

Mavs keep the 'glory days' going

Senior-laden group narrowly misses another chance at a 5A state title

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

These are the "glory days" so far for Mountain View boys basketball.

The Mavericks were just two years removed from winning their first-ever state championship and contended for the crown last year. In 2012-13, even though Borah had one of the best players in decades, the Mavericks were in the thick of it again.

"The team exceeded my expectations," said coach Jon Nettleton. "We were picked to finish fifth in our conference. We had two seven-game win streaks and, in my mind, we beat everyone we were supposed to beat."

The Mavs finished 19-7 and finished fourth at the 5A state tournament, avenging a loss to Post Falls in the first round before losing to Borah and Highland.

Mountain View came within a last-second shot of finishing in second place in the SIC. The Mavs didn't have much size, but seniors Tanner Percifield, Marcus Slocum and Randall Robinson and several others combined to keep the fans believing this could - once again - be a special year.

"I told the players just put yourself in a position (against Borah in the state tournament semifinals) with four minutes left to win the game," Nettleton said. "They did that but just came up short."

"To go 19-7 was a tremendous job by the players."

Percifield, a four-year varsity letterwinner, led the team in scoring at 15.2 points per game. He made first team all-state and was an easy choice for the all-SIC team.

He also moved up the ranks on several Mountain View career record categories. After his stellar career ended, he said the highlight was playing with his longtime friends.

"Making it back to the state tournament and



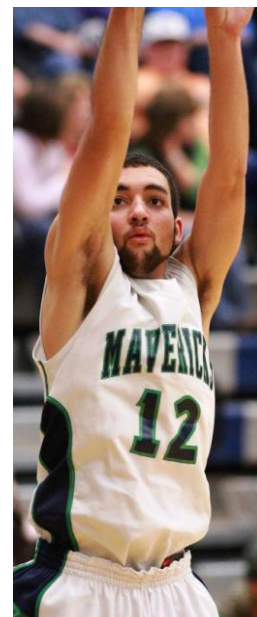
Randall Robinson and Branson Trube were part of a Mavs team that had depth and versatility.

playing there with a group of guys I grew up with is what I will remember most," he said. "We were all good friends and we've known each other a long time."

Together, they create a family atmosphere that Nettleton watched progress all season.

"The players truly cared for each other and just wanted to have fun, play hard and win," he said.

And there were plenty of those.



Marcus Slocum

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MOUNTAIN VIEW BASKETBALL: 2012-13 season recap



2012-13 results (19-7, 14-4)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>W/L</u>	<u>Score</u>
Nov. 27	CALDWELL	W	62-24
Nov. 30	at Mountain Home	W	59-38
Dec. 7	at Borah*	L	38-59
Dec. 8	TIMBERLINE*	W	45-36
Dec. 11	at Capital*	W	66-55
Dec. 13	BOISE*	W	58-50
Dec. 15	MERIDIAN*	W	48-37
Dec. 18	at Centennial*	W	58-55
Dec. 28	at Eagle*	W	67-52
Jan. 3	VALLIVUE*	W	68-45
Jan. 5	at Rocky Mountain*	L	41-44
Jan. 8	BORAH*	L	40-56
Jan. 11	at Timberline*	W	53-41
Jan. 18	CAPITAL*	W	63-45
Jan. 25	at Boise*	W	46-44
Jan. 26	at Meridian*	W	44-36
Jan. 30	CENTENNIAL*	W	56-43
Feb. 1	EAGLE*	W	61-45
Feb. 5	at Vallivue*	W	56-29
Feb. 7	ROCKY MOUNTAIN*	L	49-50
Feb. 12	vs. Eagle#	L (OT)	47-48
Feb. 16	vs. Timberline#	W	66-55
Feb. 19	vs. Centennial#	W	52-43
Feb. 28	vs. Post Falls%	W	44-34
March 1	vs. Borah%	L	53-62
March 2	vs. Highland%	L	49-59



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– Coach Jon Nettleton

* - 5A SIC games. # - District tournament
% - State tournament. Home games in CAPS

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Mountain View swept rival Meridian, winning both the "Stinky Sneaker" and "Battle of the Milk Can" contests. They held off Centennial both times, and dominated Eagle in two of its three outings.

"The 'Stinky Sneaker' is always a great time ... loud, crazy and fun ... the way a high school basketball game should be," Nettleton said. "Senior Night was pretty cool, too. We had themes this year for our home games to try to get the student body involved more."

In one game, Mountain View tried an idea called "Silent Night," where the home fans stayed silent until the Mavs scored their sixth point.

"Then they went crazy," Nettleton said. "The sixth point stood for the 'sixth man.' I saw it on Youtube (website) for a small college and thought it would be fun."

As a team, the Mavs shot the ball well (44.6 percent), led the league in fewest turnovers and defended the three-point line with a passion. There were no major injuries to worry about and that led

to less conflict.

"I'll always remember how much fun I had coaching this team," Nettleton said. "We had a lot of off-the-court activities. There was no complaining, no whining ... they just worked hard to get better."

Junior center Kody Olson exemplified that fact. At 6-foot-5, he had the size to compete against the bigger players of the league, but no varsity experience. As the year progressed, he became an offensive and defensive threat for the Mavs and even had a career-high 19 points against Centennial late in the season.

Slocum was Mountain View's No. 2 scorer and top rebounder, despite his 6-0 stature. He was a second team all-SIC pick. Junior Branson Trube gave the Mavs a lot of hustle and exuberance. He broke a school record with nine steals in one game and was an honorable mention all-SIC selection.

This year's success means the chances are good for next year as the team tries its best to reload and keep these glory years going.