

Marcus Slocum:

Hard-working senior left his legacy and ended his career on a high note

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

In Marcus Slocum's last game as a member of the Mountain View boys basketball team, he was the team's top scorer with 17 points. In his words, it was a great way to end his career.

For Slocum, his career was all about showing everyone what he could do. Despite being thin and just 6-feet tall, he had a huge responsibility – battle much bigger opponents for rebounds. He accepted it because, even though he stopped growing two years prior, it's what he did best.

"I learned that rebounding is all about effort," he said. "The guy who works hardest gets the ball. I had to adjust."

That adjustment made him a valuable asset for Mountain View and a player to remember. For a guy who often lost 1-on-1 battles against his (talented) younger sister, Destiny, he ended up being the school's third-leading career rebounder.

"He probably got the most out of his skills than anyone I have coached," said Mountain View coach Jon Nettleton. "He was an undersized '4' but never backed down from a challenge. I could always depend on him to play hard every second he was on the court."

That effort against Highland, despite being a loss, was the crowning touch and, at the team's post-season banquet, Slocum received the team's coveted "Mr. Hustle" award.

For the season, Slocum averaged 8.8 points per game and 6.0 rebounds. He shot a team-high 53.6 percent from the field and dramatically improved his three-point shooting from the previous season. Still, it was on defense where he stood out. As a team, Mountain View ranked No. 2 in the SIC in scoring defense.



Marcus Slocum was Mountain View's second-leading scorer, but his rebounding was also a huge attribute on defense.

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"I was versatile. We all were," he said. "As a team, our strength was our height. Even though we were small, we weren't short and we could play everyone everywhere."

That fact gave opponent's problems. Sure, there were more talented teams, and bigger teams, but that didn't show on the scoreboard.

"It was a great year," Slocum said. "It was fun being a senior, being able to lead and watch the team grow. We were focused and ready at practice

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MOUNTAIN VIEW BASKETBALL: Senior profile



TOP LEFT: Marcus Slocum and Kody Olson on the sidelines.

TOP RIGHT: Slocum poses with his parents on "Senior Night."

MIDDLE: Slocum prepares to make a move on an opponent.



Slocum's highlights

- * - **OLDEST OF FIVE CHILDREN.**
- * - **HIGH GAME** was 18 points vs. Boise, but also had a 16-point, 11-rebound effort vs. Meridian.
- * - **SECOND TEAM** All-SIC pick.
- * - **BEST MEMORY** was holding onto rebound as clock ran out in win over Borah in 2011-12.



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and in the games."

Slocum was a two-year letterwinner. As a sophomore, he played on Mountain View's junior varsity team and intently watched the Mavs' march to the state championship.

Slocum said Mountain View came into this season motivated. Despite that state title two years ago, a second-place finish (in the SIC) last year and four returning starters, opposing coaches weren't impressed.

They pegged the Mavericks fifth and copies of that *Idaho Statesman* article appeared on the players' lockers afterward.

"If it wasn't for that, I'm not sure we would have been as good as we were," Slocum said. "We wanted to earn some respect."

Slocum was sick in the Mavs' first SIC game at Borah and the team was soundly defeated, but they came back to be one of the league's top teams. Slocum said the team's improvement was most obvious in Mountain View's home finale against rival Rocky Mountain. After being introduced to the

crowd on "Senior Night," the Mavericks lost on a last-second basket, but was a huge improvement from their previous game.

"They had blown us out before," he said. "It showed how good we could be."

The Mavs lost their next game, too, in the district tournament opener against Eagle, but bounced back to win two straight and advance to state, where they defeated Post Falls and reached the semifinals. The Mavs then gave eventual champion Borah one of their toughest games all season.

In most of those games, Slocum's efforts were not noticed as much in the statistics.

But the big effort against Highland, and earning the Mr. Hustle award made him feel proud. College recruiters didn't come knocking, but that didn't reduce his memories of his career, or his love of the game. Slocum said he hoped to earn a teaching degree and coach basketball.

"It's my dream to someday teach and coach at Mountain View," he said.