

Mavs mull *what might have been?*

Late-season charge wasn't quite enough in parity-filled SIC

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

When all the dust had settled from the 2012 Idaho high school football season, there were a couple of things learned.

The Borah Lions were clearly the biggest surprise in the state. The Lions, under coach Darren Corpus, had their first winning season in 20 years last year (5-4) and followed it with an 7-3 record and tied for first place in the 5A SIC.

In the postseason, however, the SIC was a disappointment. All four qualifiers lost in the first round. In the end, Madison defeated defending champion Coeur d'Alene for the crown. It marked the fourth time in the last five years that the state's most-populated area (Boise) did not win it all.

Mountain View coach Judd Benedick said the SIC teams beat each other up a lot during the season and it may have taken its toll.

"In our league, you really have to show up every night," Benedick said. "It was a challenge each week and we knew it was going to be like that. There was a lot of parity."

Benedick felt that Mountain View might have been a team that could have



Junior **Abdullah Abibovic** takes a break during Mountain View's win over Eagle.

progressed in the 5A playoffs. The Mavericks were picked before the season to finish in second place in the SIC. A slow start derailed their hopes and, when Eagle defeated Timberline 29-27, in the final week of the regular season, Mountain View's hopes ended.

If Timberline would have won? Borah and Capital would have tied for first place, and there would have been a tie between Eagle, Rocky Mountain and Mountain View for the final two spots.

It's all hindsight now. But what really messed up Mountain View's chances was Borah, which defeated the Mavericks 35-21 on a hazy, smoky Saturday afternoon at Dona Larsen Park.

"Without a doubt, Borah was the surprise team in the league," said Benedick. "After losing (QB Braden) Corpus, he

was 90 percent of their offense, and then they lost to Boise. Boy, was I wrong about them."

Ironically, it was Borah that was left out of the playoff chase in 2011.

What made Mountain View's fate even more difficult was the Mavs won their final three games convincingly, including a 48-22 win over Eagle. Kai Turner and Josh Buss had electrified the offense. In fact, after Mountain View's 20-6 loss to Rocky Mountain, nobody could stop them. Centennial, Eagle and Vallivue all fell by an average score of 49-21.

"We wre playing our best football at the end of the year. We could have gone a long ways. We were playing better than anybody in our conference. We hit our stride at the right time, but it just ended up being too late."