



Silvertown's Hailey Smisek pushes past the Springfield defense during the team's championship game at Gill Coliseum on Saturday.



Silvertown High School's state championship title came exactly 22 years to the night after Silvertown's last state title in 1994.

PHOTOS BY SHELDON TRAVER/SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

# Undefeated

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Early on, the Foxes simply couldn't hit a basket. They started off the game 0-for-16 from the field. Still, the pesky Silvertown defense didn't give up much as the Millers held the lead throughout the opening half. By halftime, Silvertown trailed 17-12.

"We didn't shoot it well and that's not like us," Silvertown coach Tal Wold said. "I don't know what it was, but we had great shots. At halftime, we made a couple of small adjustments, but I told the girls to keep shooting because they were getting great shots."

Silvertown trailed by nine points to start the third when Wold made a bold decision. He decided to employ a full-court press on the Millers.

It worked. Springfield's offense evaporated as its only field goal of the quarter came with 7:21 to play. Silvertown went on a 16-7 run to open the quarter, capped by a jumper in the key by Hannah Munson with 2:56 to play that tied the game, 37-37.

With Silvertown clinging to a 39-38 lead after a Parsons free throw, the Foxes seemed as if they were going to put away the game at the foul line. With 12 seconds left, Hailey Smisek stepped to the foul line, but missed both foul shots.

After Springfield's Hannah Eddens rebounded the miss, she threw an outlet pass to a teammate, but there was Parsons, who stepped in the lane for a steal. With 4 seconds left, it was Silvertown's game to put away as Brooke McCarty had two free throw attempts. She missed both. Springfield's Cielo Gonzales got a shot off at the buzzer, but it failed to hit the rim as Silvertown put the finishing touches on the state championship.

"Every time we were down, we found a way to get our momentum back," said Parsons, who finished with a team-high 16 points and was a unanimous first-team

all-tournament selection. "That was awesome."

The title came exactly 22 years to the night after Silvertown's last state title in 1994. On top of the title, the Foxes finished 28-0 — the first undefeated season in the program's history.

"To win every night, though, it says a lot about how the kids feel about each other," Wold said. "When practices come and games come, it's a grind. You've got 28 games and it's easy to have an off night and just don't play well, but these girls kept finding a way. It's that old adage of aptitude versus attitude. We have aptitude, but we also have great attitude."

Silvertown finished the game shooting 11-for-52 for 21 percent, compared to 11-for-37 from the field for the Millers for 30 percent. The Foxes were out-rebounded 50-27, but forced 26 Springfield turnovers while only committing eight.



The Silvertown Foxes outscored Springfield 18-8 in the final period and scored a 39-38 win. The Foxes were out-rebounded 50-27 but forced 26 Springfield turnovers.

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