

A Rocky finish

Grizzlies hit the game-winning shot in exciting season finale for both teams

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

The regular-season finale at Mountain View was just what high school basketball should be all about.

It was a great atmosphere for the home team, and all went well except for the end.

That's when Rocky Mountain's John Sherle sailed through the Mavericks' defense for a layup that gave the Grizzlies the win – and sole possession of second place in the 5A SIC standings.

Rocky coach Dane Roy called timeout with 15 seconds left to set up the play. Mountain View led by one point at the time, and Roy asked Sherle to make something happen.

"I trust John so much as my point guard. It's wonderful to have him on the court," Roy said. "We run a play where he needs to get a high pick and then he goes to work."

"He hit a tough shot," said Mountain View coach Jon Nettleton. "But it was a great crowd for 'Senior Night.' We started all five seniors and the atmosphere was awesome."

Sherle finished with a team-best 17 points — including six of Rocky's 12 fourth-quarter points — and three assists.

Tanner Percifield had 17 for Mountain View. After Sherle's basket, the Mavs got the ball with four seconds left and gave him a chance. Percifield took a shot far beyond the three-point line and the ball bounced off the back of the rim as the buzzer sounded.

"I thought Tanner was going to come down and make it," Roy said. "I love Tanner. He's such a good player. That freaked me out a little bit, too."

"We had a shot," Nettleton recalled. "All the fans were on their feet to the end."

This was easily the highlighted game of the night as both squads came in on a seven-game winning streak. More than anything, the victory



Marcus Slocum patiently readies to make his move.

GAME SUMMARY

Rocky Mountain	17	7	14	12	-	50
Mountain View	16	12	6	15	-	49

ROCKY MOUNTAIN (50) – E.J. Boyce 3-8 0-0 9, Nate Bruneel 5-11 1-1 11, John Sherle 8-12 1-1 17, Matt Grooms 4-7 2-2 10, Austin Hall 1-6 1-2 3, Logan Skurdal 0-2 0-0 0, Thaddeus Jones 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 21-46 5-6 50.

MOUNTAIN VIEW (49) – Tanner Percifield 7-13 0-0 17, Matt Micone 0-1 0-0 0, Marcus Slocum 2-7 0-2 5, Randall Robinson 3-5 0-0 7, Ethan Secrist 2-4 0-0 4, Kody Olson 3-5 0-0 8, Branson Trube 2-5 2-3 6, Ryan Ball 0-0 1-2 1, Carlton Egner 0-2 1-2 1. Totals 19-42 4-9 49.

Total fouls: Rocky Mountain 13, Mountain View 10. **Fouled out:** None.

Three-point shooting: Rocky Mountain 3-14 (Boyce 3), Mountain View 7-12 (Percifield 3, Olson 2, Slocum, Robinson).

Rebounds: Rocky Mountain 32 (Grooms 12), Mountain View 20 (Trube 5).

Turnovers: Rocky Mountain 9, Mountain View 4.

means Rocky will be opposite heavily-favored Borah in the 5A District 3 tournament next week.

Rocky was the only team to beat Borah all season.

"They are starting to figure out how to win. It's something you can't really teach," Roy said. "It just comes with game experience, and we've got some kids that play a lot of basketball."

This game featured 13 lead changes and six ties. Mountain View looked just as sharp as Rocky. Regardless of the outcome, both teams seemed to be in good shape going into the district tournament.