJOLSETH | *The Salt Lake Tribune*

"You have to have somebody at the end of games who has the ball and will be secure with it, make a free throw," Rams coach Keith West said. "He was the guy."

Orchard averaged 16 points for the 4A champions, but his value went well beyond scoring. He was careful, poised and alert, a steadying hand for the Rams and *The Tribune's* 4A MVP.

In the team's first game against Bountiful, Orchard committed two late turnovers that cost the Rams their region lead. When the teams met again three weeks later in Region 6 play, the point guard made all 18 of his free-throw attempts.

Redemption, indeed. The third of three Orchards to win state championships at Highland, Orchard was versatile enough to take on multiple roles. If he needed to score, he could deftly get to the rim and knock down open shots. If others, such as Nate Fakahafua and Lew Evans, had the scoring under control, Orchard could just focus on getting them the ball.

"I just had to be what we needed," he said. "Some games we needed me to be a scoring point guard. Sometimes we needed me to be more of a traditional, passing point guard." Either way, he had the ball.

**boram@sltrib.com**  
**Twitter: @oramb**

**CLASS 3A MVP »**  
**MIKE BROWN, WASATCH**

# Brown spent season in a 'groove'

By **BILL ORAM**  
*The Salt Lake Tribune*

Before the start of the season, Wasatch coach Norm Hayter took aside his star player and told him that he needed to take control of the team.

Last year's co-MVP of 3A, along with teammate Trevor Bamgartner, Mike Brown needed to take on more of a scoring role, be more assertive.

Boy, did he.

The senior guard averaged 20 points per game, led the Wasps to 23 wins and a

second-straight 3A championship — which means this year, he has the MVP all to himself.

Brown, who has committed to play at Weber State, was one of the state's best shooters and was a strong finisher at the rim. His biggest contributions to the Wasps, though, oftentimes came on defense and also outside the games.

"It's really fun pushing my teammates in practices," Brown said. "Kind of not necessarily being a nice guy, making things harder in practice, and being there to help in the games."

Of course, his on-court contributions are what made him special over his career at Wasatch. Brown had the ability to take over games. Against Morgan on Jan. 4, Brown notched three fouls in the first half and went into halftime scoreless. In the third quarter, he sparked a big Wasps run by scoring all 17 of his points in the period.

"Every now and then, I got into a groove and I just knew that I could win a game," Brown said.



FRANCISCO KJOLSETH | *The Salt Lake Tribune*

**“It's really fun pushing my teammates in practices ... and being there to help in the games.”**

**MIKE BROWN**  
*Wasatch guard, who was co-MVP of 3A last season*

**CLASS 2A MVP »**  
**RACE PARSONS, SOUTH SEVIER**

# Race was on all year for South Sevier

By **BILL ORAM**  
*The Salt Lake Tribune*

The beauty of being a sophomore is that so much is still in the future.

And while South Sevier guard Race Parsons' jump shot this year was, at times, as breathtaking as it was staggering, it will still get better. While he adapted well to playing point guard for the first time in his life, he will still get better.

*The Tribune's* 2A MVP was an unflappable presence on the perimeter for the state-champion Eagles, and a fearless rebounder and penetrator. His statistics were the model of balance: 21 points per game, 9.4 rebounds and five assists.

At the heart of it, though, Parsons wants to make baskets.

"Coming up through my life, I've always been a person to score," he said. "When the pass is there I make it, but looking to score is my main priority."

It's a mentality that both frustrates and delights Rams coach Scott Hunt.

"We felt like it was worth the trade-off of him maybe missing an open guy or two," Hunt said.

Coach and player both acknowledge Parsons has work to do, but the guard aspires to be a Division I player. He could become the first South Sevier player to make it to that level since his grandfather, Lynn, who played at BYU from 1965 to 1969.

"People in the community are saying this kid might be the best to come out of South Sevier," Hunt said. "Now, that's a big stretch, but I think he has that potential if he shows he has the work ethic."

For Parsons, though, that is still in the future.



FRANCISCO KJOLSETH | *The Salt Lake Tribune*

**CLASS 1A MVP »**  
**EVALDAS ANIULIS**

# Aniulis blossomed during his senior year

By **BILL ORAM**  
*The Salt Lake Tribune*

For much of the season, Wasatch Academy coaches hoped senior Evaldas Aniulis, of Lithuania, would become the player they knew he could be.

A brawny 6-foot-2, 180-pound point guard, Aniulis was a strong when he attacked the basket and a deft passer. But it wasn't consistently there.

"In the beginning probably I was nervous," said Aniulis, who was in his first year playing for a U.S. team. "I didn't know why I played bad. That was why, I was nervous. Then after a few months, everything was better."

Aniulis played his best in the postseason. He notched his first triple-double against Liahona in a region tiebreaker on Feb. 26. After that game, coach Geno Morgan had a conversation with his assistant coaches and said, "If he plays like that, we should [win] state."

So it was fitting that Aniulis' next triple-double came in the Tigers' championship victory, which again came

against Liahona.

"I didn't want a triple-double," Aniulis said. "I just wanted to play my game. Coach said, 'Do your best,' so I did my best."

Morgan dreams of what might have been if Aniulis were not a senior and could again be paired with flashy scorer Jarryn Skeete. Skeete was as important for Wasatch Academy, just in different ways. He led the team with nearly 18 points per game.

Skeete will return next year, but it's likely the Tigers will miss the impact of his partner, Aniulis.

"If he had another year," Morgan said, "what you saw at state is what you'd be seeing every day."

**boram@sltrib.com**  
**Twitter: @oramb**



FRANCISCO KJOLSETH | *The Salt Lake Tribune*

# Murray coach Workman fit all the Spartans' pieces together



**Jason Workman »**  
Murray coach

By **BILL ORAM**  
*The Salt Lake Tribune*

David Collette would have made any coach look better.

It was how Murray's Jason Workman utilized Collette and maximized the potential of the players around him that propelled the Spartans to their best season in nearly 15 years, making

**COACH OF THE YEAR**

Workman *The Tribune's* coach of the year.

"We knew we had a chance to do something special, so we really had to find ways to define roles to complement David and not hurt him," Workman said.

That meant allowing the Utah State commit to operate in the post, but also figuring out how a team of talented role players fit in with that. Collette going for 30 points each night wouldn't have been enough.

Murray didn't have a true point guard, so Workman enlisted sharpshooter Riley Grandinetti to bring the ball up the court, and

then called sets that didn't require a "Steve Nash approach" to the position, Workman said.

The payoff was huge. Murray, in its second and final year in 5A, reached the state semifinals for the first time since 1997, where it eventually lost to state runner-up American Fork.

Workman is a Murray alumnus and just completed his seventh

season as the school's head coach. He understood the significance of the Spartans' success. Last year, with a Collette-led team, Murray lost in the first round to eventual runner-up Fremont.

"It made it that much more enjoyable to accomplish what the kids did," Workman said, "because we learned how difficult that was."