

WEEKLY ROUND-UP

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

- 5th Grade:** Jack Jensen (Team BWIL) - He led his team to a strong 2-0 start, including a standout performance against the Strikers where he dropped 24pts.
- 6th Grade:** Jakob Bernard (Salt City Hustle) - He delivered in both games, proving why he among the top scorers in his class. His consistent performance is setting the tone for a standout season.
- 7th Grade:** Liam Taylor (Salt Lake Sonics) - He is showing the talented 7th grade class that he belongs with the elite players and he's eager to keep proving it, with plenty more to come this season.
- 8th Grade:** Vince Olsen (OnTapElite 8" Black) - Vince delivered an all-around stellar performance, dropping the first 30-point game of the season and helping his team start 1-1 in Youngblood. A dominant showing that sets the tone for what's to come.

Honorable Mentions: Sawyer Dickson (Real Athlete Black), Kouc Deng (Salt City Hustle), Damian Perez (OnTapElite 5th White), Henry Bench (Team BWIL), Graham Plamer (Utah Flight), Robbie Cannon (Team BWIL), Daxton Olsen (Invictus), Cole Oyler (Utah Blitz), Clinton Pierce (Utah Rise), Gabe Harrington (Ut Prospects), Crew Bendall (Utah Rise), Sawyer Wilding (Fantomz), Trey Emery (Utah Stars Elite), Dre Bennett (Salt City Hustle), Colton Nielsen (Salt Lake Sonics)

JAN 3RD STORYLINES

- Utah Stars Elite:** Kicked off the season with a 2-0 start. They're aiming to become the 2nd team in as many years to win the championship in every age group. With added size, excellent guard play, and sharp shooting they'll be hard to beat. However, this season brings their biggest challenge yet, as the competition has never been stronger.
- Utah Blitz 7th** - Makes An Early Statement. Opening the season with a big win over Adidas-sponsored Utah Magic. This strong start sets the tone for what promises to be an exciting season.
- Utah Stealth:** Secures wins in two hard-fought games against very solid opponents Real Athlete (Future) and Utah Stars 6th.
- 5th Grade:** With so much talent and competitive teams, the question remains who will prevail in this division.

Official Notes:

"Coaches & Spectators - We do not care who wins, we are trying to get it right for both Teams." League Official

TEAM SPOTLIGHT

- South Valley Hoop 8th** - Won two thrilling games in OT, with very little size these boys showed heart and grit, scraping their way to two early-season overtime victories.
- Lockdown 7th** - With two elite guards Lorenzo Park and Holden Atwater, Lockdown is poised to surprise teams this year. Don't be shocked if they make a run in the playoffs.
- The Peak 6th** - With two early blowout wins to start the season. If they keep this pace, look out as a serious contender.

KEY MATCHUPS - JAN 10TH

5th Grade: Team BWIL vs Real Athlete (Future) 5th.

After both teams started 2-0 in week (1) one team will be leaving with a loss.

6th Grade: The top 6th grade team from Idaho (Uptempo)

Makes their first trip down to play in Youngblood. These boys can play.

7th Grade: Utah Prospects vs Utah Blitz

A possible championship preview. The best guards in the state will be going head-to-head but who will be able to stop the big man from the Prospects.

8th Grade: Utah Stars Elite vs Salt Lake Sonics

Pre-season Champs Salt Lake Sonics have added big man Darius Swenson to an already talented team, can they take down the league best Utah Stars Elite?

Congratulations to these College Commits:

Dean Rueckert (BYU)
Junior County (UCONN)
Anthony Felesi (PITT)
Bryce Mella (Utah State)
Gavin Lowe (UC Irvine)
Carlo Mulford (Southern Idaho)
Dash Reiser (Eastern Wyoming)

Former Player Shout-Outs

Richie Saunders (BYU) avg 18pts a game on the 10th ranked BYU Cougars.
Dash Reiser (Alta HS) Goes for 30pts in a tournament over Christmas break in California. It's his 3rd 30+ game of the year.

FINAL THOUGHTS

What an exciting start to the season! Overtime thrillers, buzzer-beaters, surprise upsets, and standout individual performances! A huge thank you to all the coaches who dedicate their time and energy to these young athletes. Your commitment makes this experience great.

Here's to another action-packed week in Youngblood