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With the game knotted at 66, Southwestern Heights Rogelio Martinez grabbed a rebound and was fouled with 6 seconds to play. Martinez stepped to the line, sank both free throws, and after a half-court fling by the Trojans missed and tipped away by Trevor Lee (10 rebounds), the Mustangs celebrated a hard-fought 68-66 win over Stanton County.

"It was a big, league game and we had several people step up, and we found a way to win it at the end," Mustangs coach Nefro Saucedo said. "Both teams were going hard. This is the kind of game that could be the difference between playing at home or on the road that first game of sub-state."

If Heights can get into the top-four of their sub-state they could play three games at home with the semifinals and finals of sub-state being hosted by Heights.

Heights was rolling strong in the first quarter, building a 21-10 lead in the first quarter. Ben Johnsrud (5 rebounds) was huge in the first, scoring 12 of his 13 points in the quarter, including a buzzer-beating three.

But the Mustangs went cold in the second scoring only 6 points while Stanton County roared back with 19 to take a two-point lead at half (29-27).

Nate Johnsrud took a hard fall going for a rebound in the first half, hitting his head hard against the floor. He was able to return to the bench in the second half, but did not play. Heights was also missing their top scorer Clayton Chase.

"Shots were going down for us in the first quarter," Saucedo said. "We went in a shooting slump in the second quarter. We were playing some guys that weren't used to playing together but we figured it out."

Heights regained the lead at 37-35 with 4:18 left in the third. The lead changed hands multiple times as both teams traded baskets until with 2:19 left in the game the two were tied at 64.

Jorge DeLaTorre took over the scoring responsibilities for the Mustangs in the second half with

Martinez free throws give Heights a happy homecoming

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17 of his 19 coming after halftime, including two threes in the fourth quarter. DeLaTorre was 7 of 14 from the field and grabbed 5 rebounds. Alez Loya also reached double digits with 10 points, including 4 of 4 from the charity stripe.

Heights (10-5) will host Beaver (11-9) Friday.