

Mavs drop tough defensive battle

Key turnovers keep Mountain View close, but Rocky wins at end

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

Friday night's SIC rivalry game between Mountain View and Rocky Mountain had a rare feel.

It was defense – and plenty of it. It led to a not-so-pretty game, and Rocky Mountain found a way to remain unbeaten.

Riley Bradshaw threw for 215 yards and two touchdowns and linebacker Jake Knight made the decisive play with a 22-yard interception return for a score as the Grizzlies won 20-6 at Brighton Stadium and moved into sole possession of first place.

"We'll take the win," Rocky Mountain coach Jason Warr said. "Mountain View is a very good team, so I'm pleased with that. Our defense played great tonight. Hopefully we can take the next step on offense, because we're doing a lot of good things but we haven't quite clicked yet."

Mountain View fell to 3-3, even though its defense played one of its best games of the year. The Mavs gave up 389 yards, but Bryan Dilworth had a pass interception and John Munger recovered a fumble deep in Maverick territory.

The Mavs' offense,



Nick Guzzetti can't find the ball, but still finds a way to break up the pass.

though, couldn't take advantage. They failed to advance past Rocky's 30-yard line in the first half. They finally made the game interesting when Josh Buss scored on a 2-yard run, but missed the extra point.

have to be able to run it and then open the passing game. Rocky took that away from us."

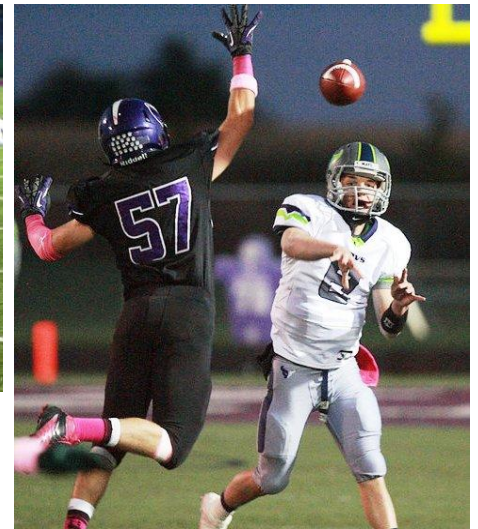
Mountain View was never able to solve Rocky's defense, which led the SIC this

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MOUNTAIN VIEW FOOTBALL: Rocky Mountain 20, Mavericks 6



TOP LEFT: Hunter Temple makes a tackle.
TOP RIGHT: The Mavs come onto the field.
LOWER LEFT: Jordan Duncan.
LOWER MIDDLE: Nich Guzzetti and Lane Chadwick.
LOWER RIGHT: Kai Turner delivers a pass.



Continued from previous page

season. The Grizzlies forced four turnovers and limited the Mavericks to 203 total yards. The game was close until the fourth quarter, when Knight stepped in front of a short Kai Turner pass and rumbled to the end zone to give Rocky a comfortable 20-6 lead.

“I saw the screen pass coming,” said Knight. “I just stepped in front of it and did what I like to do.”

The Grizzlies came up with two more interceptions in the final 10 minutes.

Rocky Mountain got off to a promising start. The Mavs tried to sneaky, but couldn’t recover an onside kick. Rocky got good field position and marched to the end zone in six plays, capped by an 18-yard TD pass from Riley Bradshaw to Chance Hamilton.

“I felt like we took a step back on offense with our struggles in the ‘red zone,’” Bradshaw said. “But we hit a couple big plays and our defense stepped up and played great for us.”

Rocky’s high point probably came immediately after Mountain View’s score. Just moments after the Mavs gained some momentum, Bradshaw found Landry Batis with a perfectly thrown 31-yard bomb to make it 14-6.

GAME SUMMARY

Mountain View	0	0	6	0	- 6
Rocky Mountain	7	0	7	6	- 20

- RM** – Chance Hamilton 18 pass from Riley Bradshaw (Kyle Bendawald kick)
- MV** – Josh Buss 2 run (kick failed)
- RM** – Landry Batis 31 pass from Bradshaw (Bendawald kick)
- RM** – Jake Knight 22 interception return (kick blocked)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: MV – Buss 12-64, Turner 14-48, Collin Sale 1-(-2). RM – Dakota Weindel 14-78, Jason Crimmins 8 -74, Devyn Christian 4-25, Bradshaw 11-(-2).

PASSING: MV – Turner 16-29-3-79 yards. Rocky – Bradshaw – 15-24-1-215 yards.

RECEIVING: MV – Connor Armstrong 5-28, Collin Sale 5-28, Marshall Pack 4-12, Buss 1-7, Chance Smith 1-4. Rocky – Hamilton 5-95, Carrivan Owen 6-56, Batis 4-64.