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(Colo.)-Gallinari, Nuggets Spoil Nowitzki's Return, 106-85



By: Dennis and Kathi Brown Posted at: 12/28/2012 09:07 PM

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS (AP) - Danilo Gallinari scored a career-high 39 points and the Denver Nuggets spoiled Dirk Nowitzki's first home game since returning from knee surgery by beating the Dallas Mavericks 106-85 on Friday night.

Nowitzki had five points in 17 minutes in his third game back, and the Mavericks lost their fifth straight for the first time since January 2011.

Gallinari scored five points in the last 5.3 seconds before halftime and opened the second half with a 3-pointer to put the Nuggets up by 11. Andre Iguodala hit four 3-pointers in a 32-point third quarter and finished with 29 points.

O.J. Mayo led Dallas with 15 points.