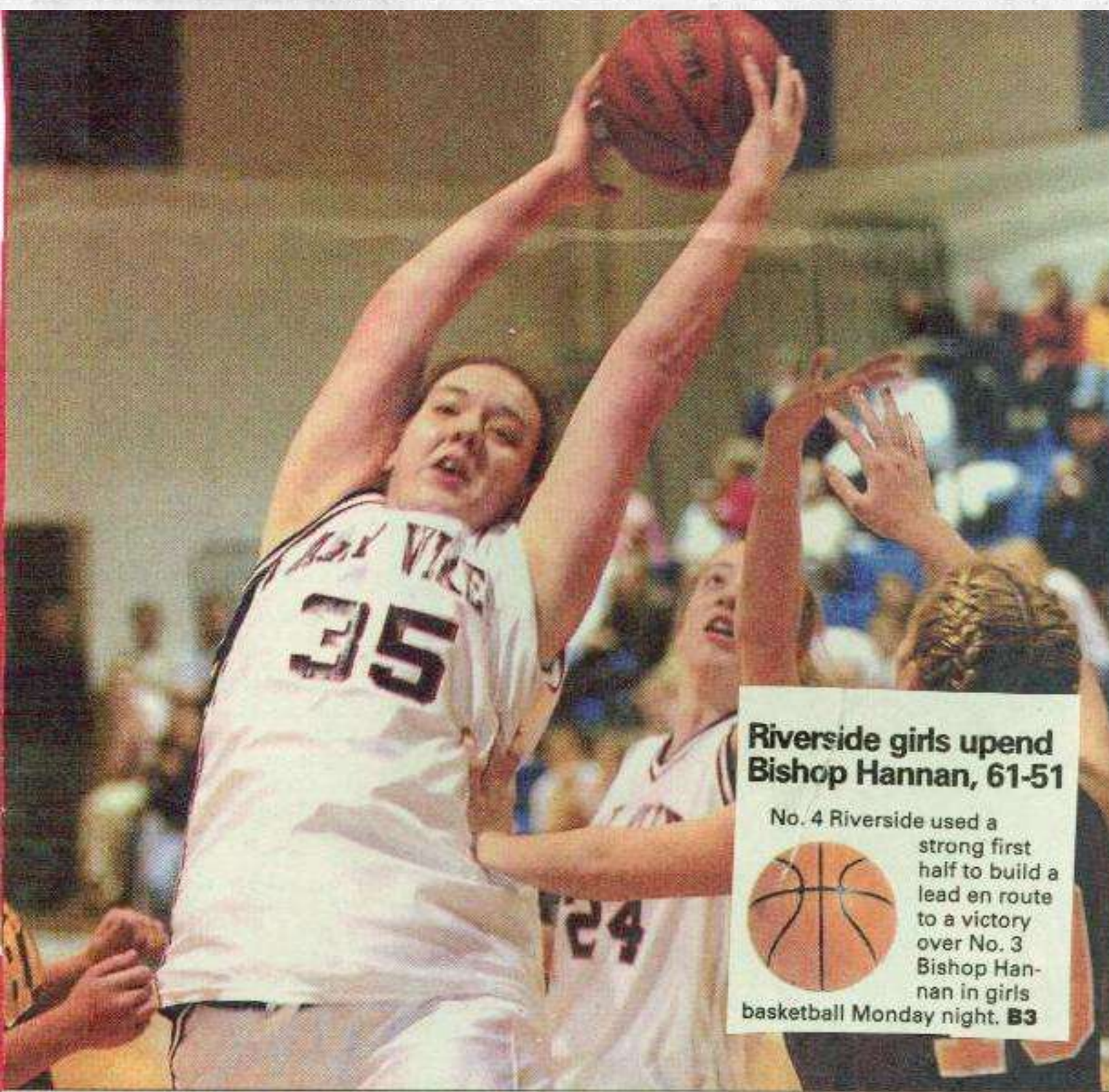


Kollonige, Lady Vikes too much for Hannan



Riverside girls upend Bishop Hannan, 61-51

No. 4 Riverside used a strong first half to build a lead en route to a victory over No. 3 Bishop Hannan in girls basketball Monday night. **B3**



RICH BANICK / THE SCRANTON TIMES

Riverside's Melissa Kollonige stretches for a rebound in front of teammate Jennifer King (24) as Bishop Hannan's Kristy Akoury (10) defends. Kollonige had eight points as Riverside won, 61-51.

Kollonige Helps Riverside Power Past Bishop Hannan

BY MARTY MYERS
THE SCRANTON TIMES

TAYLOR — It was a simple game plan, masterfully executed.

All Riverside wanted to do was pound the ball inside where it could take advantage of its big height advantage over third-ranked Bishop Hannan.

Senior center Melissa Kollonige made sure the plan worked to perfection. Scoring all eight of her points in the first quarter, Kollonige set the tone for the night and set the table for her teammates.

Riverside's other starters took advantage of what Kollonige's play opened up, with all four scoring in double figures as the No. 4 Lady Vikes topped first-half winner Bishop Hannan, 61-51, in Monday's Lackawanna II South showdown.

"When you have a size advantage, you definitely have to use it," said Riverside coach Lynn Tallo, who made her return to the bench two weeks after giving

birth to a son. "When you pound it into Melissa a couple times, it opens up everything else for our shooters. Having her inside really takes the pressure off of my guards."

Especially when the board work of Kollonige and freshman Jennifer King, who scored 11 and had 16 rebounds, allowed Riverside to take a 16-9 lead after a quarter. Kollonige put an exclamation point on the start when her third effort resulted in a basket just before the buzzer.

"There's really nobody on their team that can match us inside," said Kollonige, who had 12 rebounds. "We wanted to get it inside and hope that opened up our outside shot. I was as surprised as anybody to be that open inside."

Surprise was more disappointment for Bishop Hannan coach Barry Fitzgerald, whose team never got closer than five the rest of the way.

"We don't give up 61 points to

anybody," Fitzgerald said. "The last few games, our defense has been lacking. Let's put it that way. We're having to outscore people."

"We played very poorly defensively. For the most part, we defended the post shot well, we just gave up too many second chances and bailed people out."

Bailed them out by sending Riverside to the foul line 40 times. Much of that was because once Riverside had the lead, Tallo let point guard Nikki Turoni run the show. She scored 15, seven in the final quarter.

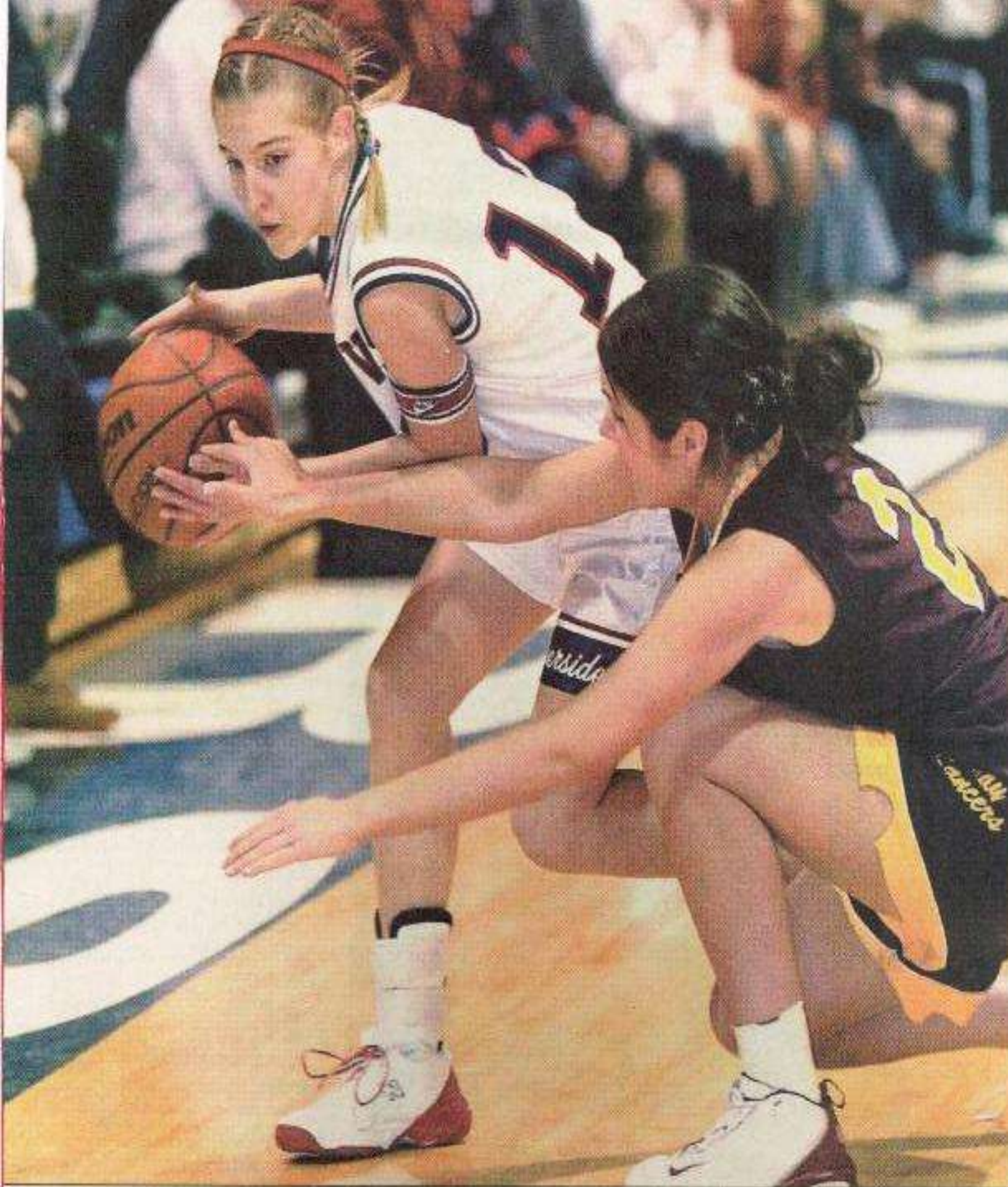
Hughes led Bishop Hannan with 21 points, but Riverside, unlike the first meeting between the teams, did not let Hughes have much room in the open court.

Bishop Hannan (2-1, 14-5) — Cappelloni 3 0-2 6, Conway 4 4-4 12, K. Akoury 2 0-3 4, Hanity 3 2-6 8, Hughes 8 3-5 21, Aldabayan 0 0-0 0, M. Akoury 0 0-0 0, Yazurlo 0 0-0 0. Totals 20 9 20 51.

Riverside (3-0, 15-2) — Turoni 3 9-14 15, Kollonige 4 0-2 8, Chisdock 4 7-12 15, Plisko 4 1-3 10, King 3 5-7 11, Thomas 0 2-2 2, Quick 0 0-0 0, Fauver 0 0-0 0. Totals 18 24 40 61.

Bishop Hannan	9	8	14	20	- 51
Riverside	16	13	15	17	- 61

3-point goals: Hughes 2, Plisko. Officials: Schoen, Grassi. JV: Riverside, 44-39 (R: Quick 14, B: Sempa 10).



RICH BANICK / TRIBUNE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bishop Hannan's Kayleigh Conway, right, tries to steal the ball from Riverside's Jessica Plisko. Plisko scored 10 points as Riverside won, 61-51.