

Rams hold on to beat Mavs for third place

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

With their championship hopes doused the night before, the Mountain View Mavericks and Highland Rams met Saturday afternoon at Columbia High School with one purpose.

Who could comeback the quickest.

In the end, it was Highland, but not much separated the teams in the Rams' 59-49 victory.

"They were huge," said Mavericks' coach Jon Nettleton. "We didn't shoot too many inside shots. The boys went down guns blazing."

Tanner Percifield ended his career with 24 points and Marcus Slocum added 17. They provided most of the offense and impressed even the Rams' fans. However, Highland got 19 points from Austin Andreasen and 14 from Stefan Gonzalez.

And, in the final moments, 6-foot-6 center Clark Wilkinson got several clutch rebounds and even hit a few driving layups to put the game away.

"After we lost last night he (Wilkinson) talked to the kids and said 'hey, let's go out and win this game,'" said Highland coach Chris Frost. "Down the stretch today he decided it was going to be his game."

Percifield got Mountain View going early from the three-point line. He and Slocum drained treys at key moments. The two teams finished the first half tied.

"We knew about Percifield. He's a player. We didn't know about (Slocum)," said Frost. "He went off when we had a little bit of a mismatch with Clark on him. Any time we went to a gimmick we kind of got toasted with a three. Those are two great players. They should go on to play somewhere."

Highland used a strong third quarter, outscoring Mountain View 18-8, and rode that



Branson Trube defends Highland guard Austin Andreasen.

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GAME SUMMARY

Highland	13	11	18	17	- 59
Mtn View	13	11	8	17	- 49

HIGHLAND (59) – Austin Andreasen 6-11 4-4 19, Stefan Gonzalez 5-10 2-4 14, Kevin Birch 2-4 0-0 6, Clark Wilkinson 2-5 4-5 8, Colton Shreve 2-4 2-4 6, Tanner Tingey 1-1 0-0 2, Cayston Pickens 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 20-42 12-17 59.

MOUNTAIN VIEW (49) – Tanner Percifield 9-20 0-0 22, Marcus Slocum 6-16 0-0 17, Randall Robinson 1-4 0-0 2, Branson Trube 1-7 1-2 3, Kody Olson 2-4 0-0 5, Carlton Egner 0-1 0-0 0, Ethan Secrist 0-1 0-0 0, Matt Micone 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 19-58 1-2 49.

Total fouls: Mtn View 15, Highland 8.
Fouled out: Olson.

Three-point shooting: Highland 7-18 (Andreasen 3, Birch 2, Gonzalez 2), Mtn View 10-32 (Slocum 5, Percifield 4, Olson).

Rebounds: Highland 38 (Gonzalez 10), Mtn View 27 (Trube 4).

Turnovers: Highland 13, Mtn View 5.

momentum to victory. The Rams maintained an eight to 12-point lead the rest of the game and felt proud to leave the gym with a third-place trophy.

"We're very happy," said Gonzalez. "We were a little sad yesterday, but we were able to come out, end the season with a win and get our seniors a trophy."

With the win, Highland finished with 21 victories, making it one of its most-successful seasons in recent history. Mountain View finished 19-7.

"Proud of my team," said Nettleton. "Undersized all year long and won 19 games. Pretty good."