

## McVey shines, shorthanded Redskins fall to Sunrise

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Slader McVey dribbles against Sunrise Academy's Lawrence Fejowkwu Friday night in the Big House. McVey scored 14 points in a 72-44 loss. L&T photo/Earl Watt

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BY EARL WATT

• Leader & Times

Tyson Deaton was the tallest Redskin on the court Friday night. But Deaton was seven inches shorter than the tallest Sunrise Academy Buffalo. And six more Buffaloes were taller than Deaton as well.

The height advantage along with the absence of Jade Cathey led to a 72-44 loss for the Redskins at the Big House.

With the absence of Cathey who was on a college visit, the shorter Redskins had to look for scoring opportunities elsewhere, and they found some offense from Slader McVey. The quarterback-turned point guard connected on two first quarter three pointers to keep the Redskins close. Liberal trailed by four points over the international line-up from Sunrise, 12-8. But Sunrise pushed the ball inside in the second quarter, and after Deaton knocked knees with a Buffalo, Sunrise was able to get four dunks before half against the shorter Redskins. Deaton hit a three-pointer and McVey added another three of his own, but Sunrise headed to halftime with a 32-18 lead.

Sunrise stretched the lead to 20 in the third quarter, and the Redskins continued to inflict damage from the outside. Kenlee West hit a three-pointer, but Sunrise's Darko Crnic answered with a trey of his own.

Bryan Morris connected on a three, and again Crnic responded with another three to end the fourth quarter with a combined four consecutive threes from both teams.

But if the 20-point lead was not enough to take the fight out of the Redskins, the 11-0 run to start the fourth quarter did.

The Redskins cut into the 31-point Sunrise lead and ended the game down 28.

McVey scored 14, and DeVondre Livingston also had 14.

Kenlee West scored seven, and Bryan Morris had six.

Liberal will return to the road to face Dodge City Tuesday in a key Western Athletic Conference

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game.