

Key plays go Capital's way

Packed stadium watches Mavs drop early season battle between SIC powers

By Kevin Warnock
Matchup

The triangle formed by Eagle High School in the north, Capital in the east and Mountain View in the south pretty much marks the balance of football power in the 5A SIC.

Idaho geography makes top five matchups rare, so it was a packed home stadium as the Mavericks renewed their rivalry with the Eagles on home turf in the Treasure Valley's marquee game of Week 2.

This round went to the visitors 26-19, but a pending sense of playoff anticipation was in the air after the game decided by just two key plays that went Capital's way.

Junior Josh Buss fielded a line-drive kickoff and took it up the right sideline just before halftime for an apparent touchdown. But a penalty flag thrown for a hold on the opposite side of the field erased it and allowed Capital to hold on to their 12-6 lead at the break.

Then a Mountain View fumble on its own 7-yard line allowed Capital to retake an 18-13 lead following running back T. J. Clarke's 1-yard plunge on a fourth-down play.

"There's a lot of season left," said Mountain View coach Judd Benedick. "We know we can play with every team, but the whole league is tough and some are really good."

Capital was this night. After Eagles' quarterback Makena Simis helped his team with an early fourth-quarter touchdown and two-point conversion, the Mavericks would only get the ball twice more and were unable to come up with the equalizer.

"Mountain View does a heckuva job. We knew it wouldn't be easy," said Capital coach Todd Simis. "Offensively, we knew it would be tough sledding. I wish we could have finished it on offense."



Dylan Garcia moves downfield looking for someone to block.

Junior quarterback Kai Turner, itching for a last stab in the waning minutes, finally got on the field at the Maverick 36 with just 1:19 to play. After converting a key 4th-and-long play to senior Collin Sale, the Mavs had a first down at Capital's 39, but couldn't convert again.

"We didn't start like



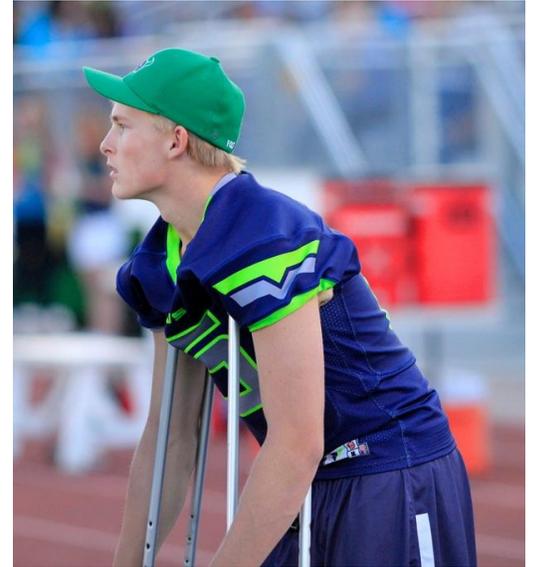
Nick Guzzetti

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MOUNTAIN VIEW FOOTBALL: Capital 26, Mavericks 19



TOP LEFT: Mountain View's coaching staff question an official's call.



TOP RIGHT: An injured Zach Taylor watches intently from the bench.



LOWER LEFT: Kai Turner stretches to try to get a first down.

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we wanted. We were too tight, not having fun, not staying after them," Turner said. "Then we loosened up. It's all about not being timid, not being tight and just knowing 'You got this, you've done it 100 times before'. It's all about our offense coming ready to play."

Sophomore quarterback Garrett Collingham came ready. Pressed into service when Turner was injured on the Mavericks' first possession of the second half, Collingham lofted a perfect spiral to junior Kenny Webster for a 32-yard score.

"That was awesome!," Benedick said. "The amazing thing is, it has happened on consecutive weeks. He has thrown two passes in two games, both for touchdowns!"

Limiting Simis and Company on offense was a

GAME SUMMARY

Capital	6	6	6	8	- 26
Mountain View	0	6	13	0	- 19

- C – Zach Krishnek recovered blocked punt in end zone (kick failed)
- MV – Josh Buss 21 pass from Kai Turner (kick failed)
- C – Makena Simis 5 run (kick failed)
- MV – Kenny Webster 32 pass from Garrett Collingham (Austin Azevedo kick)
- C – T.J. Clarke 1 run (pass failed)
- MV – Turner 3 run (pass failed)
- C – Simis 1 run (Simis run)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

- RUSHING:** Capital – Clarke 33-142, Simis 13-39, Dylan Hale 3-8. MV – Turner 17-43, Buss 10-38, Chance Smith 1-(-2).
- PASSING:** Capital – Simis 17-28-1-181 yards. MV – Turner 15-31-0-181 yards, Collingham 1-1-0-32 yards.
- RECEIVING:** Capital – Tarik Littlejohn 7-93, Hale 6-51, Marcel King 4-37. MV – Webster 5-78, Buss 6-59, Sale 3-44, Smith 1-22, Marshall Pack 1-10.

big concern for a young defense early in the season. Benedick liked what his two young corners, Troy Vance and Nich) Guzzetti were able to do.

"We've asked these two to be great against a team that can really sling it. They played their butts off, they made some plays!," Benedick said. "It wasn't the aerial show some were expecting."

The Mavericks' first score was a 21-yard pass from Turner to Buss, which knotted things at 6-6. Mountain View's final lead late in the third quarter came at 19-18 following a 24-yard completion from Turner to Sale and then a 30-yard run by Turner to set up a first and goal.

"Our offensive line is younger this year but they're maturing real fast and getting better," Turner said.