

Mavs' Buss roars out of the gate

Big effort leads MV to convincing victory over rival Meridian

By Rachel Roberts
The Idaho Statesman

Mountain View High football coach Judd Benedick kept his secret weapon under wraps during fall camp. After Thursday night's season opener against Meridian, there'll be no hiding running back Josh Buss anymore.

The junior made defenders miss tackles all night, rushing for 165 yards as the Mavericks held off Meridian 33-24 in the 5A SIC opener for both teams.

"We've always known how special he is, but this was his coming out party to the rest of the league," Benedick said. "We have always felt like he is something else and as you can see we tried to put the ball in his hands as much as possible tonight."

Buss was effective no matter the situation, adding a 34-yard touchdown catch and scoring on a 94-yard kickoff return in the fourth quarter to seal the win for the Mavericks.

"I don't know how he does it," Benedick said. "His body moves in weird ways and he's like Gumby and then he'll put his head down and run somebody over or beat them with speed."

But Buss wasn't the only



Josh Buss finds running room early in Mountain View's win over Meridian.

Maverick on a roll.

Junior quarterback Kai Turner's deceptiveness in the backfield kept the Warrior defense guessing. The Mavericks moved quickly on their opening drive, marching 77 yards for their first touchdown of the 2012 season.

Turner faked a handoff to Buss on the final play of the drive, then ran in for a 10-yard TD and a 6-0 lead.



Kenny Webster

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MOUNTAIN VIEW FOOTBALL: Mavericks 33, Meridian 24



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- Coach Judd Benedick



TOP LEFT: Austin Azevedo connects on an extra point.

TOP RIGHT: QB Kai Turner delivers a pass.

MIDDLE: James Eldredge & Blake Maculley.

RIGHT: Coaches XXXXXXXXXXXX and XXXXXXXXXXXXX.



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Before the quarter was up, the Mavericks proved they could succeed even without their third-year QB. With Turner sitting out the play after his helmet came off, sophomore Garrett Collingham took over at center, connecting on a 13-yard touchdown pass to senior receiver Colin Sale.

“I was just trying to be as relaxed as I could and let the play develop,” said Collingham, who is a sophomore in his first season on varsity.

The Mavericks led 26-0 at halftime, as the Mountain View defense limited Meridian to just one first down.

Meridian’s offense came alive in the second half. Senior quarterback Jake Berard opened the scoring with a 22-yard run with 10:10 remaining in the third quarter.

Senior running back Darian Laboto scored twice for Meridian in the fourth quarter, but Mountain View’s lead proved too big to overcome.

“The first half was a little rough. We didn’t come out like I thought we would,” Berard said. “I think as a team, we pulled together. We realized our faults and in the second half we performed much better.”

GAME SUMMARY

Mountain View	13	13	0	7	- 33
Meridian	0	0	8	16	- 24

- MV** – Kai Turner 10 run (kick failed)
- MV** – Colin Sale 13 pass from Garrett Collingham (Austin Azevedo kick)
- MV** – Josh Buss 34 pass from Turner (pass failed)
- MV** – Turner 7 run (Azevedo kick)
- Mer** – Jake Berard 22 run (Berard run)
- Mer** – Darian Laboto 10 run (Bryson Stout run)
- MV** – Buss 94 kickoff return (Azevedo kick)
- Mer** – Laboto 13 run (Laboto run)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

- RUSHING:** MV - Buss 24-165, Turner 16-36, Chance Smith 5-28. Meridian - Laboto 12-78, Berard 21-62, Stout 7-59.
- PASSING:** MV - Turner 8-13-0 99, Collingham 1-1-0 13. Meridian, Berard 4-11-0 50.
- RECEIVING:** MV - Kenny Webster 1-10, Buss 2-48, Sale 5-43, Marshall Pack 1-11. Meridian, Tucker Bronken 2-30, Stout 1-12, Quinn Mendiola 1-8.