

Mavs save their best for Eagle

Buss has record night as MV rolls to its best win of the season

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

Facing their toughest challenge of the season, the Mountain View Mavericks picked a great time to have their best game of the season.

Josh Buss scored four touchdowns, and set a school record with 244 yards rushing as the Mavs blew out Eagle and kept their postseason hopes alive with a decisive 48-22 victory in an SIC game.

“Josh was definitely the guy we wanted to have the ball in his hands,” said Mountain View coach Judd Benedick. “Eagle had just beaten Rocky (Mountain) and everybody thought they were the No. 1 team. We really handled them. Everything clicked in all phases.”

Eagle took the early lead on a 22-yard field goal by Layne Leiston. After that, the game belonged to the Mavericks. Thanks to an aggressive offensive line, the Mavs rushed for 350 yards and scored virtually every time they had the ball.

Mountain View led 28-10 at halftime and blew the game open even further in the second half. This was easily Eagle’s worst game, and forced the Mustangs to beat Timberline the following week to earn a playoff



Josh Buss had his best game of the year, with 244 rushing yards and four touchdowns.

berth.

“We’ve always hated Eagle. They’re kind of cocky and we always wanted to put the hammer on them,” said defensive back Hunter Temple. “Beating them was pretty awesome last year and then doing it again this year on ‘Senior Night’ was pretty awesome.”

The defense also played

a big part. Eagle’s offense did manage 335 yards, but also had five turnovers. Beau White had two interceptions and Nich Guzzetti had another. Branden Wallentine and Kyle Stevenson recovered fumbles.

The Mavs eventually built the lead to 48-16 and the team, and its fans, were able to

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MOUNTAIN VIEW FOOTBALL: Mavericks 48, Eagle 22



TOP LEFT: Brandon Councilman makes the opening kickoff.

LEFT: Troy Vance

RIGHT: John Munger, Collin Sale, Lane Chadwick and Hunter Temple



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start celebrating early.

For Buss, it was his best game of the year. He averaged almost nine yards per carry and was unstoppable, especially in the second half. The way he was able to blow through the Mustangs' defense probably impressed enough coaches to make him an all-SIC pick and second team all-state.

Quarterback Kai Turner engineered the offense. He completed 13 of 20 passes for 135 yards – without an interception. In the second half, however, he threw a touchdown pass to Kenny Webster on the Mavs' first possession, then mostly handed the ball to Buss and watched him run.

Sophomore Garrett Collingham entered the game in the fourth quarter and earned some quality playing time. Another sophomore, Brandon Councilman, was asked to provide kicking duties, since senior Austin Azevedo was away with the soccer team, and nailed 6-of-7 extra points.

With the win, the Mavs improved to 5-3 and saw their hopes stay alive to make the 5A playoffs. Just as important, they gained a big momentum boost by beating heavily favored Eagle for the second straight year.

GAME SUMMARY

Eagle	3	7	6	6 - 22
Mountain View	14	14	20	0 - 48

E – FG Layne Leiston 22
MV – Kai Turner 1 run (Brandon Councilman kick)
MV – Josh Buss 24 pass from Turner (Councilman kick)
MV – Buss 8 run (Councilman kick)
E – Collin Ray 5 run (Leiston kick)
MV – Collin Sale 7 run (Councilman kick)
MV – Kenny Webster 6 pass from Turner (Councilman kick)
E – J.T. Williams 9 run (kick failed)
MV – Buss 46 run (Councilman kick)
MV – Buss 3 run (kick failed)
E – Marcus Lenhardt 33 pass from Keagan Winkle (pass failed)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Eagle – Williams 13-78, Ray 14-68, Cam Lane 5-68, Jake Erickson 10-53, Austin Diffey 12-24, Winkle 3-4. **MV** – Buss 28-244, Turner 11-73, Sale 6-43, Chance Smith 7-12, Connor Armstrong 1-12, Garrett Collingham 6-(-34).

PASSING: Eagle – Williams 8-24-3-66 yards, Winkle 1-1-0-33 yards. **MV** – Turner 13-20-0-135 yards, Collingham 1-1-0-7 yards.

RECEIVING: Eagle – Lenhardt 4-64, Diffey 3-23, Ray 1-8, Erickson 1-4. **MV** – Armstrong 4-45, Sale 3-45, Buss 2-30, Webster 2-10, Marshall Pack 2-5, Brendan Elwood 1-7.