



Sports

Maverick men hold on for 74-71 victory

GUNNISON, COLO. — Paris Kyles hit a pair of free throws with 17 seconds remaining to clinch Minnesota State's 74-71 men's basketball victory Friday over the University of Colorado-Cororado Springs at the Comfort Inn Classic, hosted by Western State University.

Minnesota State led 33-32 at halftime despite shooting 36.4 percent and making just 4 of 14 from 3-point range. Meanwhile, the Mountain Lions shot 48.3 percent



MSU's Tony Thomason scored 15 points Friday and finished with a team-high seven rebounds.

in the first half.

"We didn't shoot the ball well early," assistant coach Mike Schott said. "We got good looks, but we

didn't knock 'em down. We had some silly turnovers. They were turning it over, too, but we couldn't convert. We'd just give it back to them right away."

Minnesota State gained its first lead of the game with 35 seconds remaining in the first half as Luke Anderson knocked down a free throw for a 30-29 lead. After UCCS drilled a 3-pointer, the Mavericks quickly answered when

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Jake Morrow buried a 3-pointer from the right wing to give Minnesota State the halftime advantage.

"That was a big answer for us," Schott said. "Their stud put one right in Jake's eye, and for him to come back and answer was big for our momentum and our mental state."

The Mavericks opened three different eight-point leads in the second half, the last coming with 3:12 remaining. UCCS

cut the deficit to two with 1:23 to play before Kyles' sank his free throws to seal the victory.

"We limited our turnovers (in the second half), and shots started to fall," Schott said. "Tony (Thomason) hit some big buckets, and (Atila Santos) had some big buckets down the stretch. And we made some stops."

The Mavericks were led in scoring by Anderson, who finished with 16 points on 6-of-20 shooting. Thomason added 15 points, making 3 of 5 from 3-point

range. Thomason also finished with a team-high seven rebounds.

Minnesota State shot 41.5 percent from the floor and outrebounded the Mountain Lions 36-25, including a 16-11 margin on the offensive glass.

The Mountain Lions (3-1) were led by senior post Patrick Hannaway, who finished 13 of 15 shooting for 30 points.

Minnesota State (6-1), ranked 15th, concludes the two-day event at 8 p.m. today against host Western State.