

ARIZONA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

FOOTBALL



20 13

FINALS



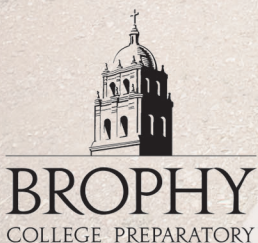


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Mesa Prep
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Queen Creek
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Shadow Ridge
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1 Ajo
2 Alchesay
3 Antelope
4 Ash Fork
5 Baboquivari
6 Bagdad
7 Beaver Dam
8 Benson
9 Bisbee
10 Blue Ridge
11 Bowie
12 Bradshaw Mountain
13 Buena
14 Camp Verde
15 Casa Grande
16 Chinle
17 Chino Valley
18 Cibecue
19 Clifton
20 Coolidge
21 Douglas
22 Duncan
94 El Capitan
24 Florence
25 Fort Thomas
26 Fredonia
27 Ganado
28 Gila Bend

29 Globe
30 Grand Canyon
31 Greyhills Academy
32 Hayden
33 Holbrook
34 Hopi
35 Joseph City
36 Kingman
23 Kingman Academy
37 Lake Havasu
88 Lee Williams
38 Lourdes Catholic
39 Many Farms
40 Mayer
41 Miami
42 Mingus
95 Mingus Mountain
43 Mogollon
44 Mohave
45 Monument Valley
46 Morenci
48 Nogales
50 Page
51 Parker
52 Patagonia
53 Payson
54 Pima
55 Pinon
56 Prescott
57 Ray
58 Red Mesa
47 Red Valley-Cove
59 Rio Rico
60 River Valley
61 Rock Point
62 Rough Rock
63 Round Valley
64 Safford
65 Sahuarita
66 Salome
67 San Carlos
68 San Manuel
69 San Simon
70 Santa Cruz
71 Sedona Red Rock
72 Seligman
73 Shonto Prep
74 Show Low
75 Snowflake
76 St. David
77 St. Johns
78 St. Michael
79 Superior
80 Thatcher
81 Tohono O'odham
82 Tombstone
83 Tuba City
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By Jose Garcia
AIA365

Mesa High's 1963 football team's journey began with a two-game trek that saw it return home as the state title favorite and concluded with a record that still stands today.

Arcadia, the 1962 Arizona high school big school champ, and Yuma (led by future 2013 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee Curley Culp) were the first two foes Mesa confronted in 1963. But that undersized Mesa Jackrabbit team prevailed, winning each game 13-12.

That was as close as anybody got to beating Mesa High that year, and no other Mesa High team has accomplished what the 1963 team did that year. Other Mesa teams won football titles, but the 1963 squad is the only team in that school's rich football history to finish a championship season undefeated and untied.

The 1963 team is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The Arizona Interscholastic Association honors every year the state football champs that are celebrating their 25th anniversary.

This year, the AIA also would like to recognize the 1963 Mesa Jackrabbits, who will be honored at halftime of the Division I championship game at University of Phoenix Stadium. Despite finishing 11-0 in 1963, it didn't persuade legendary Arizona State coach Frank Kush to recruit any of Mesa High's players.

"I remember a Kush comment when we were graduating," said Lance Willis, a 1963 all-state lineman for Mesa. "He said, 'That's the best high school team I've seen, but I wouldn't give them a scholarship offer.'"

For Mesa, it was more of a compliment than an insult, said Willis about the comment.

Mesa lacked size (average weight was 189 pounds) but not gumption.

In its first game of the year, the squad defeated an Arcadia team with fullback Dana Woudenberg, a USC signee, and quarterback Nicky Nichols, a multi-sport star.

Mesa's 5-foot-5 all-state linebacker Larry Matsumoto somehow blocked Arcadia's two extra point attempts in Mesa's 13-12 win. A week later, Mesa went down to face Yuma and its Hercules, Culp, and future Los Angeles Ram Ron Jessie.

"I remember the public address announcer saying, 'There goes Curley, driving 11 Jackrabbits down the field,'" said Mesa's second-string quarterback Norman Mendoza.

Mendoza got a close-eye view of Culp after Mesa's starting quarterback got injured.

"I was short and weighed 132 pounds but ran the option well," Mendoza said. "My first play was an eye opener.

"I felt the swipe of (Culp's) arm, and it knocked me over. The guy's arms were bigger than my chest."

But Martinez's chest swelled with pride after completing the eventual game-winning pass with 4:40 remaining in that game.

Receiver Wally Hawkins scored on that clutch 74-yard play. That season also marked the first time that Mesa played in-city rival Westwood, coached by Arizona high school legend Edgar "Mutt" Ford.

About 11,000 witnessed Mesa defeat Westwood 28-7. Another big crowd, about 12,000, watched Mesa beat Rincon 28-0 at University of Arizona Stadium in the big school championship game in 1963.

Fullback Gerald Kearns and Hawkins accounted for 230 of Mesa's 330 rushing yards in that game, and Mesa's defense held Rincon to 34 total yards.

There was one person on that Mesa team who was recruited by a major college, Royal "Sharkey" Price, the team's coach. Price and the combat boots he wore during practice were recruited by University of Arizona, where Price coached.

In 1993, Mesa High's 1963 team was inducted into the Mesa City Sports Hall of Fame. A well-deserved honor for one of Mesa High's memorable teams.



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Saguaro's Luke Rubenzer has thrown for 58 touchdowns and only three interceptions this season. Photo by Kevin French of maxpreps.com.

**By Don Ketchum
AIA365**

Scottsdale Saguaro football coach Jason Mohns has watched some of his players square off at the ping-pong table this year, and it's always an adventure.

The players are competitive, but probably none more so than Mohns' senior quarterback, Luke Rubenzer.

"He's a confident kid," Mohns said. "He carries confidence. He expects to be great in everything he does, whether it's in ping pong or football. He works hard to be great."

Asked about that trait, Rubenzer replied, "I really couldn't tell you what it is. All I know is that last year, we lost (to Goodyear Desert Edge) in the second round (of the Division III playoffs). I hate that feeling, walking off the field, looking up at the scoreboard and seeing more points on the other team's side. It is the worst feeling in the world."

Saguaro made up for it with a wild 77-48 victory over Desert Edge in the Division III semifinals, earning a trip to the state championship game against defending champion Queen Creek.

The numbers for Rubenzer this year have been remarkable. He has passed for 3,955 yards and has 58 touchdown passes. He has 127 career scoring strikes, a state record, and with three TD passes against Queen Creek would set a season state mark.

Rubenzer also has rushed for more than 1,154 yards and nine TDs.

Mohns, in his second season as head coach and seventh overall at Saguaro, said there have been times when Rubenzer "has put us on his back and carried us. He just makes plays with his arm and his feet.

"He is an athlete back there, but he also is a quarterback. There are some guys who are like a running back who can

throw a little. He is a quarterback. He has always had a football IQ. He can run the ball and knows when to run, but he can also set his feet and go through his progressions (reads)."

It always has seemed that way to Mohns, even when Rubenzer was a sophomore.

Rubenzer said much of his consistency has come through simple repetition, playing the same type of competition year after year and becoming a more mature player.

"After awhile, you kind of get a feel for it," he said.

Maturity also has come through playing in nationally recognized summer camps. The two primary ones were The Opening and the Elite 11, the latter operated by former Baltimore Ravens quarterback and current ESPN commentator Trent Dilfer.

Rubenzer's play in those camps helped him land a scholarship offer from the University of California.

The Golden Bears did not seem overly concerned about his size (6 feet and 186 pounds). There have been quarterbacks of a similar height that have had success – Russell Wilson (5-11) with Wisconsin and the Seattle Seahawks and Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Manziel (6-1) of Texas A & M.

Rubenzer has played occasional defense as a safety at Saguaro and could convert in college, but he doesn't see that happening. He believes he can fit in with the style of offense run by Cal head coach Sonny Dykes and offensive coordinator Tony Franklin.

And he should fit academically. He has a 4.2 grade-point average thus far this year.

"The way I look at it, there might be other guys bigger than me who maybe can see the field a little better, but it can also depend on the style of offense, the coaching and the opportunity you are given," Rubenzer said. "These days, you sometimes throw the ball throw in between the linemen or you roll out. When you roll out, you can have success and it doesn't matter if you're 6-5 or 5-11."

He enjoys running with the ball as well as throwing it. Mohns gives him the freedom to take off, within reason.

"He (Mohns) reminds me to stay within my game," Rubenzer said. "You can run, but once you get about 15 or 20 yards down the field, maybe go out of bounds with it. Just be smart with the ball."

Rubenzer also points to his offensive line and a receiving corps that includes junior Christian Kirk who have been big reasons for Saguaro's success.

The Sabercats usually gather for a team meal on Thursday nights, and if there's time left, they head over for some ping pong. Back and forth the ball goes, back and forth. And there is Rubenzer, right in the middle of all the action.



Recent State Championship Results

DIVISION VI

Year	Winning Team	Head Coach	Runnerup Team	Head Coach	Score
2012	Glendale Joy Christian (11-0)	Brian Cole	Pima (10-1)	Jace Hancock	60-24
2011	Joseph City (10-0)	John Bryant	Glendale Joy Christian (10-1)	Brian Cole	38-6

DIVISION V

2012	Phoenix Northwest Christian (13-1)	David Innes	Morenci (13-1)	Frank Ogas	21-7
2011	Yuma Catholic (13-1)	Rhett Stallworth	Phoenix Northwest Christian	David Inness	21-19

DIVISION IV

2012	Chandler Seton Catholic (13-1)	Rex Bowser	Lakeside Blue Ridge (14-1)	Paul Moro	28-7
2011	Lakeside Blue Ridge (14-0)	Paul Moro	Show Low (11-4)	Randy Ricedorff	35-14

DIVISION III

2012	Queen Creek (14-0)	Joe Germaine	Goodyear Desert Edge (13-1)	Rich Wellbrook	9-7
2011	Scottsdale Saguaro (12-2)	John Sanders	Glendale Cactus (11-2)	Larry Fetkenhier	31-23

DIVISION II

2012	Tucson Ironwood Ridge (13-1)	Matt Johnson	Peoria Centennial (12-2)	Richard Taylor	27-3
2011	Scottsdale Chaparral (14-1)	Charlie Ragle	Vail Cienega (13-1)	Nemer Hassey	37-14

DIVISION I

2012	Chandler Hamilton (12-2)	Steve Belles	Phoenix Mountain Pointe (12-2)	Norris Vaughan	31-16
2011	Tempe Desert Vista (13-1)	Dan Hinds	Chandler Hamilton (13-1)	Steve Belles	45-19

1A CONFERENCE

2010	Joseph City (11-1)	John Bryant	Heber Mogollon (10-1)	Tim Slade	28-18
2009	Joseph City (11-0)	John Bryant	Heber Mogollon (10-2)	Ron Tenney	34-14
2008	Heber Mogollon (10-1)	Ron Tenney	Pima (10-1)	John Bryant	66-34
2007	Elfrida Valley Union (10-0)	Tony Luzania	Pima (9-2)	John Bryant	28-12
2006	Mayer (12-0)	Troy Head	Heber Mogollon (9-3)	Ron Tenney	28-20
2005	Pima (9-2)	John Bryant	Mayer (9-2)	Troy Head	40-36
2004	Pima (11-0)	John Bryant	Clifton (7-4)	Ray Alvarez	60-22
2003	Heber Mogollon (10-1)	Ron Tenney	Pima (9-2)	John Bryant	42-32
2002	Joseph City (10-1)	Bryan Fields	Salome (7-4)	Bernon Benson	44-7
2001	St. David (10-0)	John Bryant	Joseph City (9-2)	Eldon Larsen	57-43
2000	St. David (10-0)	John Bryant	Bagdad (9-1)	Pat Ruiz	50-8
1999	Joseph City (10-1)	Eldon Larsen	Fredonia (6-3)	"Mont" Griffiths	42-0
1998	St. David (11-0)	John Bryant	Orme (10-1)	Bob Miller	48-30
1997	St. David (11-0)	John Bryant	Heber Mogollon (9-2)	Ron Tenney	58-26
1996	NW Community Christian (10-1)	Charlie Bell	Scottsdale Christian (7-3)	Aaron Messner	48-6
1995	Fredonia (11-2)	"Mont" Griffiths	Mogollon (9-1)	Rocky Nelson	38-32
1994	(TIE) Mogollon (10-0-1)	Tim Slade	Mayer (9-1-1)	Vince Cahill	20-20
1993	Williams (11-0)	Rick Shipley	Mayer (7-4)	Vince Cahill	68-40
1992	Arizona Lutheran (11-0)	Doug Lange	Patagonia (10-1)	Bill House	56-14
1991	(TIE) Patagonia (10-0-1)	Bill House	Fredonia (10-0-1)	"Mont" Griffiths	36-36
1990	Seligman (11-1)	Robert LaChat	Elfrida Valley Union (10-2)	Tom Davis	56-0
1989	(TIE) Williams (8-2-1)	Rick Shipley	Scottsdale Christian (10-1-1)	Jack DeGrenier	22-22
1988	Patagonia (12-0)	Bill House	Scottsdale Christian (10-1)	Jack DeGrenier	38-26

2A CONFERENCE

2010	Phoenix Northwest Christian (12-1)	Dave Inness	Yuma Catholic (12-2)	Rhett Stallworth	30-27
2009	Chandler Valley Christian (12-1)	Bill Morgan	Willcox (11-3)	Jim Hughes	41-32
2008	St. Johns (14-0)	Mike Morgan	Phoenix Christian (13-1)	Bob Denson	42-17
2007	St. Johns (10-3)	Mike Morgan	Phoenix Arizona Lutheran (11-3)	Doug Meyer	(OT) 21-20
2006	Thatcher (11-3)	Don Conrad	Chandler Valley Christian (9-4)	Bill Morgan	42-20

2A CONFERENCE (cont)

Year	Winning Team	Head Coach	Runnerup Team	Head Coach	Score
2005	Chandler Valley Christian (12-1)	Bill Morgan	Phoenix Arizona Lutheran (12-2)	Doug Meyer	45-28
2004	Phoenix Christian (9-2)	Jim Rattay	Chandler Valley Christian (12-1)	Sean Loomer	10-3
2003	Phoenix Christian (13-0)	Jim Rattay	St. Johns (11-1-1)	Mike Morgan	24-7
2002	St. Johns (12-1)	Mike Morgan	Northwest Christian (11-2)	Derek Wahlstrom	28-7
2001	Thatcher (12-1)	Don Conrad	Phoenix Christian (11-3)	Keith Brown	35-26
2000	Thatcher (11-0)	Don Conrad	St. Johns (11-2)	Mike Morgan	14-13
1999	Phoenix Christian (12-1)	Keith Brown	Heber Mogollon (10-3)	Ron Tenney	46-15
1998	Thatcher (12-0)	Jim Hughes	Queen Creek (10-3)	Duane Madsen	28-12
1997	Chandler Seton (10-2)	Joe Timpani	Superior (12-1)	Bryan Munoz	41-19
1996	Phoenix Christian (13-0)	Keith Brown	Valley Christian (11-2)	Bernie Benson	28-6
1995	Kearny Ray (13-0)	Jeff Cude	Thatcher (12-1)	Ed Shamey	28-6
1994	St. Johns (13-0)	Mike Morgan	Benson (12-1)	Pete Bearse	34-6
1993	St. Johns (13-0)	Mike Morgan	Superior (9-4)	Tom Joseph	41-6
1992	St. Johns (12-1)	Mike Morgan	Morenci (11-2)	Reynaldo Peru	20-8
1991	Florence (9-2-1)	Tom Shoemake	Kearny Ray (9-3)	Jeff Cude	10-6
1990	Eloy Santa Cruz (13-0)	Jay Denton	Superior (11-1)	Lee Peebles	33-7
1989	Florence (13-0)	Tom Shoemake	Thatcher (9-4)	Ed Shamey	18-0
1988	Thatcher (11-2)	Ed Shamey	Winkleman Hayden (10-3)	Pete Guzman	20-6

3A CONFERENCE

2010	Show Low (13-1)	Randy Ricedorff	Lakeside Blue Ridge (12-1)	Paul Moro	20-17
2009	Lakeside Blue Ridge (13-0)	Paul Moro	Show Low (10-4)	Randy Ricedorff	41-21
2008	Payson (14-0)	Josh Anderson	Lakeside Blue Ridge (12-2)	Paul Moro	(2 OT) 34-33
2007	Show Low (12-1)	Randy Ricedorff	Coolidge (10-3)	Carlo Hernandez	26-0
2006	Coolidge (12-1)	Carlo Hernandez	Wickenburg (13-1)	Norris Vaughan	28-21
2005	Coolidge (11-1)	Carlo Hernandez	Winslow (12-2)	Adam Larsen	34-19
2004	Lakeside Blue Ridge (13-0)	Paul Moro	Coolidge (13-1)	Carlo Hernandez	25-24
2003	Show Low (13-0)	Jeremy Hathcock	Seton Catholic (11-3)	Pete Wahlheim	35-14
2002	Globe (12-1)	Roger Schenks	Coolidge (11-2)	Carlo Hernandez	34-19
2001	Lakeside Blue Ridge (13-0)	Paul Moro	Coolidge (12-1)	Carlo Hernandez	58-8
2000	Lakeside Blue Ridge (13-0)	Paul Moro	Parker (10-3)	David Partridge	67-19
1999	Show Low (12-1)	Bill Morgan	Lakeside Blue Ridge (12-1)	Paul Moro	26-25
1998	Payson (13-0)	Jim Beall	Lakeside Blue Ridge (11-1)	Paul Moro	29-20
1997	Lakeside Blue Ridge (13-0)	Paul Moro	Arizona Boys Ranch (12-1)	Gary Galante	27-21
1996	Lakeside Blue Ridge (13-0)	Paul Moro	Arizona Boys Ranch (10-3)	Richard Gray	22-20
1995	Lakeside Blue Ridge (13-0)	Paul Moro	Arizona Boys Ranch (9-4)	Richard Gray	41-13
1994	Lakeside Blue Ridge (13-0)	Paul Moro	Winslow (11-2)	Rich Hoyt	28-6
1993	Snowflake (11-2)	Neil Westover	Show Low (5-8)	Gary Mauldin	30-7
1992	Snowflake (10-3)	Jim Beall	Miami (10-3)	Bill Johnson	33-8
1991	Snowflake (11-1-1)	Jim Beall	Miami (12-1)	Bill Johnson	33-10
1990	Lakeside Blue Ridge (9-4)	Paul Moro	Miami (7-6)	Bill Johnson	39-17
1989	Lakeside Blue Ridge (13-0)	Paul Moro	Show Low (9-4)	Gary Mauldin	37-27
1988	Snowflake (11-2)	Ned Jolly	Parker (9-4)	Robin Hondrum	21-0

4A CONFERENCE

2010 4A-1	Scottsdale Saguario (12-2)	John Sanders	Tucson Canyon Del Oro (13-1)	Dusty Peace	41-34
2010 4A-2	Phoenix Thunderbird (10-4)	Brent Wittenwyler	Gilbert Williams Field (13-1)	Steve Campbell	(OT) 25-22
2009 4A-1	Tucson Canyon Del Oro (14-0)	Dusty Peace	Tucson Sabino (11-3)	Jay Campos	40-0
2009 4A-2	Glendale Cactus (13-1)	Larry Fetkenhier	Tucson Santa Rita (11-3)	Jeff Scurran	14-0
2008 4A-1	Scottsdale Saguario (14-0)	John Sanders	Scottsdale Chaparral (12-2)	Charlie Ragle	38-0
2008 4A-2	Scottsdale Notre Dame Prep (14-0)	Scot Bemis	Tucson Santa Rita (12-2)	Jeff Scurran	30-26
2007 4A-1	Scottsdale Saguario (14-0)	John Sanders	Tucson Canyon Del Oro (12-2)	Pat Nugent	23-21
2007 4A-2	Scottsdale Notre Dame Prep (13-1)	Scot Bemis	Cottonwood Mingus (13-1)	Bob Young	49-32
2006 4A-1	Scottsdale Saguario (13-1)	Mike Reardon	Tucson Sabino (12-2)	Jay Campos	41-21

4A CONFERENCE (cont)

Year	Winning Team	Head Coach	Runnerup Team	Head Coach	Score
2006 4A-2	Cave Creek Cactus Shadows (15-0)	Chad DeGrenier	Gilbert Higley (11-3)	Jim Beall	28-14
2005 4A-1	Glendale Cactus (14-0)	Larry Fetkenhier	Tucson Sabino (10-4)	Jay Campos	30-7
2005 4A-2	Tucson Palo Verde (11-3)	Todd Mayfield	Cottonwood Mingus (11-3)	Bob Young	15-7
2004	Phoenix Moon Valley (14-0)	Roger Britson	Glendale Cactus (12-2)	Larry Fetkenhier	45-34
2003	Tucson Sunnyside (12-1)	Richard Sanchez	Glendale Cactus (12-2)	Larry Fetkenhier	21-13
2002	Scottsdale Chaparral (13-1)	Ron Estabrook	Phoenix Greenway (12-2)	Mike Brown	21-14
2001	Tucson Sunnyside (13-1)	Richard Sanchez	Phoenix Greenway (11-3)	Mike Brown	28-6
2000	Scottsdale Chaparral (14-0)	Ron Estabrook	Tucson Sunnyside (13-1)	Richard Sanchez	28-14
1999	Scottsdale Chaparral (14-0)	Ron Estabrook	Tucson Sahuaro (11-3)	Nemer Hassey	27-10
1998	Tucson Sabino (12-1-1)	Jeff Scurren	Avondale Agua Fria (12-2)	Mickey Bell	27-9
1997	Cottonwood Mingus (13-0-1)	Bob Young	Tucson Sabino (13-1)	Jeff Scurren	23-14
1996	Tempe Union (14-0)	Tim McBurney	Glendale Ironwood (11-2-1)	Chuck Esquivel	(OT) 20-17
1995	Scottsdale Saguaro (13-1)	Tim Beck	Glendale Ironwood (12-2)	Mark Matheson	42-7
1994	(TIE) Peoria (12-1-1)	Doug Clapp	Tucson Sahuaro (11-1-1)	Howard Breinig	17-17
1993	Marana Mt. View (14-0)	Wayne Jones	Tucson Sahuaro (9-3-2)	Howard Breinig	63-32
1992	Tucson Sabino (14-0)	Jeff Scurren	Phoenix Washington (12-2)	Steve Chisman	28-3
1991	Avondale Agua Fria (12-2)	Tom Wheatley	Tucson Sahuaro (13-1)	Howard Breinig	28-0
1990	Tucson Sabino (14-0)	Jeff Scurren	Peoria (13-1)	Doug Clapp	31-28
1989	(TIE) Agua Fria (11-2-1)	Tom Wheatley	Tempe Union (13-1-1)	Jim Murphy	10-10
1988	Avondale Agua Fria (11-3)	Tom Wheatley	Peoria (11-3)	Doug Clapp	13-7

5A CONFERENCE

2010 5A-1	Chandler Hamilton (15-0)	Steve Belles	Mesa Desert Ridge (10-4)	Jeremy Hathcock	21-13
2010 5A-2	Scottsdale Chaparral (14-0)	Charlie Ragle	Peoria Centennial (12-2)	Richard Taylor	32-17
2009 5A-1	Chandler Hamilton (14-0)	Steve Belles	Mesa (9-5)	Kelley Moore	35-0
2009 5A-2	Scottsdale Chaparral (13-1)	Charlie Ragle	Tempe Marcos de Niza (12-2)	Roy Lopez	34-21
2008 5A-1	Chandler Hamilton (13-1)	Steve Belles	Phoenix Brophy Prep (11-4)	Scooter Molander	17-10
2008 5A-2	Peoria Centennial (14-0)	Richard Taylor	Tolleson Westview (12-2)	Jeff Bowen	20-7
2007 5A-1	Phoenix Brophy Prep (12-2)	Scooter Molander	Tempe Desert Vista (9-5)	Dan Hinds	34-21
2007 5A-2	Peoria Centennial (13-1)	Richard Taylor	Tolleson Westview (10-4)	Jeff Bowen	26-7
2006 5A-1	Chandler Hamilton (13-1)	Steve Belles	Mesa Mountain View (12-2)	Tom Joseph	34-15
2006 5A-2	Peoria Centennial (14-0)	Richard Taylor	Tucson Sunnyside (11-3)	Richard Sanchez	34-0
2005 5A-1	Phoenix Brophy Prep (13-1)	Scooter Molander	Chandler Hamilton (13-1)	John Wrenn	15-14
2005 5A-2	Phoenix North Canyon (14-0)	Brian Cole	Peoria Centennial (11-3)	Richard Taylor	27-16
2004	Chandler Hamilton (13-1)	John Wrenn	Glendale Mountain Ridge (9-5)	Steve Belles	31-7
2003	Chandler Hamilton (13-1)	John Wrenn	Mesa Mountain View (13-1)	Tom Joseph	35-28
2002	Mesa Mountain View (14-0)	Tom Joseph	Glendale Ironwood (10-4)	Chuck Esquivel	50-8
2001	Mesa Red Mountain (13-1)	Jim Jones	Chandler Hamilton (12-2)	John Wrenn	13-10
2000	Mesa Red Mountain (12-2)	Jim Jones	Mesa Westwood (10-4)	Roger Suchomel	20-10
1999	Mesa Mountain View (13-1)	Bernie Buskin	Tucson Sabino (13-1)	Jeff Scurren	21-14
1998	Tempe Desert Vista (14-0)	Jim Rattay	Phoenix Brophy Prep (10-4)	Tim Sanford	38-31
1997	Mesa Mountain View (14-0)	Bernie Buskin	Tucson Amphitheater (13-1)	Vern Friedli	28-24
1996	Mesa Mountain View (14-0)	Bernie Buskin	Phoenix Brophy Prep (12-2)	Tim Sanford	17-3
1995	Phoenix St. Mary's (14-0)	Pat Farrell	Scottsdale Horizon (8-6)	Doug Shaffer	33-7
1994	Scottsdale Horizon (11-3)	Doug Shaffer	Phoenix St. Mary's (12-2)	Pat Farrell	16-14
1993	Mesa Mountain View (13-1)	Jesse Parker	South Mountain (12-2)	Cleveland Dansby	38-7
1992	Mesa (13-1)	Jim Rattay	Mesa Mountain View (9-5)	Jesse Parker	14-8
1991	Phoenix St. Mary's (13-1)	Pat Farrell	Tucson Salpointe (10-3-1)	Pat Welchert	28-13
1990	Mesa (12-1-1)	Jim Rattay	Tucson Amphitheater (12-2)	Vern Friedli	21-7
1989	Tempe McClintock (13-2)	Karl Kiefer	Mesa Westwood (11-3)	Jerry Loper	42-14
1988	Mesa Westwood (13-1)	Jerry Loper	Mesa Mountain View (12-2)	Jesse Parker	28-7

By Les Willsey
AIA365

Yuma Catholic had its bid for back-to-back Division V titles snuffed out in the semifinals last year by eventual champion Northwest Christian. The Shamrocks are back for a shot at their second title in three years after soundly beating Thatcher in the semifinals, 72-34. Thatcher dealt Yuma Catholic one of its two defeats in September in Yuma.

Yuma Catholic's opponent this time is a school with some history in the sport. Not ancient, but not recent either. Round Valley (12-1), the No. 4 seed, qualified opposite Yuma Catholic by upending No. 1 seed Arizona Lutheran, 28-22. Round Valley has won or shared six football titles in its history. The last one was a shared crown with Snowflake in 1985. Prior to that the Elks won championships in 1966, 1970, 1971, 1979 and 1980. They've been runner-up three times -- 1968, 1969 and 1984. Yuma Catholic and Round Valley have three common opponents -- St. Johns, Tempe Prep and Arizona Lutheran. Both were 3-0 against the common foes.

No. 3 seed Yuma Catholic (10-2) is no surprise entry in the final. The Shamrocks have been one of the most consistent D-V (2A) teams in recent years, posting a 77-13 record since 2007 under current coach Rhett Stallworth. All seven of those seasons Yuma Catholic has won at least 10 games and reached the semifinals or better each of the last five years. Round Valley is 22-14 under former St. Johns standout Marcus Bell, now in his third season as head coach.

A strong schedule and potent passing attack has been critical to Yuma Catholic's success. Of its 12 opponents, eight qualified for the playoffs -- Tempe Prep, Thatcher, Northwest Christian, Arizona Lutheran, River Valley, Bourgade, San Tan Foothills and St. Johns. The Shamrocks losses are to Thatcher and Northwest Christian, each by a touchdown.

Second-year starting quarterback Jagan Cleary has followed up a solid sophomore season (2,244 yards and 29 TDs) with a slightly more productive junior campaign (3,109 yards, 28 TDs). Cleary warmed up for the final with his best game of the year. He completed 25 of 29 passes for 483 yards and three TDs in the semfs. Cleary has plenty of options. Six receivers have caught 17 passes or more this season. The leader is versatile junior Carter Rodriguez with 48 catches for 937 yards and 10 TDs. Other targets are Andre Cabralles, Seth McKinney, Matt Pistone, Ricky Hampton and Donovan Rooks. Rooks is at the low end with 17 receptions, but they've covered 511 yards and accounted for five TDs. Four of those TDs came in the first two two playoff games. Rooks returned from injury in time for the playoffs and has missed five games.

Rodriguez is the team's leading rusher with 816 yards and 15 rushing TDs. He is complemented in the backfield by McKinney (441 yards rushing and 5 TDs).

Round Valley is married to the ground game and has a defense that's been better than sturdy. The three-pronged rushing attack is led by halfback Ethan Workman, who cracked the 1,000-yard mark for the season in the semifinal win over Arizona Lutheran. Workman has 1,050 yards and 14 TDs. Quarterback Nate Gutierrez passed the 900-yard mark in the semis and has scored 16 TDs. Backfield mate Brodee Bell has another 670 yards rushing. Round Valley rarely throws, with Gutierrez averaging six attempts a game. Gutierrez has passed for 15 TDs, nine of those to top receiver Cade Moring on the rare occasions the Elks throw. Gutierrez other favorite target is Tanner Bingham.

Defensively Round Valley has wreaked havoc on opponents in postseason. The Elks forced three turnovers in the quarterfinal win over Tempe Prep and blocked four punts. In beating ALA, they limited the Coyotes to 22 points, -- 26 fewer than its season average of 50 and its second lowest point total of the season. The Elks are giving up just eight points a game.

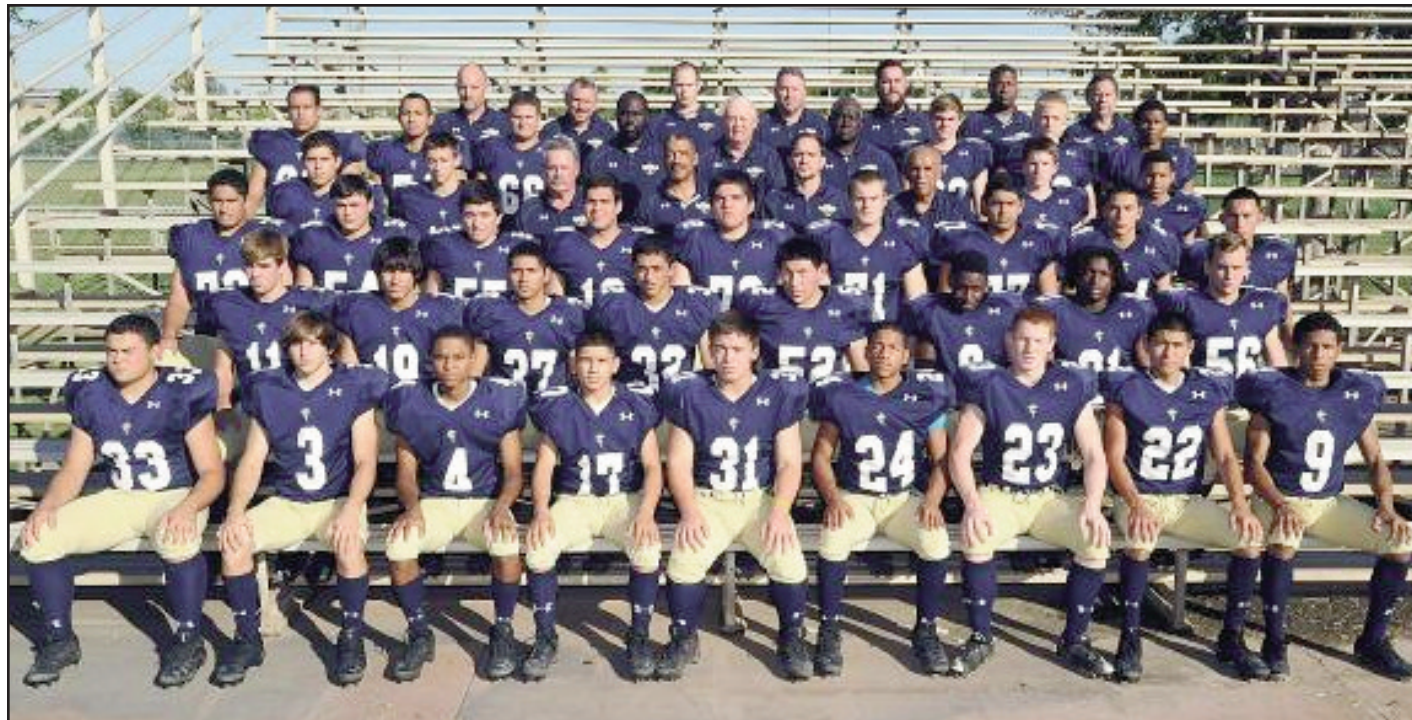
Yuma Catholic is led on defense by linebacker Moisis Barcnas defensive end Pistone and lineman Marco Pericone. Barcnas leads the team in tackles and Pistone has 11.5 sacks and Pericone 10 of the 44 sacks the Shamrocks have for the season. Its run defense will be tested in this one. Yuma Catholic has allowed 15 points a game, 49 in its playoff wins over San Tan Foothills, St. Johns and Thatcher.



Round Valley Elks



No.	Name/Pos.	Yr.	No.	Name/Pos.	Yr.	No.	Name/Pos.	Yr.
1	..Josh Irigoyen, RB/DT	.....Sr.	23	..Arturo Pena, WR/DB	.....Jr.	65	..Tyler Flores, OL/DL	.....Jr.
2	..Tanner Finch, RB/DE	.....Sr.	24	..Tristan Richard, RB/LB	.....So.	66	..Layton Hall, OL/DL	.....Jr.
3	..Kyron Woolf, QB/DB	.....Fr.	29	..Damian Harp, RB/DB	.....So.	68	..Brandon Hannah, OL/DL	.....So.
4	..Brodee Bell, RB/LB	.....Sr.	30	..Luis Lonzo, RB/DB	.....Jr.	72	..Alex Burnham, OL/DL	.....Sr.
5	..Austin Vigil, WR/DB	.....Sr.	30	..Sully Udall, RB/DB	.....Fr.	75	..Rafa Irigoyen, OL/DL	.....Sr.
6	..Nate Gutierrez, QB/DB	.....Jr.	34	..Cade Webb, RB/LB	.....So.	77	..Anthony Stokes, OL/DL	.....Jr.
7	..Cade Moring, TE/LB	.....Sr.	42	..Ethan Workman, RB/LB	.....Jr.	78	..John Stokes, OL/DL	.....Fr.
10	..Clayton Merril, WR/DB	.....So.	44	..David Rogers, OL/LB	.....Fr.	80	..Caleb Dana, DL	.....Sr.
11	..Henry Helms, K	.....Sr.	50	..Lucas Padilla, OL/DL	.....Jr.			
12	..Bryson Brown, RB/LB	.....Fr.	51	..Clayton Gastineau, OL/DL	.....Jr.			
14	..Oscar Cortez, QB/DB	.....So.	52	..Trenton Padilla, OL/DL	.....Jr.			
21	..Tanner Bingham, WR/DB	.....Sr.	55	..Seth Casillas, OL/DL	.....Jr.			
22	..Ryan Udall, WR/DB	.....Jr.	56	..Chris Padilla, OL/LB	.....Sr.			



No.	Name/Pos.	Yr.	No.	Name/Pos.	Yr.	No.	Name/Pos.	Yr.
2	..Osvaldo Rodriguez, K	Jr.	22	..Andrew Acosta, WR/DB	So.	66	..Marco Pericone, OL/DL	Sr.
3	..Carter Rodriguez, RB/DB	Jr.	23	..Ricky Hampton, WR/DB	Sr.	70	..Braxton Esqueda, OL/DL	So.
4	..Seth McKinney, RB/DB	Sr.	24	..Jaylen Barnes, RB/CB	Fr.	71	..Nick Cain, OL/DL	Sr.
5	..Jagan Cleary, QB	Jr.	31	..Caleb Cheung, RB/DL	Jr.	72	..Tate Williams, OL/DL	Sr.
7	..Donovan Rooks, WR/DB	Jr.	32	..Jesus Quiroz, RB/LB	So.	74	..Iran Torres, OL/DL	Sr.
8	..Elija Miller, RB/DB	Jr.	33	..Thomas Rodgers, RB/LB	Jr.	77	..Alanzo Mendez, OL/DL	So.
9	..Andre Cabralles, WR/DB	Sr.	37	..Gabe Nunez, RB/LB	Jr.	80	..Troy Mitchell, TE/LB	Jr.
10	..Matt Pistone, TE/DE	Jr.	44	..Moisis Barcenas, RB/LB	Jr.	83	..Nick Rowland, TE/LB	Jr.
11	..James Stover, QB	Fr.	52	..Bobby Cortozar, OL/DL	So.			
12	..Treyshon Malone, WR/DB	Jr.	54	..Devin Gallimore, OL/DL	Jr.			
14	..Johnathan Shane, RB/LB	Jr.	55	..Danny Perez, C/DT	So.			
17	..Tommy Hernandez, FB/LB	So.	56	..Kyle Murray, OL/DL	Sr.			
19	..Alex Olsen, WR/DB	So.	60	..Jose Valencia, OL/DL	Sr.			
21	..Julian Aitken, WR/FS	Fr.	61	..Peter Hurtado, OL/DL	Sr.			



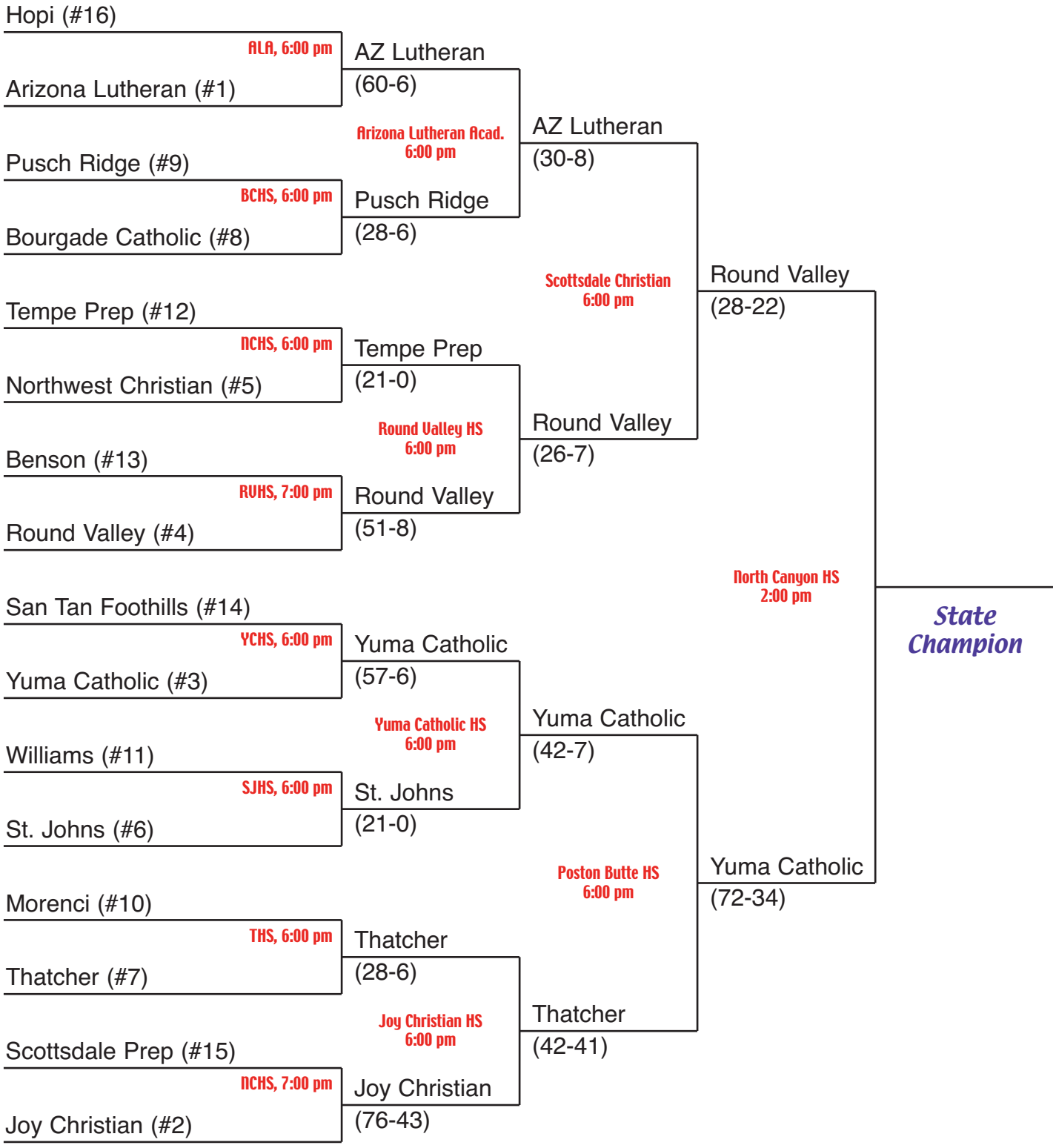
Div. V FB State Championship Bracket

Fri-Sat, Nov 8-9

Sat, Nov 16

Mon, Nov 25

Fri, Nov 29



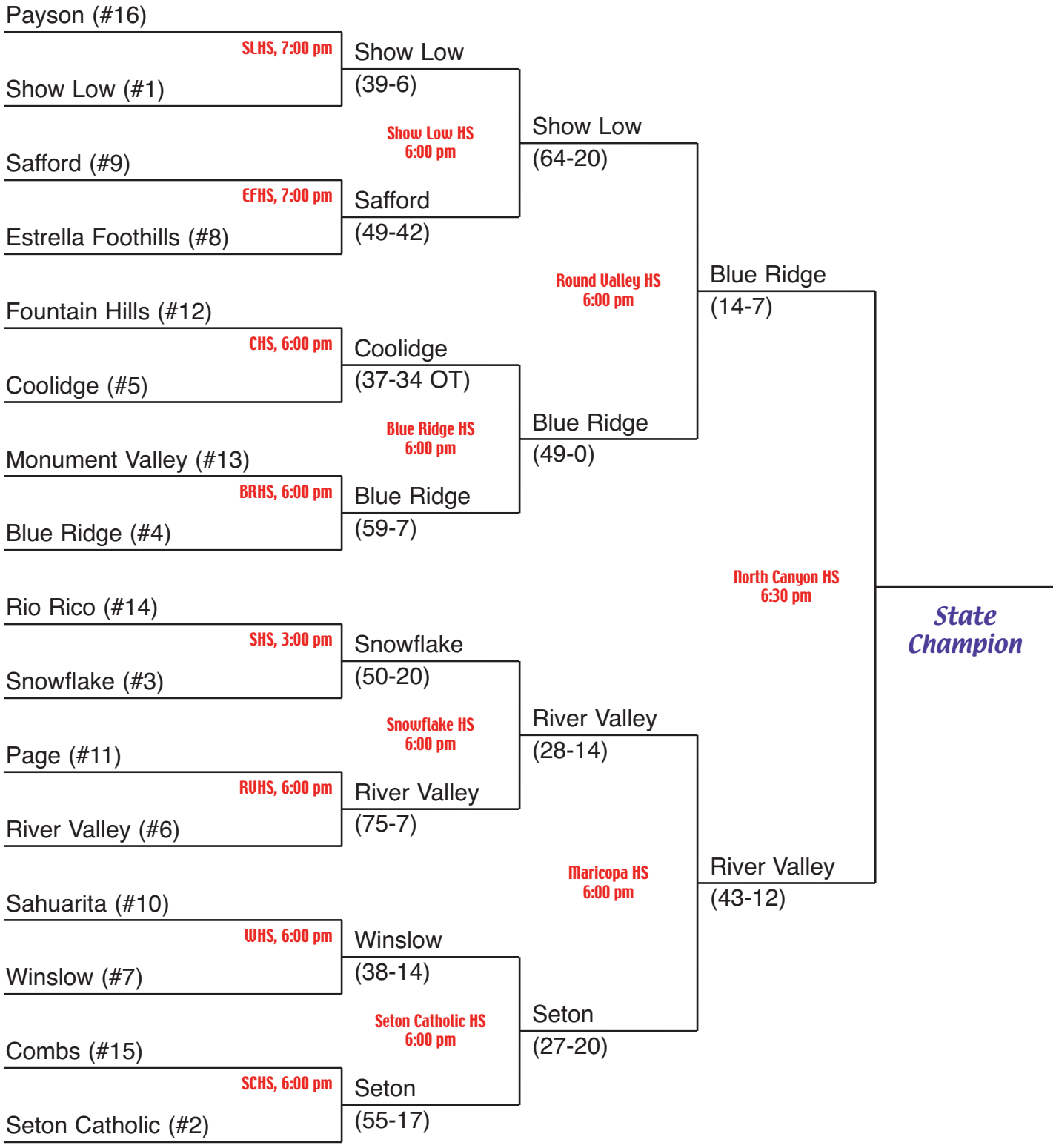
Div. IV FB State Championship Bracket

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Sat, Nov 16

Mon, Nov 25

Fri, Nov 29





Blue Ridge Yellowjackets



No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
2	..Josh McCray, WR/DB	5-11	140	So.
3	..Matt Armijo, TE/LB	6-0	186	Sr.
5	..Tristen Johnson, RB/LB	6-0	170	So.
6	..Brennan Schimmel, WR	6-0	161	Sr.
7	..Jared Tenijieth, QB/DB	6-1	165	So.
8	..Cody McBride, WR/SS	5-11	157	Jr.
9	..Nolan Cook, RB/LB	5-10	214	Sr.
10	..Spencer Hall, QB/CB	5-10	143	Jr.
12	..Spencer Wilkening, QB	5-10	135	Fr.
13	..Stefan Grollitsch, WR/DE	6-3	183	Sr.
15	..Daniel Perez, WR/LB	5-7	140	Jr.
17	..Lane Penrod, RB/LB	5-8	168	So.
19	..Clayton Causey, TE/LB	6-5	221	Sr.
20	..Ted Seipp, WR/CB	5-9	153	Sr.
21	..Elijah Aller, RB/LB	5-11	175	So.

No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
23	..Gerald Tenijieth, RB/LB	6-1	204	Jr.
24	..Chris Johnson, RB/CB	5-9	168	Sr.
25	..Nathan Miles, RB/CB	5-6	144	Jr.
26	..Zach Meixler, WR/DB	5-8	130	So.
32	..Kyle Nelson, RB/LB	5-8	185	So.
35	..Wyatt Cooley, WR/CB	5-11	159	Sr.
48	..Tristen Penrod, TE/LB	6-4	206	Sr.
50	..Vinny Friot, OL/DL	5-6	135	So.
53	..Nick Baker, C/LB	5-10	152	So.
54	..Timmy Entrekin, OL/DL	5-9	185	So.
55	..Walker Lee, OT/DE	6-5	228	Sr.
56	..Duke Tussing, OT/DE	6-0	183	Sr.
58	..Jeff Antoni, OT/DE	6-1	191	Sr.
59	..Zach Haigh, OG/LB	5-10	160	Jr.
62	..Doninic West, OL/DL	5-10	165	So.

No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
66	..Jordan Jacobson, OL/LB	6-1	210	Jr.
68	..Michael Kane, OT/DL	5-11	219	Sr.
71	..Raekwan Clawson, OL	6-2	230	Jr.
72	..Justin Chaney, OL/DL	5-9	220	Jr.
74	..Ryan Echales, OT/NG	5-9	215	So.
75	..Rosario Munoz, C/NG	6-0	236	Jr.
76	..Warren Goklish, OL/DL	6-0	240	Jr.
77	..Elijah Williams, OL/DL	5-9	160	So.
88	..Justin Wehling, Te/DL	6-3	175	So.
89	..Adam Padilla, TE/DE	6-3	221	Jr.



No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
2	Jake Sammut, WR/CB	5-8	135	Sr.	32	Kyle Terrones, RB/LB	5-6	160	Sr.	63	Shan Lewis, OL/DL	5-10	190	Jr.
5	Dylan Edens, WR/CB	5-10	150	Jr.	34	Jacob Lee, OLB	5-10	175	So.	64	Forrester Juergens, OL	5-11	210	Jr.
7	Porter Enrique, FB/LB	6-0	175	Fr.	36	Steven Lee, WR/LB	5-8	175	Sr.	68	Anthony Gallegos, OL/DL	6-0	255	Jr.
8	Cody Rice, WR/CB	5-11	165	Sr.	40	Anthony Salazar, WR/LB	5-8	180	Jr.	70	Cody Jaciuk, OL/DL	6-2	277	Jr.
10	Sam Chance, WR/CB	5-9	145	Jr.	42	Jessie Smith, TE/LB	5-10	200	Sr.	72	Parker Gaudry, OL/DL	5-8	209	Jr.
12	Brady Viles, QB/FS	6-0	175	Jr.	44	Brent Vegas, RB/DB	5-6	130	So.	74	Arron Johnson, OL/DL	6-1	230	Sr.
13	Derek Advocate, QB/FS	6-1	200	Sr.	46	Bryson Fohs, RB	5-3	120	Fr.	76	Anthony Marriotta, OL/DL	5-11	180	Fr.
14	Ryan Economou, QB	5-5	125	Fr.	48	Bradley Thornton, QB/DB	5-9	150	So.	76	Walter Klock, OL/DL	5-11	291	So.
16	Wayne Taylor, TE/LB	6-3	210	Sr.	50	Jason Marino, OL/DL	6-1	235	Sr.	78	James Mills, OL/DL	6-0	230	Sr.
20	Joeseeph Pherreigo, RB	5-9	175	Jr.	51	Josh Baker, OL/LB	5-10	200	So.	79	Daniel Van Fleet, OL/DL	6-1	270	Jr.
21	Brandon Long, RB/LB	5-6	184	Jr.	52	Ray Najera, OL/DL	5-10	225	Sr.	80	Angelo Martel, TE/LB	6-0	179	Sr.
22	Tyshion Vivens, WR/LB	5-7	185	Jr.	53	Zach Regan, OL/LB	5-9	185	Jr.	81	David Hornback, TE/FS	5-10	165	Jr.
26	Andreas Galvez, RB/CB	5-7	155	So.	55	Triston Singleton, OL/DL	5-11	195	Jr.					
27	Gage Hermosillo, RB/DB	5-9	150	So.	58	Marcus McNeese, OL/DL	6-2	200	Jr.					
30	Luke Regan, FB/LB	5-7	140	So.	60	Lance Phillips, OL/DL	5-6	225	Jr.					

By Les Willsey

AIA365

Blue Ridge has been in the championship spotlight a lot. River Valley never has. Blue Ridge has won 15 titles and finished second in nine others. River Valley hopes to make its first title game appearance count.

This D-IV title matchup shapes up as a battle between hard-hitting teams that love to run. Blue Ridge (11-2) took care of Monument Valley and Coolidge in the first two rounds with ease. River Valley did the same vs. Page and then served notice of its ability by upsetting No. 3 seed Snowflake on the Lobos' home turf.

Blue Ridge, coached by legendary Paul Moro, had to avenge a loss in mid-October to top-seed Show Low to reach the final. The Yellow Jackets did so with ball control, defense and two touchdown passes in a 14-7 victory. Blue Ridge is run first, but picks its spots to throw. The Yellow Jackets can be lethal with those. Its game-winning score vs. Show Low came on a perfectly executed screen pass early in the fourth quarter. River Valley does not throw much either and not with the success Blue Ridge has when it does. Both teams average 10 to 12 pass attempts per game.

River Valley's season? The Dust Devils, mentored by fourth-year coach Terry Staggs, suffered its only loss in week 4 to D-V title participant Yuma Catholic (21-17). River Valley has pitched five shutouts. It dominated Seton, 43-12, in its semi against the defending division champion Sentinels. The defense came up with a couple turnovers and ran the ball at will.

So who makes these teams go? For Blue Ridge its multiple folks. Senior Chris Johnson is the mainstay, rushing for 1,224 yards and 18 touchdowns. Nolan Cook and Nathan Miles have combined for 1,100 additional yards and 17 TDs. Junior quarterback Spencer Hall runs the offense. He's connected on better than 70 percent of his passes for 1,790 yards and 17 TDs. His favorite target by far is wide out Brennan Schimmel -- 43 receptions for 912 yards and five TDS. Schimmel caught one of the TD passes in the semi-final win and Miles hauled in the screen pass for the winning tally.

For River Valley, the standout is junior running back Brandon Long. Long is stocky and powerful. He's tough to bring down and has a surprising extra gear when he breaks the point of attack. Long rushed for 276 yards and four TDs in the Dust Devils' win over Seton. That boosted his rushing total for the year to 2,210 yards (32 TDs).

Blue Ridge and River Valley have met a couple times in postseason in the last decade. The most recent was last year in the quarterfinals with Blue Ridge winning convincingly, 49-0. Both defenses have been stout over the past six to eight games. Blue Ridge has allowed 27 points in its last six games after giving up 35 and 38 to Snowflake and Show Low, respectively. River Valley has allowed 47 points in its last eight games after giving up 49 in a two-game stretch with Yuma Catholic and Lake Havasu.

By Jose Garcia
AIA365

Coach Ed Shamey suffered a painful loss before the start of the 1988 football season for the Thatcher Eagles.

The wife of the then relatively new coach, Ellen, passed away of cancer. Coaching and playing with heavy hearts, Thatcher began the 1988 campaign by losing two of its first three games.

If Thatcher had continued to struggle during the rest of that season, its fans would have understood why. But the close-knit coaching staff and Thatcher football community rallied around Shamey (pronounced Shame-e e) and his team.

Playing and coaching football helped Thatcher move forward one day at a time. The team eventually bounced back and in a big way, winning the Class 2A state title in 1988.

Every season the Arizona Interscholastic Association honors the state championship teams that are celebrating their 25th anniversary.

During the Division IV title game at North Canyon, the 1988 Thatcher Eagles will be honored at halftime at North Canyon High School in Phoenix. Shamey passed away about five years ago from kidney failure, but players and coaches of the 1988 team are expected to attend this year's D-IV title game to celebrate their anniversary and honor their late coach.

Thatcher learned a lot of important life lessons in 1988.

There's one lesson that long-time Thatcher assistant Adam Estrada still remembers.

"His (Shamey) famous quote from that season was, 'There are no guarantees. So play your game as if it was your last,'" said Estrada.

There were no superstars on that 1988 Thatcher squad, just a bunch of hard-nosed kids who worked hard every day for their coaches.

"That coaching staff was really good," said former Thatcher lineman Ted O'Bannon, the MVP of the 1988 championship game. "They were good at motivating us. That was the key and the play calling. The coaches worked well together. We picked up on that."

The two regular season games Thatcher lost were the only games they dropped.

Its first victory of the season, a win over a team in a higher division, Safford, boosted the players' confidence and caught the attention of Thatcher's division opponents. In the state quarterfinals, Thatcher played one of the teams it lost to in the regular season, Kearny Ray.

The result was much different the second time around, as Thatcher advanced to the semifinals with a 28-13 victory. In the semifinals, Shamey's team set the tone early against Cactus Shadow's strong run attack.

Thatcher's players still talk about linebacker Bru Montez's big hit on a running back during Cactus Shadow's first drive. The hit shattered the player's facemask and the hopes of 10-0 Cactus Shadows advancing to the final.

In the final, Thatcher got another chance to avenge its only other loss in 1988. But its opponent, Hayden, was leading 6-0 at halftime.

"At halftime coach (Shamey) just told us to relax and have fun," said Rick Motes, a former tight end.

Thatcher scored during its first three possessions of the second half and held Hayden to 27 offensive yards in the game, allowing it to win 20-6.

"It was a real special team," said Estrada, an assistant coach on Thatcher's 1988 team. "It was an emotional roller coaster for the kids that season. But they did a good job of playing out that season."

The 1988 title was the second of six championships the Thatcher program has won.

This year's Thatcher team reached the state semifinals with the help of some players whose fathers played on the 1988 team. Besides Estrada, another assistant on this year's Thatcher team, Dennis Martin, also coached on the 1988 team.

The football legacy and family bonds are strong at Thatcher thanks in large part to the 1988 team.

By Don Ketchum
AIA365

Scottsdale Saguaro's 77-48 victory over Goodyear Desert Edge in the Division III semifinals on Monday night (Nov. 25) was one of the most important wins for Saguaro in quite a long time.

"We enjoyed the win, then on Tuesday we came back for practice," Saguaro coach Jason Mohns said. "I asked the players, 'Did everybody tell you how great you are?' They said yes. Then I said, 'All right, it doesn't mean anything after a couple of hours.'"

You're as good as your next game, and that next game is the biggest one of all for the second-seeded Sabercats – on Friday (Nov. 29) against No. 4 Queen Creek. Kickoff is 1 p.m. at the University of Arizona Stadium in Tucson.

Saguaro, seeking its seventh title, is 12-1. Queen Creek, the defending state champion is 11-2.

Despite a 35-28 win over Queen Creek on Oct. 4, Mohns isn't taking anything for granted.

"There's a reason why they are playing for their second straight state title," Mohns said. "They have a great team, and it is going to take everything we have to beat them."

Weather forced postponement of the semifinals, so now those teams in the finals will have a shorter week to prepare – with Thanksgiving in between.

Mohns said facing a familiar opponent in a short week "is good from a preparation standpoint. We know them, but they also know us."

Saguaro's offense, led by senior quarterback Luke Rubenzer, has received a great deal of notoriety. But Mohns is proud of the way his defense has played, and knows it will have its work cut out for it.

Queen Creek's top player is Weston Barlow, who has rushed for 2,049 yards and 22 touchdowns. Matt Guida, who missed several games with an injury, including the first Saguaro game, is back and could be the X factor this time around. He has rushed for 345 yards and nine TDs.

"Queen Creek has a good offensive line. They are well-coached and very disciplined, the schemes they run. And that Barlow kid is tough to stop," Mohns said.

"We have some guys who play offense who turn around and play defense. We have to rely on takeaways and three-and-outs and give our offense good field position."

Rubenzer emerged as one of the state's top players this season, throwing for 3,955 yards and 58 touchdowns with only three interceptions. He threw nine TD passes against Desert Edge in the semifinals. He has the state career record for TD passes with 127 and with three on Friday can set a state season record.

He also can pull the ball down and run, with 1,154 yards and nine TDs.



Queen Creek's Weston Barlow (33) has rushed for 2,049 yards and 22 touchdowns. Photo by Mark Palermo of maxpreps.com

J.T. Nettleton has 55 catches for 1,485 yards and 23 TDs, and Christian Kirk has 61 catches for 1,082 yards and 15 TDs.

Travis Schureman, who took over as Queen Creek coach for Joe Germaine after the second game of the season, said the fact that the Bulldogs are the defending champs adds to the hype.

“Every team wants to be the team that knocks you off,” said Schureman, whose team defeated rival Williams Field 31-28 in the semifinals. “We are excited for our opportunity.”

The Bulldogs can't rely too much on championship game experience, he said, because a lot of starters are gone from last season.

“But we still hope to continue to build on what we started,” he said.

Queen Creek's defense is led by linebacker Nate Neville, the team's leader in tackles with 119, and line-man Skyler Bollman, who is second with 94. Bollman also has nine sacks.

Schureman says his team will have to play one of its best all-around games.

“We didn't stop their offense the way we should have,” he said of the first meeting. “And our offense didn't take care of the ball. We have to hang onto the ball and keep it away from them.”

HOW THEY GOT HERE

Saguaro Sabercats (12-1)

Coach: Jason Mohns

Lost to Scottsdale Chaparral 52-27

Def. Phoenix South Mountain 53-0

Def. Prescott Valley Bradshaw Mountain 69-21

Def. Apache Junction 69-0

Def. Tempe McClintock 56-0

Def. Queen Creek 35-28

Def. Gilbert Williams Field 40-31

Def. Phoenix Greenway 48-0

Def. Gilbert Higley 55-28

Def. Tempe Marcos de Niza 46-36

Def. Phoenix Washington 62-21

Def. Tucson Sabino 48-20

Def. Goodyear Desert Edge 77-48

Queen Creek Bulldogs (11-2)

Coach: Travis Schureman

Def. Florence Poston Butte 21-12

Def. Gilbert Highland 21-14

Def. Show Low 33-12

Def. Tempe McClintock 42-18

Def. Gilbert Higley 56-35

Lost to Scottsdale Saguaro 35-28

Def. Phoenix South Mountain 64-0

Lost to Gilbert Williams Field 42-17

Def. Apache Junction 57-7

Def. Prescott Valley Bradshaw Mountain 46-26

Def. Glendale Cactus 38-10

Def. Peoria 42-14

Def. Gilbert Williams Field 31-28

By Jose Garcia
AIA365

Coach Jerry Loper enjoyed building football programs from the ground up, but there was one team that didn't grow under Loper.

That's because his 1988 Westwood Warriors were undersized. Only a couple of players on that squad weighed more than 200 pounds, leading one newspaper columnist to write that Westwood was more Pee-wee Herman than Sly Stallone.

That Westwood team lacked size but not speed and spirit. Westwood also had Loper, a football craftsman who was well-loved, respected and admired by the people who knew him best.

In 1988, Loper crafted a masterpiece that is still remembered today for what he accomplished with a bunch of runts — win a state title. That gutsy little team is celebrating its 25th anniversary and will be honored at halftime of this year's Division I state title game at University of Phoenix Stadium.

Loper died in 1996 when he was killed in an auto accident caused by a drunk driver. His wife, Patty, Loper's high school sweetheart, and son, Glenn, who played for Loper, are planning to attend the halftime ceremony to honor the 1988 team and one of Arizona's high school coaching legends.

"As a coach, I think one thing that stood out about my dad (Loper) was his work ethic," Glenn said. "It was unprecedented. But he also had a unique way of interacting with players. He was both very firm but fair, and players had a high degree of respect for him. He had a lot of average players but got the most out of them."

That certainly was the case in 1988.

Westwood lost only one game that year, a defensive battle that defending state champ Mesa Dobson clinched with a goal line stand at the end of the game, giving Dobson the 7-6 win. Former Los Angeles Ram Toby Wright forced a fumble on that stand after hitting one of Westwood's running backs.

But Westwood emphatically avenged that loss, shutting out Dobson 35-0 in the state semifinals. Westwood ran the wishbone that year under the direction of 5-foot-9 senior quarterback Ruben Sanchez.

Sanchez's offensive line (Mike Clark, Mike Onman, Jason Watson, Darren Roman, tight end Jeff Webb) only gave up one sack in 1988. On defense, former Westwood defensive coordinator and current Gilbert Mesquite coach Jim Jones made an important defensive scheme switch in 1987 that the 1988 team kept when Jones went to coach at Red Mountain.

Westwood went from a 5-2 to a 4-3 to take advantage of the speed, athleticism and aggressiveness of the 1988 team's 150-pound players such as defensive end Zane Dickey. In the championship game, Westwood and its No. 1 rival, Mesa Mountain View, met for the second time that season.

Westwood (13-1) won the regular season meeting 31-7, and followed that with another similar dominant performance against Mountain View in the final, winning that game 28-7. More than 23,400 fans at Sun Devil Stadium saw Westwood hold Mountain View to just 189 yards in the championship game.

Westwood's Randy Ricedorff, Show Low's current football coach, intercepted two of the four picks Westwood had in the final.

"I've just got good fortune, I think," said Loper to the The Arizona Republic. "There's no way I can put my finger on how or why. Mountain View has a great program, a great coach and everything of theirs is good.

"But they can be had, too, and we got them."

Besides building football programs, Loper, who also won a title at Tucson Amphitheatre, enjoyed beating Mountain View coaching legend Jesse Parker.

"That was one of his highlights, beating Jesse twice that year," said Patty, Loper's wife. "They, along with (former Mountain Pointe and McClintock coach) Karl Kiefer, liked to beat each other up. But it was extra gratifying for Jerry because he won it with a small team that year."

In 1993, Loper left Westwood to coach at Chandler, with the promise that he'd become the first head coach at Hamilton once that school was built.

But the 57-year-old Loper passed away before Hamilton opened its doors. Arizona's extreme drunk driving law is also known as Loper's Law.

And the field Hamilton plays its games on is named after Loper, who in 31 seasons went 224-106-10.

"Jerry did it with class," said Curtis Palmer, one of Loper's former Westwood assistants. "He was not boisterous or overbearing. He knew what was right and wrong, and the kids loved him, because he loved them.

"You have to meet him to understand what a fantastic person he was."



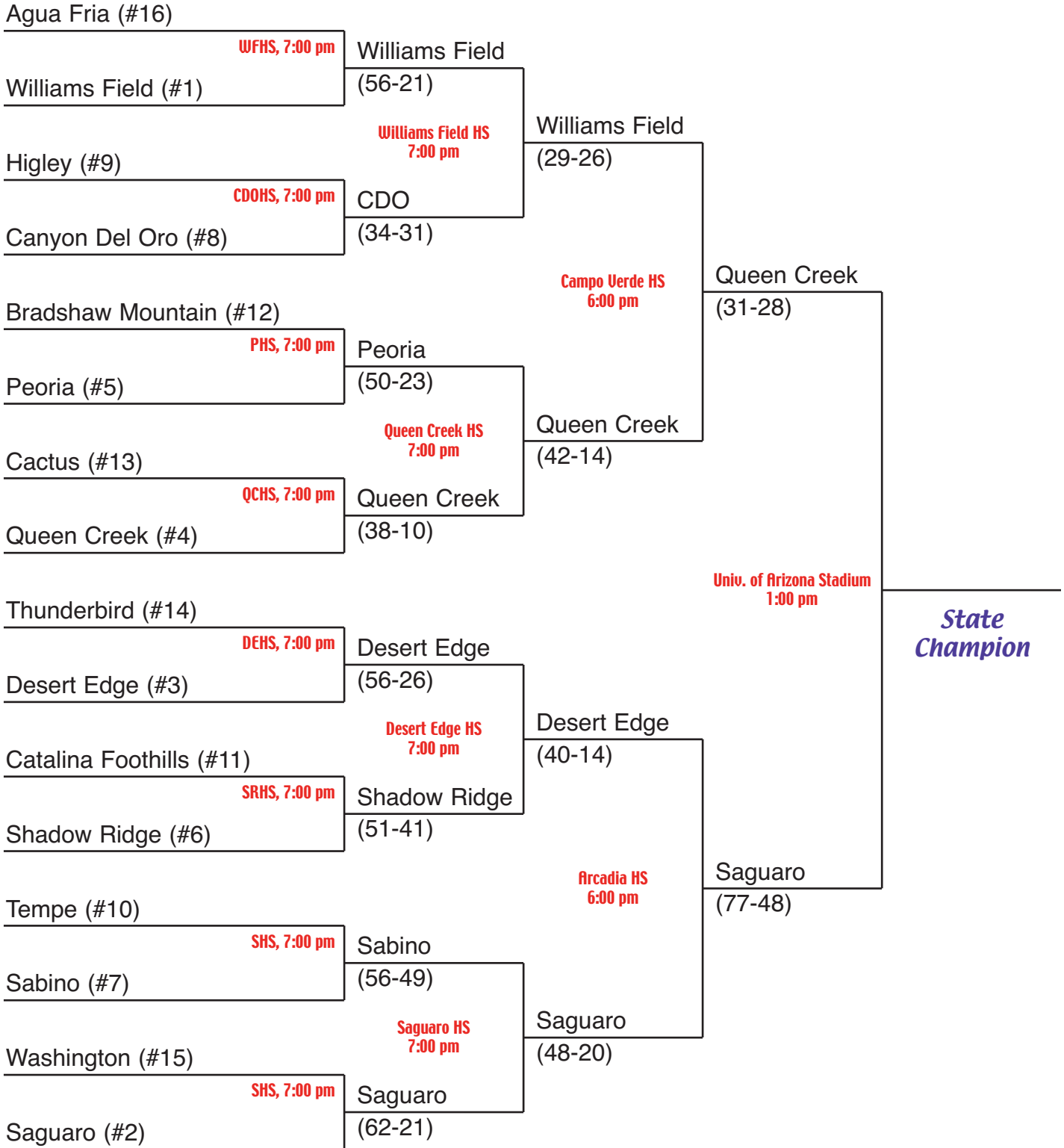
Div. III FB State Championship Bracket

Fri, Nov 8

Fri, Nov 15

Mon, Nov 25

Fri, Nov 29





No.	Name/Pos.	Yr.	No.	Name/Pos.	Yr.	No.	Name/Pos.	Yr.
1	..Bailey Buck, DB	.....Sr.	25	..Tyler Northcutt, LB	.....Jr.	51	..Seth Rome, OL/DL	.....Sr.
2	..Cameron Jeffers, TE/LB	.....Sr.	28	..Chandler Brown, RB/LB	.....Jr.	52	..Kyle Watzke, OL/DL	.....Jr.
3	..Xavier McGuire, DB	.....Jr.	30	..Ryley Thompson, DB	.....Sr.	54	..Taylor Ervin, OL/DL	.....Jr.
4	..Nate Lemieux, LB	.....Jr.	31	..Bailey Rogers, DB	.....Sr.	55	..Myles Bryant, OL/DL	.....
5	..Semone Brown, DB	.....Sr.	32	..Matt Guida, DB	.....Sr.	56	..Austin Burgett, OL/DL	.....Jr.
7	..Gavin Ashlin, DB	.....Jr.	33	..Weston Barlow, RB/DB	.....Jr.	58	..Anthony Encinas, OL/DL	.....Sr.
8	..Bryce Dobbs, QB/DE	.....Sr.	34	..Tyler Blazon, DB	.....Sr.	60	..Garrett Rodrigo, OL/DL	.....Sr.
10	..Hunter Shriner, QB/LB	.....Jr.	35	..Trey Lemley, FB/RB	.....Sr.	64	..Taylor Larson, OL/DL	.....Jr.
11	..Curtis Jones, DB	.....Jr.	39	..Ozzie Chavez, K	.....Jr.	65	..Jacob Ramer, OL/DL	.....Sr.
12	..Layne Roshay, QB/DB	.....Sr.	40	..Campton Curtis, WR/DB	.....Jr.	72	..Jacob Germaine, OL/DL	.....Jr.
17	..Ian Baldwin, WR/DB	.....Sr.	40	..Anthony Loftis, WR/DB	.....	75	..Carson Sawyer, OL/DL	.....Sr.
18	..Cole Williamson, RB/DB	.....Jr.	42	..Hunter Haskin, DB	.....Jr.	76	..Seth Moore, OL/DL	.....Jr.
19	..Mike Kemmerer, TE/DL	.....Sr.	44	..Garrett Laidley, TE/DE	.....Sr.	77	..Caleb Trombley, OL/DL	.....Jr.
20	..Dejon Thompson, DE	.....Sr.	45	..Cody Erickson, LB	.....Sr.	78	..Abraham Trujillo, OL/DL	.....Sr.
21	..Brady Osterman, LB	.....Sr.	45	..Justice	.....So.	80	..Dante Woods	.....Jr.
22	..Nate Neville, RB/LB	.....Jr.	46	..Skyler Bollman, RB/DL	.....Jr.	81	..Mirkus Paulsen, K	.....Sr.
23	..Brandon Rush, RB/DB	.....Jr.	47	..Keaton Pillimai, RB/DL	.....So.	82	..Hunter Redd, TE/DL	.....Jr.
23	..Gavin Danielson	.....So.	48	..Jordan Bartlett, RB/DB	.....Jr.	88	..Johnny Flores, DB	.....Jr.
24	..Cullen Costello, DB	.....Sr.	50	..Stephen Ramos, OL/DL	.....Jr.	92	..Jake Hoops, DB	.....Sr.



No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
.....	David Hyman, WR/DB	6-2	165	So.
2	..Christian Kirk, WR/DB	5-10	190	Jr.
3	..Isaiah Bradley, WR/DB	5-10	185	Sr.
4	..Cameron Koutsalas, WR	5-9	165	Jr.
5	..Nathon Falls, WR/DB	6-0	180	Jr.
6	..Zach Harbaugh, HB/LB	6-0	200	Jr.
7	..Luke Rubenzer, QB/DB	6-0	186	Sr.
8	..J.T. Nettleton, WR/DB	6-3	195	Sr.
9	..Kare' Lyles, QB/DB	6-1	211	So.
10	..Turner Lacey, WR/DB	6-1	185	Sr.
11	..Michael Caddell, QB/DB	5-10	170	Jr.
12	..Nathaniel DeChesaro	5-9	155	Sr.
13	..Brett Adams, TE/LB	6-1	210	Sr.
15	..Rylee Lane, WR/DB	5-9	170	Sr.
16	..Max Mudd, WR/DB	5-11	160	So.
17	..Reece Lane, RB/DB	5-9	180	Sr.
20	..Dylan Sullivan, RB/DB	5-9	155	So.
21	..George Ash, TE/DE	5-10	190	Jr.
22	..John Sells, TE/DE	6-0	198	Jr.

No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
23	..Tyson Brugman, WR/DB	5-9	160	So.
24	..Erik Swanson, RB/DB	5-8	170	Sr.
25	..Daniel Pace, WR/DB	6-2	205	Jr.
26	..Zach Stein, RB/DB	5-8	175	Jr.
27	..Jake LeBlanc, HB/LB	5-11	200	Jr.
28	..Isaiah Reece, RB/DB	5-10	180	Sr.
29	..Jake Piazza, WR/DB	6-0	165	Jr.
32	..Jack Rumann, HB/OLB	6-0	190	Jr.
33	..Alex Parkin, RB/LB	6-0	200	Sr.
34	..Devan Scanlon, WR/DB	6-0	160	Fr.
37	..Brandt Casey, HB/LB	6-0	240	Fr.
39	..Trae Tjaarda, K	5-10	200	Jr.
42	..Robert Rollins, TE/OLB	6-1	190	Jr.
43	..Luke Smith, TE/DE	6-3	200	Jr.
44	..Derek Keams, HB/LB	5-9	200	Sr.
45	..Chris Counce, HB/LB	6-0	215	Sr.
46	..Skylar Seminara, HB/LB	5-8	182	Jr.
51	..Whitney Hale, HB/LB	5-11	190	Jr.
54	..Anthony Linderoth, OL/DL	6-2	240	Sr.

No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
55	..Tre Hickem, OL/DT	5-9	251	So.
60	..Kayden Lyles, OL/DL	6-3	290	Fr.
61	..Pete Mettler, OL/DT	6-3	263	Sr.
64	..Jordan Butler, LS	5-9	165	Jr.
68	..Domonic Natoli, OL/DT	5-10	268	Jr.
70	..Austin Fay, OL/DL	6-2	285	Sr.
71	..Corey Stephens, OL	6-1	265	Fr.
72	..Alex Anderson, OL/DT	6-5	290	Sr.
74	..Matt Montgomery, OL/DL	6-4	297	Sr.
75	..Nick Rosedale, OL/DL	6-2	250	Jr.
76	..Matt Mara, OL/DT	6-0	256	Sr.
77	..Michael Ayache, OL/DL	6-4	268	Sr.
78	..Michael Weinstein, OL/DL	6-3	300	So.
79	..Zane Ostler, OL/DL	6-4	315	Sr.
81	..Justin Normoyle, WR/DB	5-11	180	Sr.
85	..Terence Johnson, TE,DE	6-2	215	Sr.
87	..Darius Neal, WR/OLB	6-2	215	Sr.

By Jose Garcia
AIA365

State title or bust.

That was the mission of Snowflake High School's 1988 football team from Day 1. The 1987 season ended bitterly, losing in the state semifinals to Blue Ridge, Snowflake's longtime nemesis.

A talented and motivated bunch returned in 1988 willing to grind out victory after victory with its ground and pound approach. But Snowflake stumbled before reaching its season's midway point, dropping two defensive battles, first to Flagstaff and then to the thorn in its side, Blue Ridge.

A 3-2 record didn't scream dominant team, but that changed during the second half of Snowflake's season. The team gave up just 20 points in its remaining seven games en route to winning the state title.

That state championship team for Snowflake's is celebrating its 25th anniversary this season. The team will be honored at halftime of the Division IV state title game.

"The synergy on that team was great," said Travis Tenney, a guard on Snowflake's 1988 team. "It was a tight group of young men. We all liked each other. There wasn't any contention with the players. No individualism.

"The games we lost were tight games. But those games made us tougher."

Tenney's brother, Ron, is Snowflake's current coach and helped this year's team reach the state quarterfinals.

The strong football tradition at Snowflake helped mold the 1988 team into a success story, Tenney said. When members of the 1988 squad were in junior high, they idolized the high school football players at Snowflake.

When they arrived at Snowflake, the 1988 team forged its own path. Players such as quarterback Justin Lewis and linebacker Rick Turley became household names in the Snowflake community.

That Snowflake team was stocked with talent, especially at running back, with Jim Flake and Mark Wilson and full-back Buddy Heath. Those players also were the senior leaders of a squad that also had depth and young talent such as sophomore running back/defensive back Paul Reynolds.

Reynolds is Queen Creek High's current athletic director, and he still looks like he can play. Even Snowflake's kicker in 1988, Ramo Cado, was well respected.

"He (Cado) practiced like crazy," Tenney said.

Snowflake's head coach was Ned Jolly, a second-year coach who sharpened his skills under one of Arizona's high school coaching stars, the late Jerry Loper, who won two state titles.

Jolly had his boys run the option throughout the 1988 season until Snowflake reached the championship game. Blue Ridge reached the semifinals and was expected to square off with Snowflake once again.

But Parker pulled off the upset of that year's playoffs to also advance the championship game. In the final, Jolly, who retired 15 years ago and lives in Payson, ordered his team to run the wishbone for the first time that season.

Jolly wanted to utilize the power of Heath at fullback and surprise Parker with a new offensive wrinkle during the final at Gilbert High. The poor field conditions during the championship game caused by rain didn't ruin Jolly's championship game plan.

Snowflake didn't turn the ball over that day and walked away with a 21-0 victory and the championship trophy. Neil Westover, Snowflake's current defensive coordinator, served in the same role during the 1988 season.

"There was nothing quite like raising that gold (championship) ball (trophy)," Westover said.



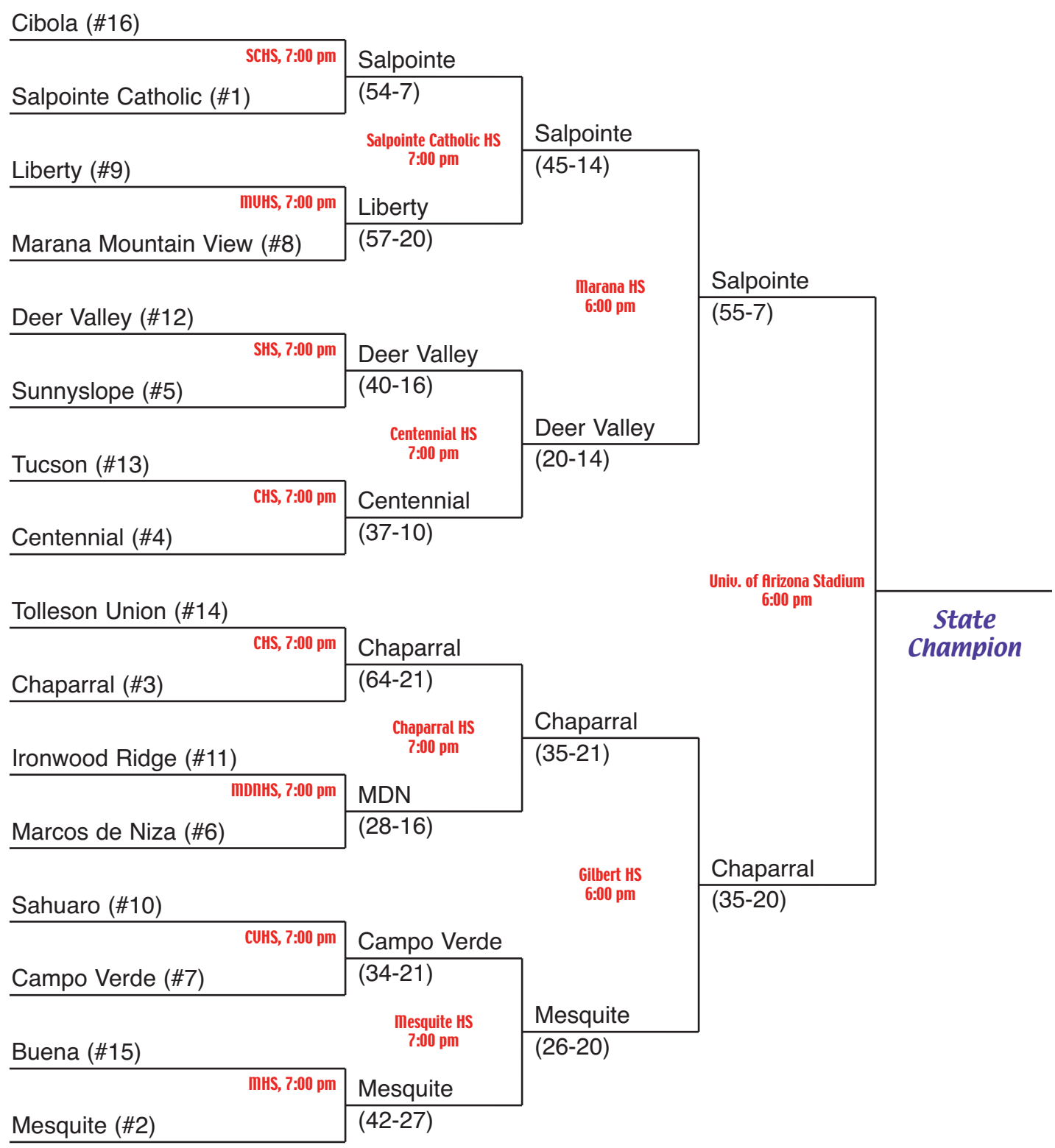
Div. II FB State Championship Bracket

Fri, Nov 8

Fri, Nov 15

Mon, Nov 25

Fri, Nov 29



By Don Ketchum
AIA365

From the kickoff that opened their season in Las Vegas way back in August, the Lancers from Tucson Salpointe Catholic High have seemed to play with a sense of destiny.

It has carried them to 13 victories in 13 games, and it will need to hold one more time as the top-seeded team squares off against No. 3 Scottsdale Chaparral (12-1) for the Division II state championship on Friday (Nov. 29) at the University of Arizona Stadium in Tucson. Kickoff is 6 p.m.

Salpointe coach Dennis Bene bleeds maroon and gold through and through. He played quarterback for the Lancers back in the day and has made his players aware of the program's strong competitive nature and the desire to win its first state title. The program finished as the runner-up in 1991 and 1981.

"You've got to believe down deep in your heart that you can win," Bene told the Arizona Daily Star.

One of the biggest believers is senior wide receiver/defensive back Cameron Denson.

"We want to be known as one of the best teams," Denson told the Star.

"We have the motor to keep going. That's the difference between this year's team and last year's team."

It starts for Salpointe with senior quarterback Andrew Cota, who is one of the most versatile at his position in the state.

He has rushed for 625 yards and 15 touchdowns and passed for 2,482 yards and 31 TDs.

Denson is one of Cota's favorite targets. He has caught 69 passes for 1,305 yards and 17 TDs, and rushed for 394 yards and six scores. He also has seven interceptions on defense.

Another key receiver is senior Kaelin Deboskie, who will join Denson at the University of Arizona next season.

Deboskie has caught 48 passes for 852 yards and 13 TDs.

Senior Jay Williams adds to the running game with 829 yards and 17 TDs.

Jake Casteel is the top tackler with 148, including 10 sacks.

Chaparral, which won its last title in 2011 under Charlie Ragle (now a UofA assistant) and has won six overall, is now led by Dave Huffine. He has admired Salpointe from afar this season.

"They are unbelievable," Huffine said. "They have a tremendous team. They have talent everywhere. It will be a big day for them, a 'home' game in the UofA stadium.

"Our kids are ready. Playing for a championship is all they have wanted to do, what they have worked for."

Chaparral has a balanced approach on offense. UCLA commit Elijah Castro has rushed for 1,327 yards and 16 touchdowns, and has caught 28 passes for 412 yards and three TDs.

Tyler Whiley has been a productive all-around player for the Firebirds.

He has rushed for 678 yards and 11 TDs, caught 37 passes for 559 yards and seven TDs and has six interceptions on defense.

Wide receiver Izzy Simpson has 73 catches for 976 yards and 12 TDs and tight end Trevor Wood, another UofA commit, has 65 catches for 862 yards and eight TDs.

Junior Sean Paul Brophy is back at quarterback after missing about five games with back issues.

He passed for 1,930 yards and 17 TDs in eight games.

On defense, linebacker Hayden Pate is the top tackler and has 10 sacks. Back Michael Rice has seven interceptions.

This will be a special game for the 6-6, 238-pound Wood.

"It will be my final high school game on the same field where I will be playing in college," he said.

It also is significant because Wood has been healthy most of the season. His junior season in 2012 was extremely limited due to a labrum injury in his shoulder.

"I definitely think it will be a good game," Wood said. "The important thing for us is to not allow them to take us out of what we do. We don't want to get out of our rhythm. We want to show people that this is our bounce-back year."

HOW THEY GOT HERE

Salpointe Lancers (13-0)

Coach: Dennis Bene

Def. Liberty (Nev.) 48-7

Def. Tucson Sabino 49-7

Def. Crespi (Calif.) 47-7

Def. Tucson Sunnyside 46-0

Def. Tempe Marcos de Niza 40-7

Def. Marana Mountain View 56-9

Def. Tucson Rincon 63-0

Def. Casa Grande Vista Grande 51-0

Def. Tucson Ironwood Ridge 48-9

Def. Tucson 49-7

Def. Yuma Cibola 54-7

Def. Peoria Liberty 45-14

Def. Glendale Deer Valley 55-7

Chaparral Firebirds (12-1)

Coach: Dave Huffine

Def. Scottsdale Saguaro 52-27

Lost to Tempe Marcos de Niza 56-45

Def. Glendale Mountain Ridge 42-6

Def. Scottsdale Desert Mountain 35-28

Def. Mesa Red Mountain 44-14

Def. Scottsdale Notre Dame Prep 42-0

Def. Phoenix Arcadia 49-0

Def. Phoenix Brophy Prep 44-10

Def. Cave Creek Cactus Shadows 54-6

Def. Phoenix Paradise Valley 58-7

Def. Tolleson 64-21

Def. Tempe Marcos de Niza 35-21

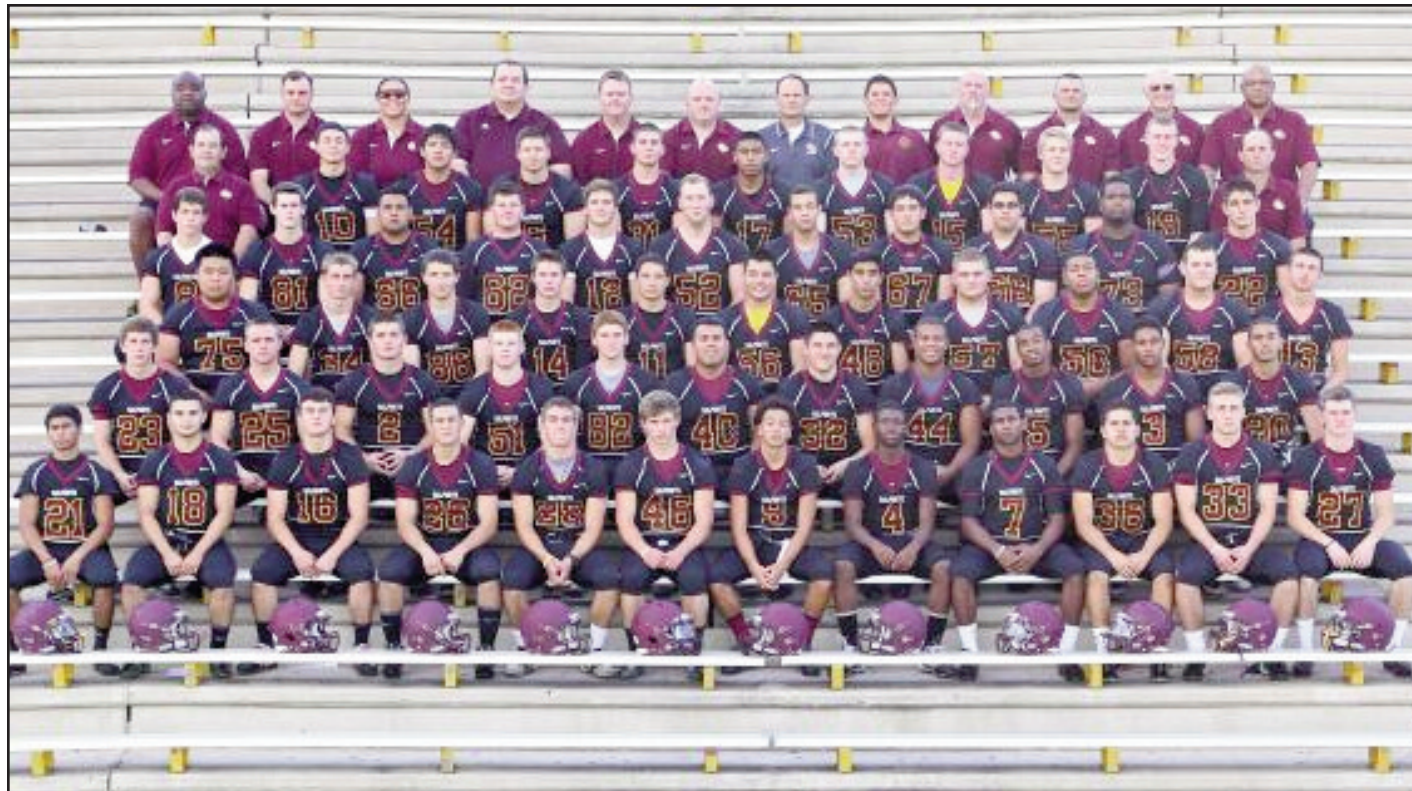
Def. Gilbert Mesquite 35-20



Chaparral's Elijah Castro (21) has rushed for 1,327 yards and 16 scores. Photo by Steve Paynter of maxpreps.com.



No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
1	..Malcolm Thomas, RB	5-6	160	Sr.	26	..Alec Dixon, RB	5-9	155	So.	61	..Conor Willson, OL	6-1	215	Jr.
2	..Xavier Richmond, WR/DB	5-10	175	Sr.	28	..Justin Paniagua, RB	5-10	190	Jr.	62	..Tripp Fusco, OL	5-11	225	So.
3	..Sean Paul Brophy, QB	6-3	195	Jr.	29	..Joseph Vance, DB	5-10	180	So.	63	..Keenan Walker, OL/DL	6-5	265	Jr.
4	..Nate Bridge, LB	6-1	190	Jr.	30	..Nicholas Mendoza, DB	5-8	150	Jr.	64	..Allan Vance, DL	6-0	220	Sr.
5	..Shakial Taylor, DB	6-1	160	Jr.	32	..Devin Magana, RB/LB	5-11	200	Sr.	65	..Chandler Martoncik, OL	5-10	190	So.
6	..Michael Schillinger, LB	6-1	215	Sr.	33	..Erik Dickerson, LB/LS	6-1	180	So.	66	..Chase Boiseau, OL/DL	6-2	220	Jr.
7	..Tyle Whiley, WR/DB	6-1	195	Sr.	34	..Colin Erhard, RB/LB	5-8	175	So.	67	..Davis Webb, OL	6-0	215	So.
8	..Trevor Wood, TE/DE	6-6	238	Sr.	35	..Jake Como, LB	5-10	200	Sr.	68	..Alex Prowda, OL	6-0	230	Jr.
9	..Ryan St. John, DB	5-11	175	Sr.	37	..Riley Kirke, WR	6-0	185	Jr.	71	..Alex Gustafson, OL	6-3	185	Jr.
10	..Israel Simpson, WR/DB	6-1	190	Sr.	42	..Mickey Lloyd, LB	6-1	205	Sr.	72	..Anthony Mattio, OL	6-0	200	Jr.
11	..Hayden Pate, LB	5-10	195	Sr.	44	..Jack Basham, RB/LB	6-1	220	Sr.	74	..Emmanuel Byarm, DL	6-1	210	So.
12	..Joe Nauert, LB	6-2	220	Sr.	46	..J.C. Nephew, RB/LB	5-8	165	So.	75	..Ben Numankadic, OL	6-5	230	Sr.
13	..Brad Metz, QB	5-11	175	Jr.	47	..Joseph Moran, CB	5-10	150	So.	76	..Stephen Mulrow, OL	6-3	260	Sr.
14	..Bruce Packal, K	5-10	160	Sr.	47	..Simon Laryea, DL/P	6-1	215	Sr.	77	..Liam Van Pelt, OL	6-5	265	Sr.
14	..Dylan Cole, QB/K	5-10	165	So.	48	..Brandon Jamison, DL/LB	6-2	210	So.	79	..Cliff Knight, DL	6-2	195	Jr.
16	..Michael Carr, WR	6-1	155	Jr.	50	..Parker Nelson, OL/DL	6-0	205	Jr.	80	..Ryan Bright, WR	6-2	165	So.
17	..Chandler Fox, WR	6-4	185	Sr.	51	..Courtney Taito, DL	6-1	240	Sr.	82	..Thomas Kile, CB	5-9	155	So.
18	..A.J. Dickerson, DB	6-1	185	Sr.	53	..A.J. Scott, LB	5-10	175	So.	86	..Angel Ruiz, WR	6-0	165	So.
19	..Spencer Greenberg, RB	5-10	180	So.	54	..Anderson Youngberg, OL	6-3	230	So.	87	..Thomas Caims, K	5-11	180	Sr.
20	..Kurt Shughart, RB/DB	5-10	185	So.	55	..Jacob Sills, DL	6-0	185	Jr.	88	..Christian Skeptaris, TE	6-2	195	So.
21	..Elijah Castro, RB/WR	5-8	175	Sr.	56	..Rene Taito, LB	5-10	175	So.	89	..Tanner Groff, TE	6-0	190	So.
22	..Robbie Kleifield, LB	6-2	205	Jr.	57	..Will Atsaves, OL/DL	5-11	185	So.	92	..Marshal Forest, OL/DL	6-4	270	Sr.
23	..Hunter Hiegel, DB	6-0	180	Sr.	58	..Marshall Wayland, OL	5-10	245	Sr.	99	..Eric Schweizer, K	5-7	160	Jr.
24	..Emerson Carrethers, RB	5-8	185	Sr.	59	..Derek Porambo, OL	6-0	200	So.					
25	..Michael Rice, WR/DB	5-11	180	Sr.	60	..Jack Homes, DL	5-10	230	So.					



No.	Name/Pos.	Yr.	No.	Name/Pos.	Yr.	No.	Name/Pos.	Yr.
1	..Chad Schulte, WR	.....So.	28	..Ben Seeger, DB	.....Sr.	65	..Julien Arechaga, DL	.....Jr.
2	..Jake Casteel, LB	.....Sr.	30	..Cameron Scharf, K	.....Fr.	66	..Michael Vasquez, DL	.....Sr.
3	..Kevin Hamlett, DB	.....Sr.	30	..Teauntae Nash, DB	.....So.	67	..Henry Montoya, DL	.....Jr.
4	..Jason Parrish, DB	.....Fr.	31	..Dylan Eickmeyer, DE	.....So.	68	..William Herman, DL	.....Jr.
5	..Cameron Denson, WR	.....Sr.	32	..Michael Allen, WR	.....Sr.	69	..Gabe Sandoval, DL	.....Sr.
6	..Brandt Davidson, DL	.....Sr.	33	..Jake Berwick, LB	.....Sr.	70	..Caleb Eubanks, DL	.....Fr.
7	..Kaelin Deboskie, WR	.....Sr.	34	..Dominic Pedrotty, DB	.....Jr.	71	..P.J. Griffen, OL	.....So.
8	..Ben West, RB	.....Jr.	35	..David Peraza, DL/FB	.....Sr.	73	..Breon Auzenne, DL	.....Sr.
9	..Nakai Arvizu, WR	.....Jr.	36	..John Salcido, LB	.....Sr.	75	..Eric Asato, DL	.....Jr.
10	..Andrew Cota, QB	.....Sr.	38	..Ivan Pasos, LB	.....Jr.	77	..Trent Bennington, DL	.....So.
11	..Roman Arvayo, QB	.....So.	40	..Eric Aguirre, LB	.....Jr.	81	..Kyle Mistler, WR	.....Sr.
12	..Chris Sullivan, DB	.....Jr.	42	..Oscar Quiroz, LB	.....So.	82	..Diego O'Bolger, WR	.....Sr.
13	..Santiago Nieto, DB	.....Sr.	44	..Taylor Powell, LB	.....Jr.	84	..Joe Noonan, WR	.....So.
14	..Sammy Muniz, QB	.....Jr.	46	..Tommy Sayre, LB	.....Jr.	86	..Tyler Beal, WR	.....Sr.
15	..Conor Patterson, DE	.....Sr.	48	..Alex Flores, K	.....Sr.	88	..Dominic Salaz, RB	.....So.
16	..Brett Bigelow, WR	.....Sr.	50	..Justin Holt, L	.....So.	90	..Chris Sullivan, LB	.....Jr.
17	..Jaylyn Juan, DE	.....Jr.	51	..Chase Sankey, LB	.....Sr.	95	..Cid Garcia-Ojeda, K	.....Jr.
18	..Wladimir Pinto, RB	.....Jr.	52	..Austin Weaver, DL	.....Sr.			
19	..Robert Wilson, WR	.....Sr.	53	..William O'Neill, DL	.....Sr.			
20	..Beau Frasher, DB	.....Jr.	54	..Matt Jackson, DE	.....Sr.			
21	..Zach Dorame, RB	.....So.	55	..Andrew Palomares, DL	.....So.			
22	..Jacob Ksiazek, LB	.....So.	56	..David Martinez, DL	.....Jr.			
23	..Matt Gerlach, DB	.....Jr.	57	..Brandon Carper, DL	.....Sr.			
25	..Jay Williams, DB	.....Sr.	58	..David Peraza, DL	.....Sr.			
26	..Carlos Gonzales, LB	.....Sr.	60	..Brandt Davidson, DL	.....Sr.			
27	..Trent Daigle, DB	.....Jr.	62	..Riley Campbell, DL	.....Jr.			

Head Coach: Dennis Bene
 Assistants: Rocco Bene, Joe Bernier, Al Alexander, Ed Salido, John Davis, Jay Dobyns, Mark Neal, Sean Brevaire, Dan Higgins, Del Arvayo, Bob Mutterperl, Carla Garrett



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Comparison chart created on 8/22/13



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By Don Ketchum
AIA365

It is fitting that Cameron Denson will go from Tucson Salpointe Catholic to the University of Arizona on a football scholarship in the fall of 2014.

He already knows how to Bear Down.

The 6-foot-1, 180-pound senior wide receiver and defensive back is one of the most passionate athletes you will find, and he has the ability to go with it.

All of it will be on display when the unbeaten Lancers (13-0) meet Scottsdale Chaparral for the Division II title.

Salpointe coach Dennis Bene calls Denson “a good kid. He has been here four years. He came in as a young kid and is going out as a mature young man. He has matured in everything, including the classroom. He has definitely taken a leadership role.

“He plays with a lot of passion. Once he gets it going, he is difficult to stop. He has grown into a difference-maker.”

Denson, who also played a major role for Salpointe’s state-tournament basketball team, is ready for anything.

“I have a passion for the game, especially football. It is something I love to do. I am going to go out there and give it my all, try to make something happen.”

Denson accounted for more than 2,000 yards as a junior, including 1,026 rushing yards (18 touchdowns) and 37 receptions for 585 yards (two TDs), as well as excelling on kickoff and punt returns. He teams with Kaelin Deboskie at wide receiver, building a formidable pass-catching tandem.

Denson has caught 69 passes for 1,305 yards and 17 TDs and rushed for 394 yards and six TDs on 38 carries.

Denson lines up pretty much anywhere and fills a role similar to the one the Arizona Cardinals use with star Larry Fitzgerald.

“Having me line up inside or out, moving me around a lot. That’s fine with me,” Denson said.

“My biggest asset is getting the ball in my hands, doing something with it. I run good routes to get open and once I get the ball, I’d like to think I can create a big play at any given moment.”

Bene acknowledges that Denson is at his best after the catch, “but he also is a tremendous blocker for a receiver.”

Denson says he is a “lockdown corner” on defense. He has seven interceptions this season and had two as a junior. He sometimes gets frustrated when teams don’t throw in his direction. He knows he has to consider it a measure of respect on the part of opponents.

“I think I get a good break on the ball,” he said.



Cameron Denson (5) leads Salpointe with 1,305 receiving yards and 17 touchdowns. Photo by Chis Hook of maxpreps.com.

By Jose Garcia
AIA365

Nobody is really surprised that preseason favorites Mountain Pointe and Hamilton are meeting for the Division I state title again.

Even after last year's D-I title tilt between the two powers, it was safe to say that University of Phoenix Stadium would host the same two teams this year. Heck, since it's played in 10 title games since 2001, Hamilton can even call the championship site its second home.

With all of those appearances, Hamilton and its coach, Steve Belles, were bound to get close to setting new championship victory records. But standing in their way of history is a Mountain Pointe team and coach, Norris Vaughan, that want to get in the football championship win column for the first time.

A win on Saturday gives Belles an unprecedented sixth big school state title, breaking a coaching title tie with Arizona coaching icon Jesse Parker. Before the high school football power shifted to Chandler, where Hamilton resides, Mesa ruled the roost, especially Mesa Mountain View.

Mountain View, Parker's former home, has won a big school best eight titles, but Hamilton can tie that mark with one more victory this season. Since Mountain Pointe hired Vaughan, the program has consistently been in the title discussion.



Hamilton is seeking to continue its championship party by winning the program's eighth title. Photo by Mitchell B. Reibel of maxpreps.com.

Vaughan is overdue for a title. The good-humored but demanding coach is in his 29th season of coaching football.

Vaughan has reached two championship games, one with Wickenburg and another with Mountain Pointe, but the Georgia native still is seeking that elusive title. Mountain Pointe enters Saturday's game as the favorite.

Since its nationally televised season opening victory over nationally ranked Bishop Gorman of Las Vegas, Mountain Pointe has been on a roll. It cemented its No. 1 ranking when it defeated a Hamilton team hampered by injuries in Week 6.

The glare from the top-10 national ranking spotlight certainly hasn't blinded Mountain Pointe this season. But stage fright did set in last year during Mountain Pointe's poor first half performance, eventually leading to a 31-16 loss.

With the senior leadership on this year's Mountain Pointe team, don't expect another slow title game start. Lineman Natrell Curtis, quarterback Antonio Hinojosa (31 TDs), wide receiver/defensive back Jalen Brown (1,178 receiving yards, 18 TDs) and linebacker/running back Wesley Payne (1,007 total yards) will play their last game on Saturday for 13-0 Mountain Pointe.

"We'll be ready to play from the start this time," Hinojosa said.

Hamilton (11-2) wasn't its dominant self this season, playing five games that were determined by seven points or less.

Injuries played a part in that. But Hamilton is healthy, and aside from Mountain Pointe, it starts the best defense in the state.

That defense surely hasn't forgotten what happened the last time it saw Mountain Pointe, which scored 37 points on Sept. 27. The last time Hamilton had allowed more than 30 points in a regular season game was Sept. 12, 2008.

2013-14 SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

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- 5A - Steve Harris, Administrator Desert Mountain
Nancy Meyer, Coach Xavier
4A - Eric Zimmerman, Administrator Washington
Sarah Schlesinger, Coach Sunnyslope

BASEBALL

- 5A - Mark Cisterna, Administrator Gilbert District
Eric Kibler, Coach Horizon
4A - Jeff Feldman, Administrator Greenway
Matt Denny, Coach Greenway
3A - Mike Briguglio, Administrator Fountain Hills
Art Griffith, Coach Winslow
2A - Garye LaFavers, Administrator Tonopah
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BASKETBALL

- 5A - Dan Haasch, Administrator Gilbert
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4A - Phillip Nowlin, Administrator Verrado
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3A - Jamie Roe, Administrator Tuba City
Mark Showers, Coach Camp Verde
2A - David Thursby, Administrator Tombstone
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Lonnie Tvrdy, At-Large Pusch Ridge
1A - Curry Donaldson, Administrator San Simon
Tom Danehy, Coach Green Fields

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- 5A - Dan Nero, Administrator Corona del Sol
Laura Sample, Coach Mesquite
Paul Bonnette, At-Large Central
4A - Mark Goligoski, Administrator Prescott
Trina Painter, Coach Flagstaff
Scott Giddings, At-Large Greenway
3A - Ivan Brown, Administrator River Valley
Eric Fogle, Coach Blue Ridge
2A - Nate Agostini, Administrator Horizon Honors
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1A - John Rickey, Administrator Glendale Prep
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Jim Fairfield, Coach Fountain Hills
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Rhett Stallworth, Coach Yuma Catholic
1A - Lee Haws, Administrator Fort Thomas
Tim Slade, Coach Mogollon

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Jaigie Gardner, At-Large Higley
3A - Bobby Armenta, Administrator Globe
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2A - Darin Gitner, Administrator Bisbee
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Scott Amed, Coach Phoenix Christian

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3A - Robert Edwards, Admin San Tan Hills
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2A - Cindy Riley, Administrator Desert Christian
Jeff Penzone, Coach Northwest Christian
Patrick Andrew, At-Large Horizon Honors
1A - Dan Hood, Administrator Gilbert Classical
David Callahan, Coach Phoenix Christian

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- 5A - Brent Rincon, Administrator Basha
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3A - Mike Dellisanti, Administrator Wickenburg
A. Jay Bronson, Coach Sedona Red Rock
2A - Shane Lewis, Administrator Phx Cntry Day
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1A - Janet Oitzman, Administrator Gilbert Chr.
Melody Pinkerton, Coach Gilbert Chr.

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- 5A - Steve Harris, Admin Mtn. View (Mesa)
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Jennifer Fowler, At-Large Greenway
3A - Ron Williams, Administrator Safford
Amanda Schell, Coach Estrella Fthills
2A - Craig Cutshaw, Admin Canyon State
David Towne, Coach Pusch Ridge
1A - Toni Corona, Administrator Duncan
Mark Swenson, Coach St. Gregory

TRACK

- 5A - Jennifer Burks, Administrator Perry
Bill Webster, Coach Mtn. View (Mesa)
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Eric Bolus, At-Large Deer Valley
4A - Dwayne Folsom, Administrator Higley
Lori Larsen, Coach Williams Field
3A - Paul Demuth, Administrator Holbrook
Robert London, Coach Blue Ridge
2A - Mike Elder, Admin Northland Prep
Linda Lamb, Coach Benson

VOLLEYBALL

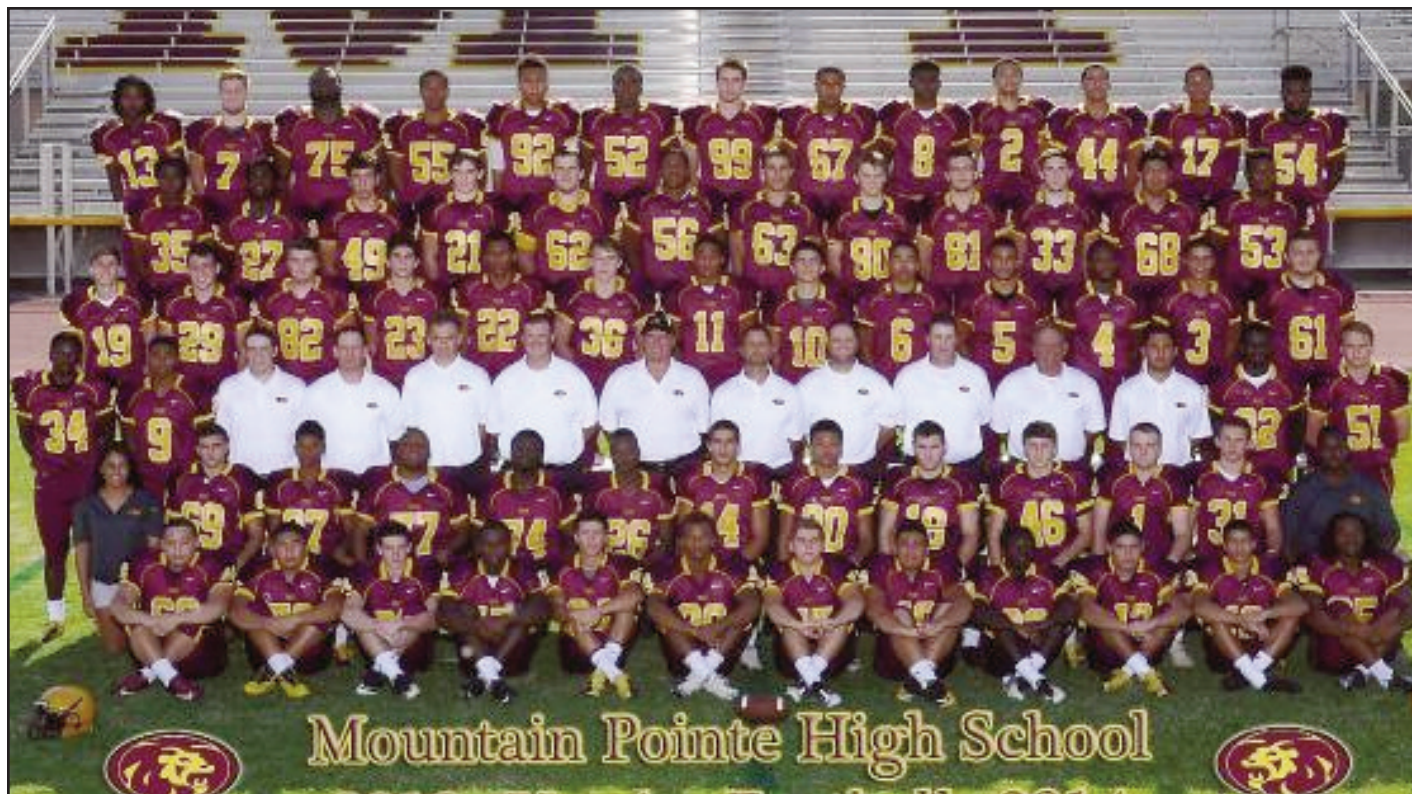
- 5A - Rod Huston, Administrator Highland
Bill Lang, Coach Ironwood Ridge
Jim Kahn, At-Large Basha
Sunny Resch, At-Large Horizon
4A - Cindy Dahl, Admin Bradshaw Mtn.
Sarah Peterson, Coach Greenway
3A - Jacob Holiday, Admin Monument Villy
Alan Ramage, Coach Snowflake
2A - Doug Meyer, Admin AZ Lutheran
Kim East, Coach Benson
1A - Cindy Kirk, Administrator Valley Lthrn
Tylene Miller, Coach St. David

WRESTLING

- 5A - Bob Callison, Coach Mtn. View (Mesa)
4A - Ryan Ridenour, Admin Desert Edge
Bryan Smith, Coach Moon Valley
3A - Bob Wier, Administrator Camp Verde
Tim Williams, Coach Show Low
2A - Al Trejo, Administrator San Manuel
Jimmy Carl, Coach Hopi
1A - Rocky Nelson, Administrator Mogollon
Bob Wolf, Coach Valley Lutheran



No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
	..Derek Andersen, DL	5-9	205	Sr.	34	..AJ McClendon, RB	5-10	165	Jr.	70	..Aaron Campos, OL	5-10	180	Sr.
1	..Tyrell Smith, RB	5-10	188	Sr.	35	..Tu'Ufuli Reupenny, FS	5-9	168	Jr.	71	..Ronald Cary, OL	6-4	311	Sr.
2	..Qualen Cunningham, DL	6-4	230	Sr.	36	..Ari Johnson, WR	5-9	182	Jr.	72	..Issac Joseph, OL	6-2	240	So.
3	..Levi Sterling, CB	5-8	157	Sr.	37	..David DeSilva, RB	5-11	183	Jr.	73	..Nathan Quigley, OL	5-9	190	Sr.
4	..Kevin Stark, SS	5-9	168	Sr.	38	..Rashawn Neal, DB	5-10	172	Sr.	74	..Colton Bahamonde, OL	6-5	24	Sr.
5	..AJ Greathouse, CB	6-0	180	Sr.	39	..Zach Taylor, K	6-0	175	Jr.	75	..Brad Pauley, OL	6-2	256	Jr.
6	..Jamimesan Naeole, LB	6-0	203	Sr.	40	..Kambrell White, DB	6-0	175	Jr.	76	..Christian Molina, DL	5-8	230	Jr.
7	..Santana Sterling, LB	6-2	217	Sr.	41	..Darren Esquer, FS	5-11	171	Jr.	77	..Casey Tucker, OL	6-7	283	Sr.
8	..Jalen Jenkins, SS	5-11	178	Sr.	42	..Salesi Koloamatangi, DL	5-11	218	Jr.	78	..Rome Geyer, OL	6-5	285	Jr.
9	..Caleb Peart, DL	6-2	235	Jr.	43	..Gates Josiah Pola, DB	6-0	195	Sr.	79	..CJ Varela, OL	5-11	265	Jr.
10	..Izzy Simpson, WR	6-1	192	Sr.	44	..Jeff Aguilar, FS	6-0	141	Jr.	80	..Brandon Krcilek, WR	6-2	225	Jr.
10	..Frankie Bueno, WR	5-9	165	Sr.	45	..Derek Andreson, DL	5-8	185	Sr.	81	..Chad Nelson, TE	5-11	184	Sr.
11	..Sean Pollard, WR	6-0	175	Sr.	46	..Peter Njorog, WR	5-9	136	Sr.	82	..Joey Loudenslager, QB	5-10	144	Sr.
12	..Chip Hansen, SR	6-1	162	Jr.	47	..Salvatore Parisi, TE/LS	6-2	200	Sr.	83	..Richard Reid, TE	6-3	205	Jr.
13	..Julius Jenkins, FS	6-0	175	Sr.	48	..Bryce Williams, FS	5-11	177	Sr.	84	..Sam Haggard, WR	6-1	170	Jr.
14	..Xavier Balderas, QB	6-0	183	Jr.	49	..John Overall, LB	5-8	190	Jr.	85	..Elijah Williams, WR	6-3	177	Sr.
15	..Sam Sasso, QB	6-0	175	Sr.	50	..Dalton Haselgrove, OL	6-2	256	Jr.	86	..Casey Gacke, TE	6-0	172	Jr.
16	..Dylan McCall, WR	6-2	180	Sr.	51	..Brady Denton, DL	6-1	227	Sr.	87	..Alex Ward, TE	6-2	205	Jr.
17	..Juwana Jones, FS	6-4	194	Sr.	52	..Yoshi Yamamoto, OG	5-10	209	Sr.	88	..Alex Mote, WR	5-10	146	Jr.
18	..Kyeler Burke, RB	6-0	151	So.	53	..Brandon Bui, DL	5-8	180	Jr.	89	..Will Powell, TE	6-3	228	Sr.
19	..James Sosinski, QB	6-7	235	Jr.	54	..Grant Johnston, OL	6-2	208	Jr.	90	..Reion Beck, DL	5-10	192	Sr.
20	..Tristen Vanc, FS	5-11	182	Jr.	55	..Michael Ureel, DL	6-1	190	Sr.	91	..Sloan Anderson, DL	5-11	192	Sr.
21	..Trey Robinson, DB	5-9	140	Jr.	56	..Marquez Tucker, OL	6-4	243	Sr.	92	..Keenan Rome, WR	5-11	175	Jr.
22	..Hunter Jensen, LB	6-0	199	Sr.	57	..Ben Rosia, DL	6-0	212	Jr.	93	..Garrett Rand, DL	6-4	251	So.
23	..Jaquan Mayberry, RB	6-0	170	Jr.	58	..Beau Kemp, LB	5-10	192	Sr.	94	..Ian Lefever, DL	5-9	167	Jr.
24	..Morris Kroma, DB	5-11	180	Jr.	59	..Hayden VanDorien, OL	5-10	228	Sr.	95	..Antonio Smith, RB	5-9	190	So.
25	..Luciano Avila, DB	5-8	147	Jr.	60	..William Whitmer, OL	6-5	209	Sr.	96	..Dylan Brown, K	5-11	140	So.
26	..Damon Evans, SS	5-8	160	Jr.	61	..Salvador Lopez, OL	5-11	264	Sr.	97	..Ramiro Rubio, DL	6-4	229	Jr.
27	..Dominik Johnston, CB	5-10	145	Sr.	62	..Mathew House, DL	5-9	206	Sr.	98	..Brennen Schall, DB	5-8	170	Sr.
28	..Trevor Eppley, CB	5-10	171	Sr.	63	..Brandon Jackson, OL	6-0	215	Jr.	99	..Gavin Caryl, SS	5-8	166	Sr.
29	..Wyland Barton, FS	5-11	139	Sr.	64	..Bryce Holland, OL	6-2	258	Jr.					
31	..Jerrion Acles, RB	5-9	149	Sr.	65	..Alex Bellanti, OL	6-1	280	Jr.					
32	..Ernesto Mauricio, RB	5-7	170	Jr.	66	..Mark Hunter, DL	5-10	225	Sr.					
33	..Brooks Dunn, LB	5-10	173	Sr.	67	..Trent Moore, OL	6-5	222	Sr.					



No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
1	..Ryan Sheehan, K	5-9	175	..Sr.
2	..Jalen Brown, WR/S	6-1	186	..Sr.
3	..Trey Lauer, RB/DB	5-10	185	..Sr.
4	..Kawuan Ellis, RB	5-10	188	..Sr.
5	..Wesley Payne, LB/RB	5-11	200	..Sr.
6	..D. Fenstermacher, CB	5-10	170	..Sr.
7	..Charlie Trevino, DE/LB	6-2	225	..Sr.
8	..Emmanuel Butler, WR	6-3	204	..Sr.
9	..Xavier Cochran, WR	5-9	160	..Sr.
10	..Antonio Hinojosa, QB	5-10	171	..Sr.
11	..Markell Simmons, DB	6-0	200	..Sr.
12	..Tyree Shivers, WR	5-7	145	..Sr.
13	..Alonzo Wilson, SS	6-2	164	..Jr.
14	..AJ Davalos, LB	5-11	170	..Sr.
15	..Keondre Churchwell, QB	5-9	185	..Jr.
16	..Josh Moses, WR/DB	6-0	175	..Jr.
17	..Garvin Alston, QB	6-2	175	..Jr.
18	..Logan Smith, LB	5-8	190	..Jr.
19	..Frank Matchinsky, FS	5-10	150	..Jr.
20	..Larry Sallie, CB	5-9	173	..Sr.
21	..Timmy Hernandez, WR	6-0	180	..Sr.
22	..Brandyn Leonard, RB	6-0	176	..Jr.
23	..Dale Black, FS	6-0	150	..Jr.
24	..Ernie De La Trinidad, DB	5-9	155	..Sr.

No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
25	..Deontay Townsend, RB	5-9	195	..Sr.
26	..Derrick Dickerson, DB	5-11	160	..Sr.
27	..Austin Pogue, DE	6-0	230	..Jr.
28	..Vidal Daniels, CB	5-7	140	..Jr.
29	..Devin Raposa, LB	6-0	180	..Jr.
30	..Paul Lucas, RB/CB	5-11	175	..Jr.
31	..Dalton Thorpe, CB	5-8	154	..Jr.
32	..Isaiah Jones, LB	5-11	195	..Sr.
33	..Austin Cronen, LB	6-0	212	..Jr.
34	..Nate Johnson, LB	5-10	187	..Sr.
35	..John Abercrombie, K	5-11	150	..Sr.
36	..Anthony Trevino, LB/FB	5-11	190	..Jr.
37	..Zach Blohm, DB/WR	5-8	150	..Jr.
38	..Isaiah Banks, RB/CB	5-7	155	..Jr.
39	..Liam Hadley, WR/DB	5-8	150	..Jr.
40	..Dominic Cantelme, FB	5-7	197	..Sr.
42	..Raul Rivera, CB	5-7	197	..Sr.
44	..Mitchell Fraboni, DE/LS	6-2	200	..Sr.
46	..Brian Luis, RB/LB	5-8	171	..Jr.
47	..John Oper, RB	5-7	165	..Jr.
49	..Ethan Bank, LB	6-1	185	..Jr.
51	..Anders Olson, K	5-11	175	..Sr.
52	..Deshaun Felder, OL/DL	6-4	265	..Jr.
53	..Jordan Watt, OL/DL	6-0	235	..Jr.

No.	Name/Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
54	..Devonte Roach, DL	6-0	230	..Sr.
55	..Kyle Spight, OL/DL	6-2	235	..Sr.
56	..Bruce Hester, DT/OL	6-1	252	..Jr.
61	..Collin Lambdin, OL/DL	6-0	255	..Jr.
62	..Clayton Dry, OL/DL	6-2	286	..Jr.
63	..Justin Taylor, OL/DL	6-1	215	..Sr.
64	..John Garcia, OL/DL	6-1	230	..Jr.
66	..Xavier Cuevas, OL/DL	5-8	230	..Jr.
67	..Nick Carman, OL	6-3	240	..Jr.
68	..Gilbert Saenz, OL/DL	6-0	240	..Jr.
69	..Cullen Washabaugh, K	5-10	155	..Sr.
70	..Miguel Bunthouwongse	5-8	188	..Jr.
72	..Kevin Kincade, OL/DL	5-10	230	..Jr.
74	..Terry Ross, OL/DL	5-7	245	..Sr.
75	..Natrell Curtis, OL/DL	6-3	320	..Sr.
77	..Leedell Bunton, OL/DL	5-9	260	..Sr.
81	..Lucas Dickey, TE/OL	6-0	215	..Sr.
82	..Keaton Rausch, DE	6-0	206	..Sr.
83	..Duke Cobb, TE/DE	5-10	185	..Jr.
85	..Kristian McKoy, RB/DB	5-9	175	..Jr.
92	..Da'shon Daugomah, DL	6-3	240	..Jr.
99	..David Perrott, DL	6-4	250	..Jr.



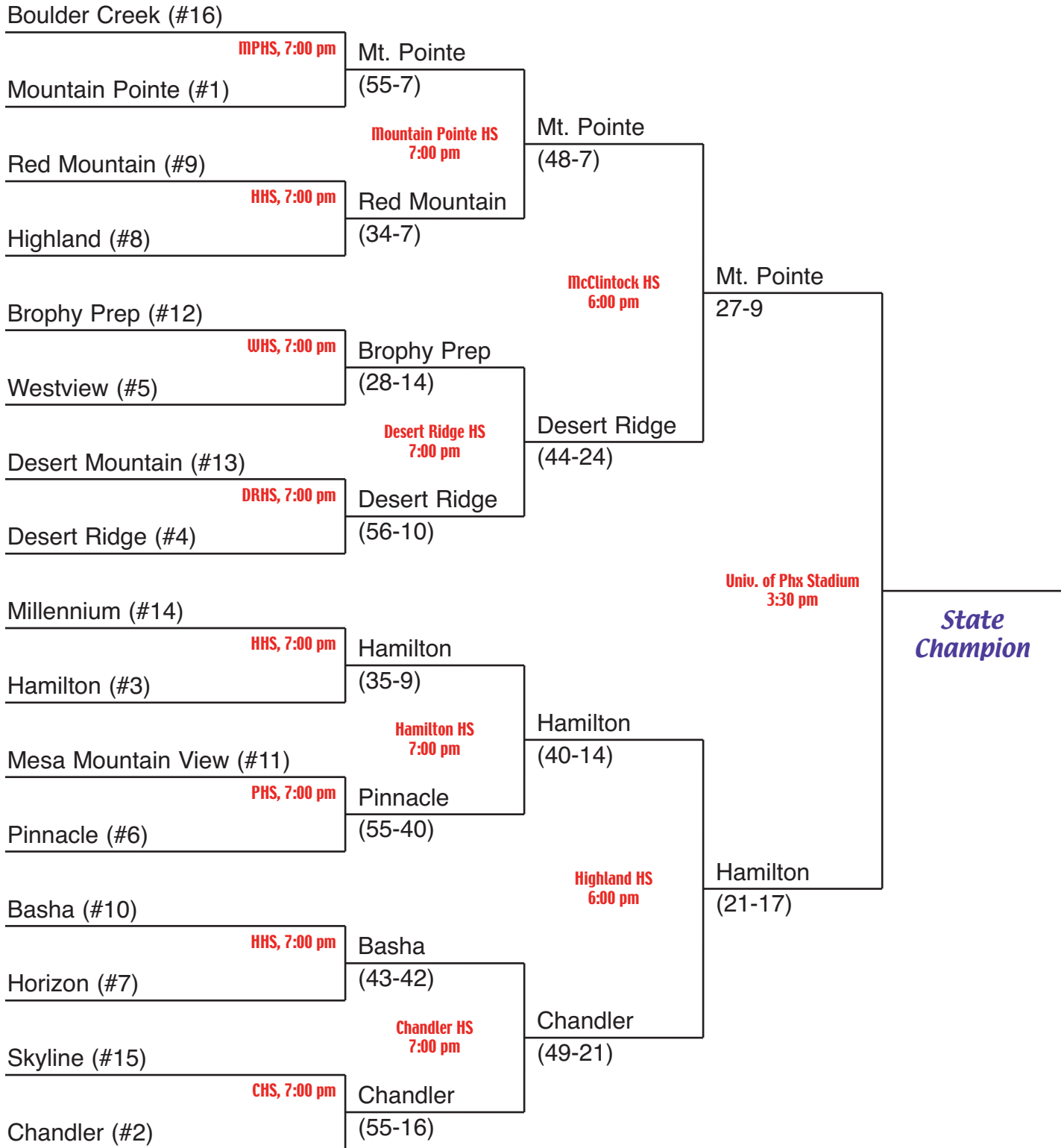
Div. I FB State Championship Bracket

Fri, Nov 8

Fri, Nov 15

Mon, Nov 25

Sat, Nov 30





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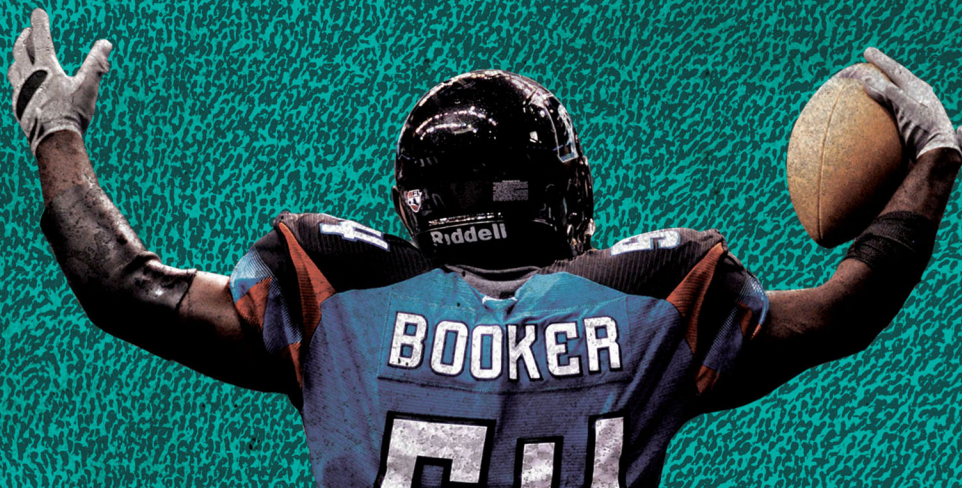
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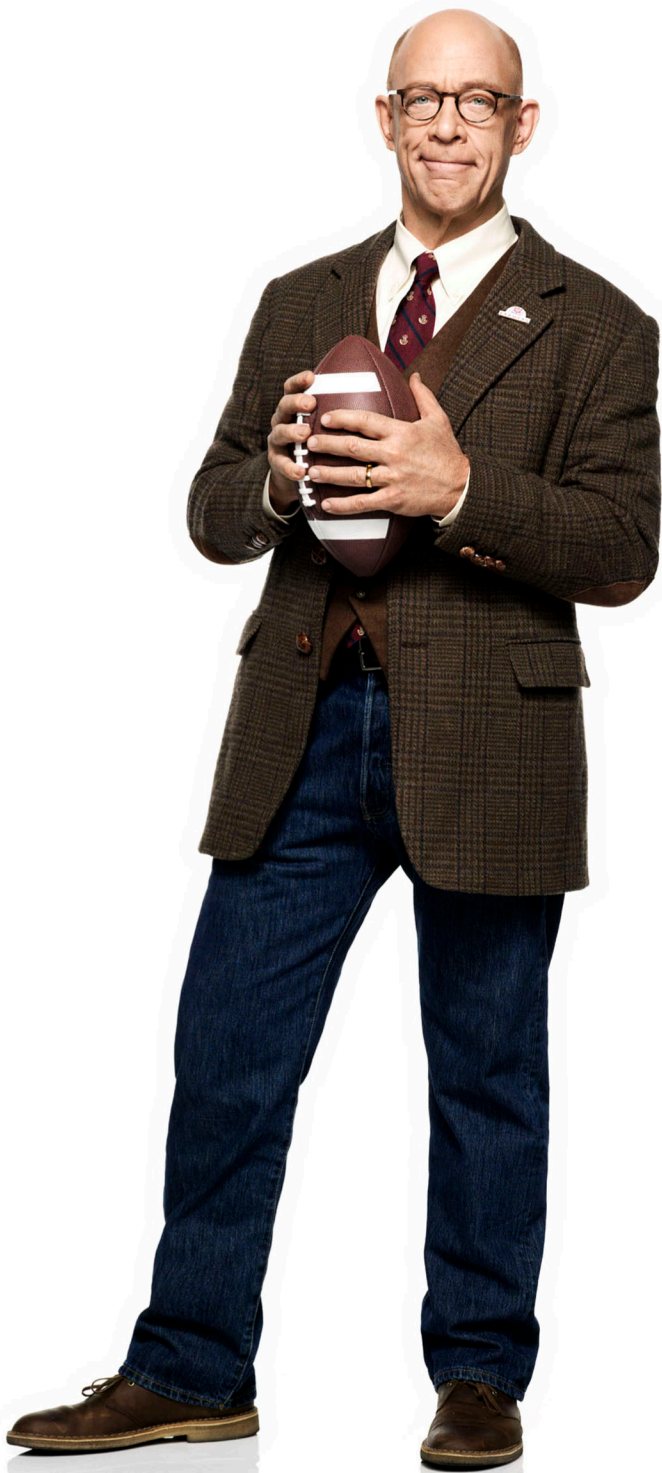
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