

Barry Sollenberger's 1998 Arizona

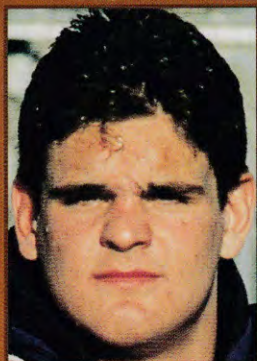
\$5⁹⁹

FOOTBALL

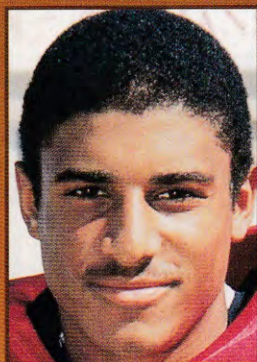
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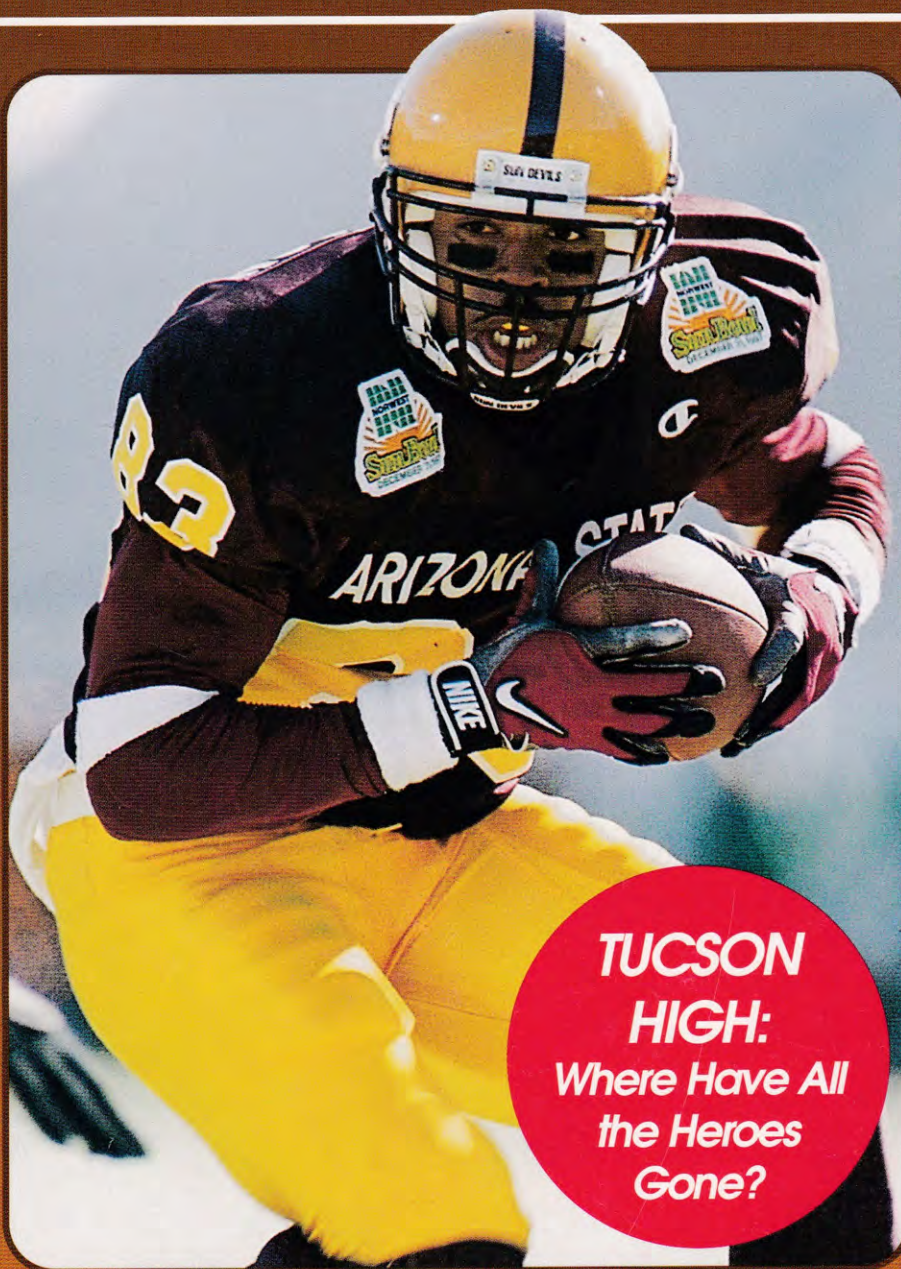
BRANDON TOMERLIN
Superior



COLLIN BLACKBURN
Tucson Sabino

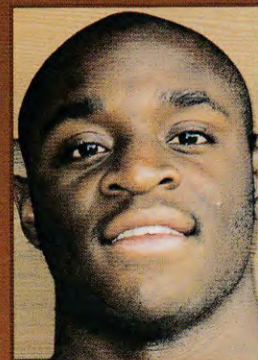


FRANCIS TURNER
Paradise Valley

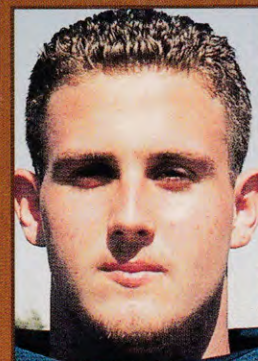


**TUCSON
HIGH:**
Where Have All
the Heroes
Gone?

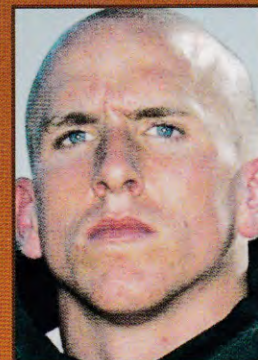
ARIZONA STATE RECEIVER LENZIE JACKSON



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Flagstaff



NICK MANGOSING
Glendale Apollo



TONY BRUNETTI
Peoria



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 1994.....Doug Shaffer, Scottsdale Horizon
 1993.....Mike Morgan, St. Johns
 1992Jim Beall, Snowflake
 1991.....Tom Wheatley, Agua Fria
 1990Jeff Scurran, Tucson Sabino
 1989.....Gary Venturo, Tempe Corona del Sol
 1988.....Jerry Loper, Mesa Westwood
 1987.....Mike Clark, Mesa Dobson
 1986.....Jim Rattay, Mesa
 1985Jim Bevell, Scottsdale Chaparral
 1984.....Pat Farrell, Phoenix St. Mary's
 1983.....Jesse Parker, Mesa Mountain View
 1982Earl Putman, Moon Valley
 1981Richard Gray, Scottsdale Horizon
 1980.....Karl Kiefer, Tempe McClintock
 1979.....Vern Friedli, Tucson Amphi
 1978.....Dan Dunn, Gilbert
 1977.....Jim Russum, Casa Grande
 1976.....Ed Anderson, Scottsdale Coronado
 1975.....Jerry Loper, Tucson Amphi
 1974.....Bill Epperson, Flagstaff Coconino
 1973.....Van Howe, Tucson Palo Verde
 1972Harvey Keeney, Miami
 1971Ollie Mayfield, Tucson
 1970.....Ed Hubbard, Pima
 1969.....Ray Laing, Phoenix Central
 1968.....Ike Sharp, Douglas
 1967Ed Doherty, Phoenix St. Mary's
 1966Lonnie Foster, Eloy Santa Cruz



MINGUS UNION HEAD COACH BOB YOUNG
(Mike Sakal/Verde Independent)

1965John Mallamo, Tucson
 1964Emil Nasser, Winslow
 1963Royal Price, Mesa
 1962Bob Hendricks, Scottsdale Arcadia
 1961Lou Farber, Tucson Pueblo
 1960Edgar "Mutt" Ford, Mesa
 1959.....Fred Bingham, Sunnyslope
 1958Phil Kreuger, Yuma Union
 1957Vern Braasch, Phoenix West

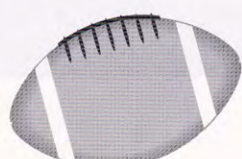
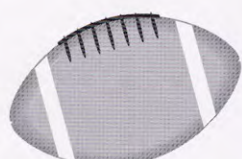
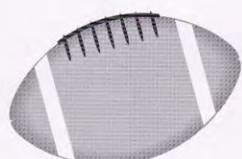
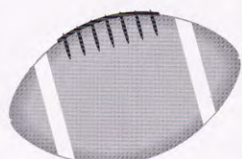
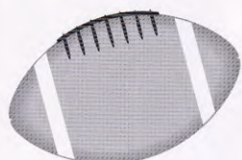
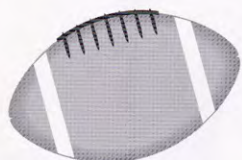


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1998

WILDCAT FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Coach Dick Tomey

Sept 3 at Hawaii
Sept. 12 at Stanford
Sept. 19 vs Iowa
Sept. 24 at San Diego State
Oct. 3 at Washington
Oct. 10 vs UCLA
Oct. 17 at Oregon State
Oct. 24 vs NE Louisiana
Oct. 31 vs Oregon
Nov. 7 vs Washington State
Nov. 14 at California
Nov. 27 vs Arizona State

1998

SUN DEVIL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Coach Bruce Snyder

Sept. 5 vs Washington
Sept. 12 at BYU
Sept. 19 vs North Texas
Sept. 26 vs Oregon State
Oct. 3 at USC
Oct. 10 vs Notre Dame
Oct. 22 vs Stanford
Oct. 31 at Washington State
Nov. 7 vs California
Nov. 14 at Oregon
Nov. 27 at Arizona

1998

LUMBERJACK FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Coach Jerome Souers

Sept. 5 at San Poly SLO
Sept. 12 Southwest Texas
Sept. 19 vs Cal State N'ridge
Sept. 26 vs Western State
Oct. 3 at Eastern Washington
Oct. 10 vs Idaho State
Oct. 17 at Montana
Oct. 24 vs Sacramento State
Oct. 31 at Montana State
Nov. 7 vs Weber State
Nov. 14 at Portland State

Barry Sollenberger's 1998 Arizona ^{\$5⁹⁹}
FOOTBALL
COMPLETE GRAND CANYON STATE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

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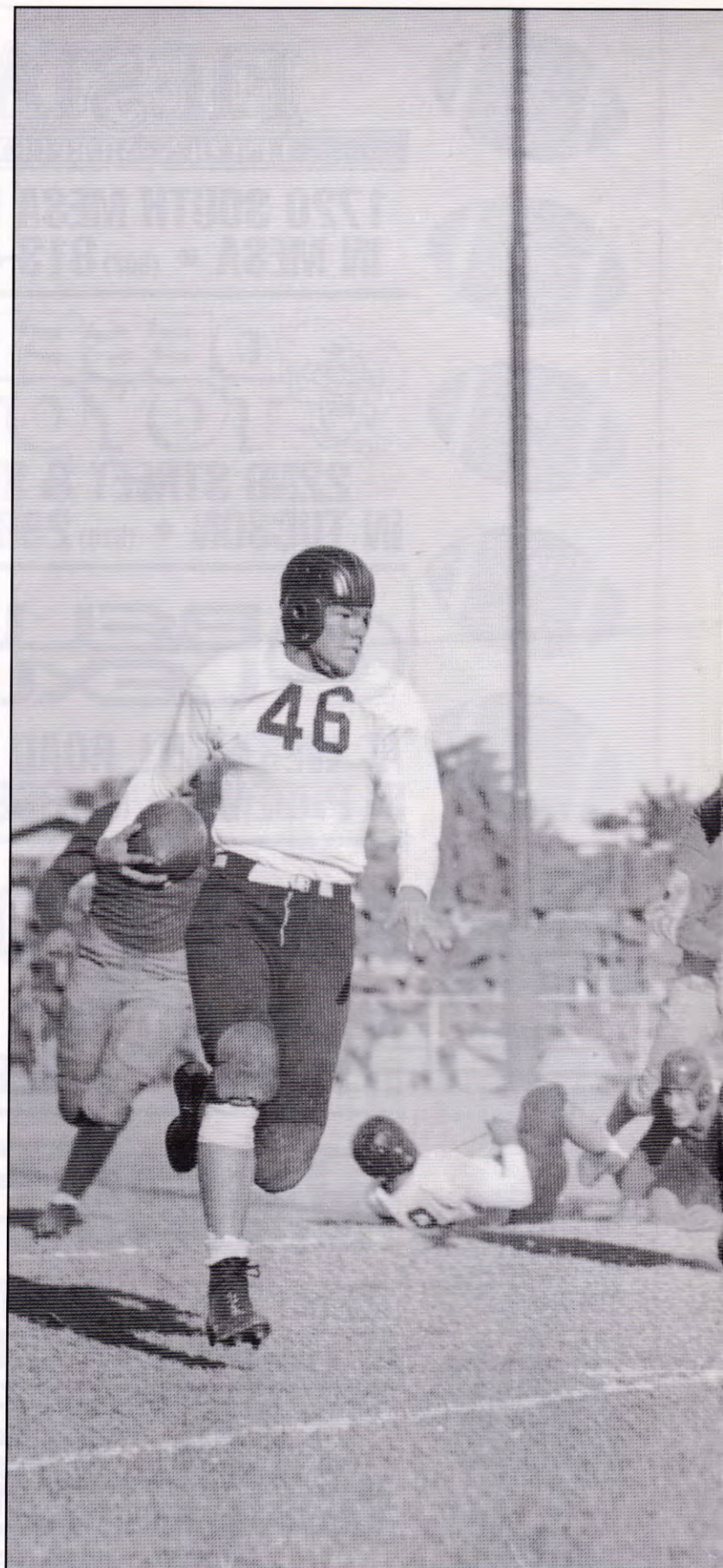
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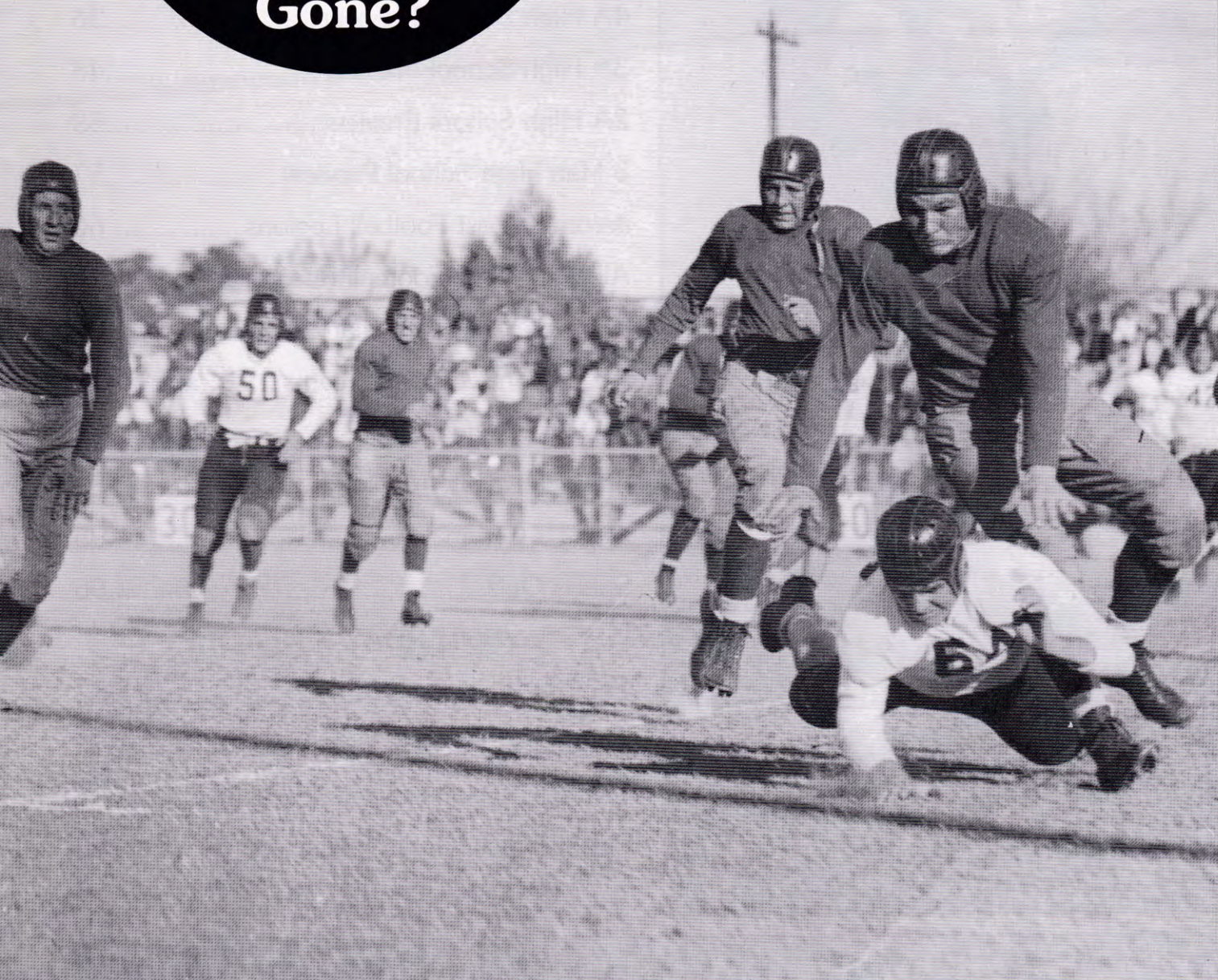
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**TUCSON
HIGH:
Where Have
All The
Heroes
Gone?**



With a down-field block from L.D. Scott (right), all-state end Johnny Black sprints for a touchdown in 1936 post-season game with Albuquerque High. Black scored three times as Tucson's Badgers beat the New Mexico state champions, 26-13.

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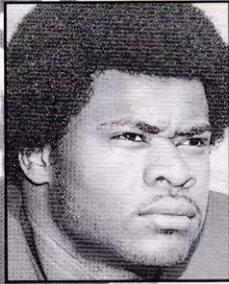
We Salute The

LARRY GORDON AWARD WINNERS

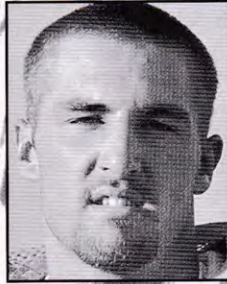
HONORING ARIZONA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL LINEBACKER



Riki Gray
Amphi



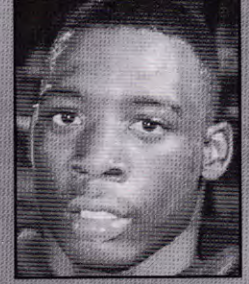
Larry Gordon
Phoenix Union



Steve Trejo
Casa Grande



Randy Hakes
Arcadia



Mike Miller
Boys Ranch

1997 .. Mike Miller, Arizona Boys Ranch
1996 .. Cody Price, Mesa Westwood
1995 .. Steve Trejo, Casa Grande
1994 .. Jeff Johnson, Peoria
1993 .. Randy Hakes, Scottsdale Arcadia
1992 .. Jim Sprotte, Lakeside Blue Ridge
1991 .. Jon McGee, Tucson Sahuaro
1990 .. Aaron Franklin, Peoria
1989 .. Daniel Taplin, Tempe
1988 .. Luke Davis, Mesa Dobson
1987 .. Jeramiah Clark, Mesa
1986 .. Odel Stewart, Sierra Vista Buena
1985 .. Bob Davis, Mesa Mountain View
1984 .. Charles Matthews, Eloy Santa Cruz
1983 .. Tim Hicks, Sunnyslope
1982 .. Randall McDaniel, Agua Fria
1981 .. Darin Tupper, Phoenix Trevor Browne
1980 .. Jimmy Williams, Tempe
1979 .. Todd Shell, Mesa Mountain View
1978 .. Kurt Whiteman, Scottsdale
1977 .. Riki Gray, Tucson Amphitheater
1976 .. Riki Gray, Tucson Amphitheater (jr)
1975 .. Alan Edwards, Morenci
1974 .. Roark Shirley, Tempe Marcos de Niza
1973 .. Richard Rucker, Canyon del Oro
1972 .. Tim Peterson, Ajo
1971 .. Larry Gordon, Phoenix Union
1970 .. Bob Breunig, Phoenix Alhambra

1969 .. Bill Crowe, Tempe McClintock (jr)
1968 .. Larry Delbridge, Coolidge
1967 .. Jeff Quinn, Mesa Westwood
1966 .. Jay Ray Rokey, Mesa Westwood
1965 .. Bill Owsley, Phoenix North
1964 .. Ron Hendrix, Camelback
1963 .. Dana Woudenberg, Arcadia
1962 .. Fred Carr, Phoenix Union (jr)
1961 .. Ross Shannon, Phoenix North
1960 .. Florence Chandler, Tucson
1959 .. Bob Olson, South Mountain
1958 .. Sam King, Mesa
1957 .. Art Acosta, Tucson
1956 .. Floyd Smith, Phoenix Union
1955 .. Allan Sandell, Phoenix North

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Bogus Attendance Figures No Reason for Criticizing AIA

Readers of *Arizona Republic* sportswriter **Richard Obert** are usually spared our criticism of his work. We go to press with this publication only once a year. Obert reaches new depths each year in his constant criticism of the **Arizona Interscholastic Association**, the state's governing body. The majority of his criticism – since his first day on the job – is unfounded and unprofessional.

After last year's football finals, Obert decided, based on bogus attendance figures, that the AIA should stage the 2A & 3A finals at **Arizona State University**. He has even criticized the day of the week (Thanksgiving Eve) that the AIA presents the 2A finals. In promoting a 2A/3A twin-bill for Sun Devil Stadium, he wrote: "It's worked for 5A and 4A. Why not for 3A and 2A? The AIA ought to stage a football championship doubleheader for the small schools. **Seton's** 2A title victory over top-ranked **Superior** was lost by having it played on a Wednesday night. The schools, which drew about 6,500 fans to Marcos de Niza High School, had just two days to prepare. How fair is that?"

It gets better: "Last Saturday's 3A final between top-ranked **Blue Ridge** and **Arizona Boys Ranch** was witnessed by an overflow crowd of more than 12,000 at **Mesa Community College**. Fans spilled over onto the track and around the end zone, where people lined up six to eight feet deep."

What would **Dr. Voie Coy** (the AIA Executive Director) and the AIA Board do without the Dick Oberts of the media around to tell them how to run their business. The truth of the matter is the format for the 2A playoffs is not only planned by the AIA, but is a joint venture between the 2A Conference and the AIA. Ditto the 3A finals. The 2A finals are held the night before Thanksgiving because that's when the 2A Conference wants to stage it. The official paid attendance at the game was 3,061, half of what *The Arizona Republic* reported. At 4,500-seat John D. Riggs Stadium at Mesa Community College, the paid attendance for the 3A finals was 5,112, not 12,000. Neither crowd justifies a doubleheader at Sun Devil Stadium. The 70,000-plus-seat structure is not cheap to rent. For anybody.

On a more professional level was the coverage of the same game by **Les Willsey**, long-time reporter for *The Tribune*. "Blue Ridge's defense turned back repeated threats by Arizona Boys Ranch in posting a 27-21 victory before an *overflow* crowd at Mesa Community College," wrote Willsey.

This is our 27th edition. For more than a quarter century we have previewed high school football in the Grand Canyon State. It is disturbing how frequent members of the media continue to bash the AIA. The majority of the criticism is unfounded, and unfair. Few reporters have a clue about its structure, or organization. Yet they should. Just like the **NCAA**, the AIA is not an independent, evil empire. The AIA is a membership organization.

In this country, every outstanding high school sports state has its own unique flavor. When it comes to football, **California**, **Texas** and **Florida** are top producers of college and pro talent for one main reason: population. People-wise, these three dwarf states like Arizona. Their players aren't any better; there's just more of them.

Arizona, arguably the third best high school sports state west of the Mississippi River, can boast of two undisputed facts regarding its high school football: 1) The surprising success, especially by schools from the Phoenix region, against out-of-state competition, including games with California and Texas schools; 2) The large number of former Arizona schoolboy products who have ended up in professional football, mainly the **NFL** and **CFL**. Last year, 29 former Arizona stars dotted NFL rosters. In the decade of the '90s alone, over 100 have reached that level.

Last year approximately 125 could be found on Division I-A rosters. This doesn't include players in junior college, NAIA or lower division NCAA schools such as NAU, where good football is played, and the NFL continues to scout.

This may be hard to swallow for local products of the Texas schoolboy ranks – and Arizona has its share of coaches from Texas today – but last year the Phoenix region alone produced more Division I-A football signees (30) than all of West Texas (15). We're not talking about El Paso here. We're talking about the entire West Texas region, from Pampa to Abilene to Pecos to El Paso. In fact, **Peoria High** had as many signees (3) as **Odessa Permian**.

It didn't used to be that way. But thanks to a population boom, Arizona football – always a strength on the state's high school scene – has become a national recruiting target. The failure to realize this, especially by fans and the media in the Phoenix area, is from gauging local high school football strength based on the number of players recruited and signed by Arizona State. Although Phoenix holds the population base, the majority of our state's outstanding players – especially those who have played in the NFL – did not play college ball in Tempe.

For whatever reason.

BARRY SOLLENBERGER



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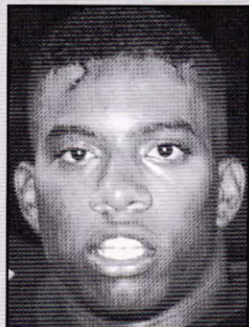
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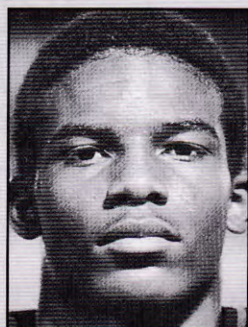
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Tucson Sabino



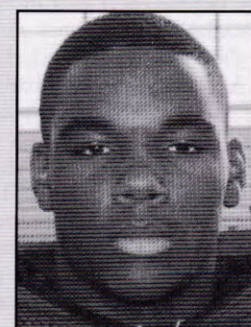
Anthony Parker
McClintock



Tyrone Byrd
Chandler



Gene Mitcham
North



Brandon Falkner
Peoria

HONORING THE STATE'S BEST DEFENSIVE BACK:

1997..... Brandon Falkner, Peoria
1996..... Rashad Bauman, South Mountain
1995..... Mike Brown, Scottsdale Saguro
1994..... Eric Johnson, Phoenix Alhambra
1993..... Corey Hill, Tucson Sabino
1992..... Mitchell Freedman, Phoenix Maryvale
1991..... James Richardson, Bradshaw Mountain (jr)
1990..... Eddie Cade, Eloy Santa Cruz
1989..... Billy Burris, Florence
1988..... Mike Salmon, Phoenix Greenway
1987..... Tyrone Byrd, Chandler
1986..... Nathan LaDuke, Phoenix Alhambra
1985..... Cleveland Colter, Jr., Tempe McClintock
1984..... John Giaspie, Phoenix Central
1983..... Anthony Parker, Tempe McClintock
1982..... Chuck Nixon, Phoenix Shadow Mountain
1981..... Shawn Benson, Mesa Mountain View
1980..... George Duarte, Tucson Sunnyside (jr)
1979..... Mossy Cade, Eloy Santa Cruz
1978..... Jeff Colter, Tucson Amphitheater
1977..... Charles Cobbs, Florence
1976..... Felix Kelson, South Mountain
1975..... David Given, Tempe McClintock
1974..... Harold Smith, Florence
1973..... Rob Wilson, Scottsdale Coronado
1972..... Carl Russell, McNary
1971..... Danny Smith, Safford (jr)

1970..... Derral Davis, Tucson
1969..... Dick Harris, Mesa Westwood (jr)
1968..... Joe Petrosus, Tucson
1967..... Rudy Quihuis, Tucson Pueblo
1966..... Bill Dipley, Scottsdale Arcadia
1965..... Bill Dipley, Scottsdale Arcadia (jr)
1964..... LeRoy Peoples, Marana
1963..... Earliest Nelson, South Mountain
1962..... James Dugan, Flagstaff (jr)
1961..... Elby Bushong, Phoenix Washington
1960..... Luther Harper, Phoenix Union
1959..... Jim Sims, Tucson (jr)
1958..... Dornel Nelson, South Mountain
1957..... Steve Vaughn, Phoenix North
1956..... Warren Livingston, Mesa
1955..... Warren Livingston, Mesa (jr)
1954..... Eddie Mitchell, Phoenix North
1953..... Charles Christopher, Phoenix Carver
1952..... Joel Favara, Tucson
1951..... Hadley Hicks, Bisbee
1950..... Gene Mitcham, Phoenix North

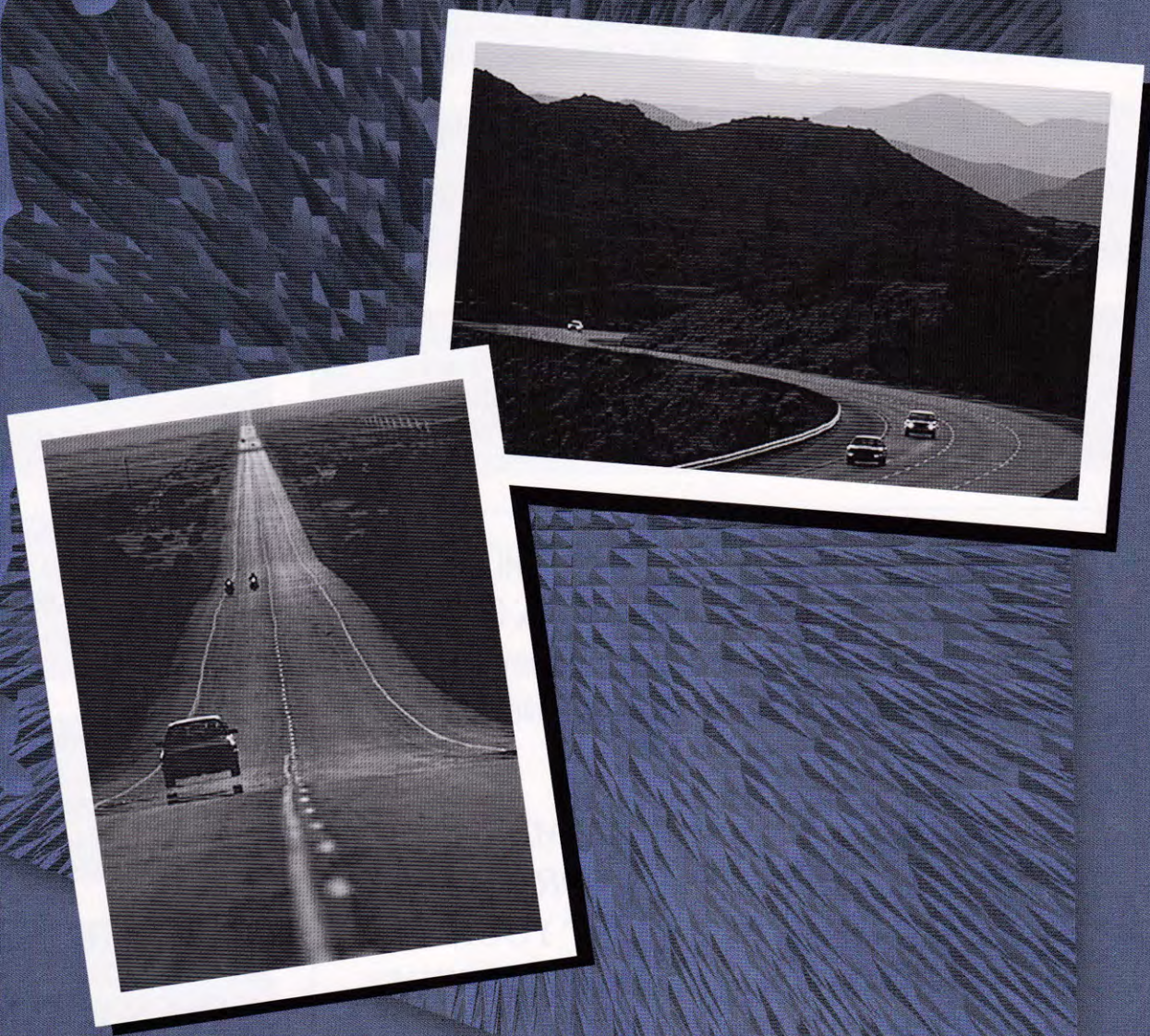
TYRONE BYRD, a three-sport star at Chandler High School between 1985-87, was a star defensive back at Nebraska and a projected high NFL draft pick whose career was halted by an automobile accident in 1993.

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9168 S. Avenue 36 East
Wellton, AZ 85356

*Southwestern Arizona location just
east of Yuma on I-8*

Arizona Boys Ranch

20061 Rittenhouse Road
Queen Creek, AZ 85242

*Extreme East Valley location south of
I-60 near Power Road*

Alchesay High School

200 Cemetary Road
Whiteriver, AZ 85941

*Located in Eastern Arizona, south of
Show Low on Rte. 73*

Apache Junction High School

2525 S. Ironwood
Apache Junction, AZ 85220

*Far East Valley location just north of
I-60 on Ironwood*

Arizona Lutheran Academy

6036 S. 27th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85041

*South Phoenix location near 27th and
Southern Avenues*

Alhambra High School

3839 W. Camelback Road
Phoenix, AZ 85019

*Located just west of 35th Avenue on
Camelback Road*

Apollo High School

8045 N. 47th Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85302

*Located just east of 51st Avenue at
Northern in Glendale*

Arizona School Deaf & Blind

1200 W. Speedway
Tucson, AZ 85754

*Located slightly west of I-10 on
Speedway in Tucson*

GOOD LUCK TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS!

Apollo ▲ Cactus ▲ Centennial ▲ Deer Valley ▲ Goldwater
Greenway ▲ Independence ▲ Ironwood ▲ Mountain Ridge
Northwest Community Christian ▲ Peoria ▲ Sunrise Mountain



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Ash Fork High School

443 Maple Street
Ash Fork, AZ 86320

*Located on I-40 west of Flagstaff in
Northern Arizona*

Baboquivari High School

Highway 86
Sells, AZ 85634

*Extreme Southern Arizona location on
Rte. 86 southwest of Tucson*

Bagdad High School

515 Breazy Circle
Bagdad, AZ 86321

*Located west of Prescott and south of
Kingman on Rte. 96*

Benson High School

109 W. Seventh Street
Benson, AZ 85603

*On I-10 between Tucson and Willcox in
Southeastern Arizona*

Traveling To Arizona's High Schools

Bisbee High School
School Terrace Road
Bisbee, AZ 85603

Located in extreme Southeastern Arizona on Rte. 80 close to Mexico

Cactus High School
6330 W. Greenway Road
Glendale, AZ 85306

Northwest Valley location on 63rd Avenue and Greenway Road

Canyon del Oro High School
25 W. Calle Concordia
Tucson, AZ 85737

Slightly north of Ina on Oracle on the northwest side of Tucson

Blue Ridge High School
1200 S. White Mountain Blvd.
Lakeside, AZ 85929

In the White Mountains in Eastern Arizona south of Show Low on Rte. 260

Cactus Shadows High School
5802 E. Dove Valley Road
Cave Creek, AZ 85327

North Valley location south of Carefree Highway and west of Scottsdale Road

Carl Hayden High School
3333 W. Roosevelt
Phoenix, AZ 85009

Between Van Buren and McDowell near 35th Avenue in Central Phoenix

Bourgade High School
4602 N. 31st Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85017

South of Camelback Road on 31st Avenue in Phoenix

Camelback High School
4612 N. 28th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Located between Indian School and Camelback on 28th Street

Casa Grande High School
2730 N. Trekell
Casa Grande, AZ 85222

The new high school is visible just west of I-10 approaching Casa Grande

Bowie High School
315 W. 5th Street
Bowie, AZ 85605

Near the New Mexico border on I-10 in Eastern Arizona

Camp Verde High School
P.O. Box 728
Camp Verde, AZ 86322

South of Flagstaff and just east of I-17 in the Verde Valley

Catalina High School
3645 E. Pima Street
Tucson, AZ 85716

Located between Grant and Speedway east of Campbell in Tucson

Bradshaw Mt. High School
12150 Turquoise Circle
Dewey, AZ 86327

Between Phoenix and Flagstaff west of I-17 near Prescott

Brophy College Prep
4701 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Just south of Camelback on Central Avenue in Phoenix

Buckeye High School
902 Eason Avenue
Buckeye, AZ 85326

Far West Valley location just south of I-10 in Buckeye

Buena High School
3555 E. Fry Boulevard
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Exit I-10 south of Tucson on Rte. 90, south to Sierra Vista near Mexico



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Catalina Foothills High School
4300 S. Sunrise Drive
Tucson, AZ 85718

Located at Swan and Sunrise in North Tucson

Chaparral High School
6935 E. Gold Dust Avenue
Scottsdale, AZ 85253

Just west of Scottsdale Road and south of Shea Blvd. in Scottsdale

Cibola High School
4100 20th Street
Yuma, AZ 85364

Located in extreme Southwestern Arizona west of I-8 on 20th Street

Centennial High School
14388 N. 79th Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85381

Near Arrowhead Towne Center south of Bell Road on 79th Avenue

Chinle High School
Hwy 191, Navajo Rte. 7
Chinle, aZ 86503

Located in Northeastern Arizona near Canyon de Chelly on IRte. 191

Clifton High School
111 Hill Street
Clifton, AZ 85533

Very near the New Mexico border on Rte. 191 in Eastern Arizona

Central High School
4525 N. Central
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Downtown Phoenix location at Central Avenue north of Indian School Road

Chino Valley High School
115 N. Highway 89
Chino Valley, AZ 86323

West of I-17 and north of Prescott on I-89

Coconino High School
2801 N. Izabel Street
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Located in Flagstaff north of I-89 near West Street

Chandler High School
350 N. Arizona Avenue
Chandler, AZ 85224

Located in the heart of Chandler near Arizona Avenue and Chandler Blvd.

Cholla High School
2001 W. Starr Pass Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85713

Exit I-10 at 22nd Street and head west on Starr Pass Blvd.

Coolidge High School
800 W. Northern
Coolidge, AZ 85228

Just east of I-10 near Casa Grande between Phoenix and Tucson

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Corona del Sol High School
1001 E. Knox Road
Tempe, AZ 85284

Located at Knox (between Warner and Ray Roads) and Rural in south Tempe

Coronado High School
2501 N. 74th Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

Located in south Scottsdale just east of Scottsdale Road at Oak

Cortez High School
8828 N. 31st Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85051

Located just south of Metro Center on Dunlap and 31st Avenue

Deer Valley High School
18424 N. 51st Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85308

Northwest Valley location at 51st Avenue and Union Hills

Traveling To Arizona's High Schools

Desert Christian High School

7777 E. Speedway

Tucson, AZ 85751

East Tucson location on Speedway east of Wilmot Road

East Fork High School

P.O. Box 489

Whiteriver, AZ 85941

Located south of Show Low in Eastern Arizona on Rte. 73

Fort Thomas High School

15502 W. Highway 70

Fort Thomas, AZ 85536

Located between Globe and Safford on Rte. 70 in Southeastern Arizona

Desert Mountain High School

12575 E. Via Linda

Scottsdale, AZ 85259

East Scottsdale location just north of Shea Blvd. on Via Linda

Flagstaff High School

400 W. Elm

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Not far from NAU near the intersection of I-17 and I-89

Fountain Hills High School

16100 E. Palisades Blvd.

Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

Extreme East Valley location north of Shea on Palisades and Golden Eagle

Desert View High School

4101 E. Valencia

Tucson, AZ 85706

Southeast Tucson location near I-10 and Ajo Way

Florence High School

1000 S. Main

Florence, AZ 85232

Located southeast of the Phoenix Metro area on Rte. 79

Fredonia High School

220 E. Hottt

Fredonia, AZ 86022

Just a few miles from the Arizona-Utah border in Northern Arizona on Alt. I-89

Desert Vista High School

16440 S. 32nd Street

Phoenix, AZ 85044

In the vicinity of 32nd Street and Chandler Blvd. in Ahwatukee

Flowing Wells High School

3725 N. Flowing Wells Road

Tucson, AZ 85705

Located east of I-10 near Prince and Flowing Wells Road

Ganado High School

P.O. Box 1757

Ganado, AZ 86505

Near the New Mexico border in Eastern Arizona on Rte. 191

Dobson High School

1501 W. Guadalupe

Mesa, AZ 85283

Located south of I-60 near Dobson and Guadalupe

Douglas High School

1500 15th Street

Douglas, AZ 85607

Located in extreme Southeastern Arizona on Rte. 80

Duncan High School

106 Stadium Street

Duncan, AZ 85534

Located in far Southeastern Arizona on I-10

Dysart High School

11405 N. Dysart Road

El Mirage, AZ 85335

In the far Northwest Valley in El Mirage south of I-60

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ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS

Beginning with the 1989-90 school year, Mesa Public Schools have won 44 5A State Championships in

- Baseball – Boys
- Basketball – Boys
- Basketball – Girls
- Cross Country – Boys and Girls
- Football – Boys
- Golf – Boys
- Softball – Girls
- Speech and Theatre – Boys and Girls
- Tennis – Boys
- Track and Field – Boys and Girls
- Volleyball – Girls
- Wrestling – Boys
- Soccer – Boys

DR. JAMES K. ZAHARIS
Superintendent

DICK ANDERSON
Athletic Director

549 NORTH STAPLEY, MESA, ARIZONA 85213
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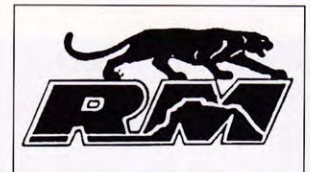
Dobson HS



Mesa HS



Mountain View HS



Red Mountain HS



Westwood HS

Traveling To Arizona's High Schools

Gila Bend High School
308 N. Martin Avenue
Gila Bend, AZ 85337

Southwest of Phoenix at the junction of Rte. 85 and I-8

Greyhills High School
P.O. Box 160
Tuba City, AZ 86045

Located in Northern Arizona east of I-89 on Rte. 160

Holbrook High School
455 N. 8th Avenue
Holbrook, AZ 86025

Located east of Flagstaff in Eastern Arizona on I-40

Gilbert High School
1101 E. Elliot
Gilbert, AZ 85296

Located south of I-60 on Elliot east of Gilbert Road

Hamilton High School
3700 S. Arizona Avenue
Chandler, AZ 85248

Located in south Chandler on Arizona Avenue just south of Queen Creek Road

Hopi High School
P.O. Box 337
Keams Canyon, AZ 86034

Located north of Holbrook in Northeastern Arizona on Rte. 264

Glendale High School
6126 W. Glendale Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85301

West Valley location on Glendale Avenue just west of 59th Avenue

Hayden High School
824 Thorne Avenue
Winkelman, AZ 85292

Located between Globe and Safford on Rte. 77

Horizon High School
5601 E. Greenway Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

Not far from Paradise Valley Mall at 56th Street and Greenway

Globe High School
501 E. Ash Street
Globe, AZ 85501

Located about 90 miles east of Phoenix on I-60

Highland High School
4301 E. Guadalupe Road
Gilbert, AZ 85234

Just south of Superstition Springs Mall near Power and Guadalupe Roads

Independence High School
6602 N. 75th Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85303

West Valley location north of Bethany Home Road at 75th Avenue

Goldwater High School
2820 W. Rose Garden Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85027

Located in North Phoenix just west of I-17 near Union Hills

Grand Canyon High School
1 Boulder Street
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

Located in Northern Arizona near the South Rim on Rte. 180

Green Fields High School
6000 El Camino de la Tierra
Tucson, AZ 85741

Located in Southern Arizona near I-10 in Southeastern Tucson

Greenway High School
3930 W. Greenway Road
Phoenix, AZ 85023

Northwest Valley location on Greenway Road at 39th Avenue



Nogales High School

GOOD LUCK
TO OUR 1998-99 APACHES!

Dr. Marcelino Varona, Jr., Principal
Karen Copley, Asst. Principal • Joel Kramer, Asst. Principal
Hector Ramirez, Athletic Director

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Traveling To Arizona's High Schools

Ironwood High School
6051 W. Sweetwater
Glendale, AZ 85304

West Valley location north of Thunderbird on 59th Avenue

Kofa High School
3100 Avenue A
Yuma, AZ 85364

In extreme Southwestern Arizona near the California border off I-8

Marcos de Niza High School
6000 S. Lakeshore Drive
Tempe, AZ 85283

South Tempe location on Guadalupe between Rural and Hayden Roads

Joseph City High School
4926 E. 2nd North
Joseph City, AZ 86032

West of Holbrook in Eastern Arizona on I-40

Lake Havasu High School
2675 S. Palo Verde Boulevard
Lake Havasu, AZ 86403

On I-95 near the Arizona-California border in Western Arizona

Maricopa High School
45012 W. Honeycutt Avenue
Maricopa, AZ 85239

Can be reached by heading south of Phoenix and west of the I-10

Judson High School
6704 N. Mockingbird Lane
Scottsdale, AZ 85252

Located just west of Scottsdale Road and north of Lincoln Drive

Many Farms High School
P.O. Box 307
Many Farms, AZ 86538

Located in Northeastern Arizona north of Chinle on Rte. 191

Maryvale High School
3415 N. 59th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85033

West Phoenix location north of Thomas at 59th Avenue

Kingman High School
4182 N. Bank Street
Kingman, AZ 86401

Located north of I-40 in Northwestern Arizona

Marana High School
12000 W. Emigh Road
Tucson, AZ 85743

About 20 miles northwest of Tucson off I-10

Mayer High School
17300 E. Mule Deer Drive
Mayer, AZ 86333

Located west of I-17 on Rte. 69 near Prescott

Congratulations Mountain View Toros!
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McClintock High School
1830 E. Del Rio Drive
Tempe, AZ 85282

Located near McClintock and Southern in Tempe

Mesa High School
1630 E. Southern Avenue
Mesa, AZ 85204

East Mesa location near Southern and Gilbert

Mesquite High School
500 S. McQueen
Gilbert, AZ 85225

Located south of Elliott on McQueen (take Mesa Drive exit from I-60)

Miami High School
Ragus Road
Miami, AZ 85539

An Eastern Arizona school located a few miles west of Globe on I-60

Traveling To Arizona's High Schools

Mingus High School
1801 E. Fir Street
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Located in Northern Arizona west of I-17 in the Verde Valley

Marana Mt. View High School
3901 W. Linda Vista Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85742

Located about two miles north of Ina and west of Oracle

North Canyon High School
1700 E. Union Hills Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85024

Located in North Phoenix at 17th Street and Union Hills

Mogollon High School
3450 Mustang Avenue
Heber, AZ 85928

Between Payson and Show Low in Eastern Arizona on Rte. 260

Mesa Mt. View High School
2700 E. Brown Road
Mesa, AZ 85205

East Mesa location at Brown and Lindsay Roads

NW Community Christian
16615 N. 43rd Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85023

Northwest Phoenix location at 43rd Avenue just south of Bell Road

Mohave High School
2251 Highway 95
Bullhead City, AZ 86442

Located in Northwestern Arizona near the Arizona-Nevada border on I-95

Nogales High School
1905 N. Apache Boulevard
Nogales, AZ 85621

Located on Arizona-Mexico border west of I-19

Orme School
HC63 Box 3040
Mayer, AZ 86333

North of Phoenix and west of I-17 on Rte. 69 near Prescott

Monument Valley High School
P.O. Box 337
Kayenta, AZ 86033

Located in Northeastern Arizona on Rte. 160

North High School
1101 E. Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85014

Central Phoenix location at 11th Street and Thomas Road

Page High School
Lake Powell & Highway 98
Page, AZ 86040

Extreme Northern Arizona location not far from the Utah border on I-89

Moon Valley High School
3625 W. Cactus Road
Phoenix, AZ 85029

Located approximately one mile west of I-17 on Cactus Road

Morenci High School
#1 Stadium Drive
Morenci, AZ 85540

Just north of Safford in Eastern Arizona on Rte. 191

Mountain Pointe High School
4201 E. Knox Road
Phoenix, AZ 85044

Ahwatukee location near 48th St. on Knox (between Warner and Ray Roads)

Mountain Ridge High School
22800 N. 67th Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85310

Northwest Valley location just north of the Loop 101 on 67th Avenue

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Traveling To Arizona's High Schools

Palo Verde High School

1302 S. Avenida Vega
Tucson, AZ 85710

*West Valley location just south of I-10
on Dysart Road*

Patagonia High School

Highway 82
Patagonia, AZ 85624

*On Rte. 82 north of Nogales in extreme
Southern Arizona*

Phoenix Country Day School

3901 N. Stanford
Phoenix, AZ 85060

*East Phoenix location just north of
Camelback at 40th Street*

PV Christian High School

9500 N. Oracle Road
Tucson, AZ 85737

*A Northwest Tucson location near Ina
and Oracle Roads*

Payson High School

514 W. Wade Lane
Payson, AZ 85547

*Located about 90 miles northeast of
Phoenix on Rte. 87*

Phoenix Day School Deaf

1935 W. Hayward Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85021

*Located at 19th Avenue and Hayward in
Phoenix*

Paradise Valley High School

3950 E. Bell Road
Phoenix, AZ 85032

*North Phoenix location at 40th Street
and Bell Road*

Peoria High School

11200 N. 83rd Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85345

*Northwest Valley location near Peoria
and 83rd Avenue*

Pima High School

131 S. Main
Pima, AZ 85543

*West Valley location just south of I-10
on Dysart Road*

Parker High School

1600 Kofa Street
Parker, AZ 85344

*On I-95 near Arizona-California border
in Western Arizona*

Phoenix Christian High School

1751 W. Indian School Road
Phoenix, AZ 85015

*Central Phoenix location just east of
19th Avenue on Indian School Road*

Pinon High School

P.O. Box 839
Pinon, AZ 86510

*South of Kayenta in Northeastern
Arizona on Rte. 564*

1998-99 Could Be A Breakthrough Year
For The Mountain Lions!



Good Luck
Mountain Ridge
High School!

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Prescott High School

1050 N. Ruth Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

*West of I-17 at the junction of I-89 and
Rte. 69, 90 miles north of Phoenix*

Pueblo High School

3500 S. 12th Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85713

*Located west of I-10 and just north of
Ajo Way*

Queen Creek High School

20435 S. Ellsworth Avenue
Queen Creek, AZ 85242

*East Valley location south of I-60 on
Ellsworth Avenue*

Ray High School

Highway 177
Kearney, AZ 85237

*Located south of Superior in Eastern
Arizona on Rte. 177*

Traveling To Arizona's High Schools

Red Mesa High School
HCR 100 Box 40
Teec Nos Pos, AZ 86514

Located in extreme Northeastern Arizona in the four corners region

Safford High School
530 E. Riley Drive
Avondale, AZ 85323

Located in Southeastern Arizona on Rte. 70

St. David High School
70 Patton Street
St. David, AZ 85630

Just south of Benson in Southeastern Arizona

Red Mountain High School
7301 E. Brown Road
Mesa, AZ 85207

East Mesa location just east of Power on Brown Road

Saguaro High School
6250 N. 82nd Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85250

Located near McDonald and Hayden Roads in Scottsdale

St. Gregory High School
3231 N. Craycroft Road
Tucson, AZ 85712

North of Ft. Lowell on Craycroft in Tucson

Rincon High School
421 N. Arcadia Boulevard
Tucson, AZ 85711

Between Speedway and Broadway near El Con Mall

Sahuarita High School
P.O. Box 26
Sahuarita, AZ 85629

Located slightly south of Tucson on I-19

St. Johns High School
360 Redskin Drive
St. Johns, AZ 85936

North of Springerville in Eastern Arizona at Rte. I-61 and Rte. 191

Rio Rico High School
1220 Camino Lito Galindo
Rio Rico, AZ 85648

Just north of Nogales in Southern Arizona on I-19

Sahuaro High School
545 N. Camino Seco
Tucson, AZ 85710

Far East Tucson location just south of Speedway on Camino Seco

St. Mary's High School
2525 N. 3rd Street
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Central Phoenix location south of Thomas Road on Third Street

River Valley High School
2250 E. Laguna Road
Mohave Valley, AZ 86440

On the Arizona-California border on I-95 between Lake Havasu and Bullhead City

Rough Rock High School
RRDS - Box 217
Chinle, AZ 86503

North of Ganado in Northeastern Arizona on Rte. 191

Round Valley High School
550 Butler Avenue
Springerville, AZ 85938

Very near the New Mexico border in Eastern Arizona on I-60

Sabino High School
5000 N. Bowes Road
Tucson, AZ 85749

Extreme Northeast Tucson off Tanque Verde Road at Bowes Road



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**Good Luck
Saguaro H.S.**

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Traveling To Arizona's High Schools

St. Michael High School

Lupton Road
St. Michael, AZ 86511

Just south of Window Rock and north of I-40 in Eastern Arizona

San Carlos High School

Highway 70
San Carlos, AZ 85550

East of Globe and north of I-60 on Rte. 170

Santa Cruz High School

900 N. Main Street
Eloy, AZ 85231

Just south of Casa Grande and east of I-10

St. Paul's Prep

2645 E. Osborn Road
Phoenix, AZ 85064

Central Phoenix location north of Thomas and east of 24th Street

San Manuel High School

711 McNab Parkway
San Manuel, AZ 85631

Between Globe and Tucson on Rte. 77 in Southern Arizona

Santa Rita High School

3951 S. Pantano Road
Tucson, AZ 85730

South Tucson near Golf Links Road on Pantano Road

Salome High School

67488 E. Buckeye Road
Salome, AZ 85348

Just north of I-10 on I-60 in Western Arizona

San Pasqual High School

Route 1, 676 Baseline Road
Winterhaven, CA 92263

Barely over the California-Arizona border near Yuma on I-8

Scottsdale Christian Acad.

14400 N. Tatum Boulevard
Phoenix, AZ 85032

North Phoenix location near Tatum and Thunderbird

Salpointe High School

1545 E. Copper Street
Tucson, AZ 85719

Central Tucson location just north of Grant and west of Campbell

San Simon High School

I-10 Business Loop
San Simon, AZ 85632

On I-10 near New Mexico border in Southeastern Arizona

Sedona Red Rock High School

995 Upper Red Rock Loop Rd.
Sedona, AZ 86336

Located south of Flagstaff and west of I-17

Seligman High School

500 N. Main
Seligman, AZ 86337

Between Williams and Kingman on I-40 in Northern Arizona

Seton High School

1150 N. Dobson Road
Chandler, AZ 85224

South of I-60 on Dobson Road in Chandler

Shadow Mt. High School

2902 E. Shea Boulevard
Phoenix, AZ 85028

North Phoenix location on Shea Blvd. just west of 32nd Street

Show Low High School

500 W. Old Linden Road
Show Low, AZ 85937

At the junction of I-60 and Rte. 260 in Eastern Arizona

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1751 W. Deuce of Clubs
Show Low, AZ 85901
Phone: (520) 532-7323
Fax: (520) 537-3304
Reservations 1-800-Sleep Inn



Peoria Unified School District



5 High Schools



Cactus...Centennial...Ironwood...Peoria
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- 2 Tony Komadina Awards
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Traveling To Arizona's High Schools

Sinagua High School
3950 E. Butler Avenue
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Near Little America off Butler in East Flagstaff

Thatcher High School
3625 Second Street
Thatcher, AZ 85552

Next to Safford in Eastern Arizona on Rte. 70

Tombstone High School
605 Fremont
Tombstone, AZ 85638

South of Benson in extreme Southern Arizona on Rte. 80

Snowflake High School
P.O. Box 1100
Snowflake, AZ 85937

Located north of Show Low in Eastern Arizona on Rte. 77

Thunderbird High School
1750 W. Thunderbird Road
Phoenix, AZ 85023

Located near 19th Avenue and Thunderbird Road

Trevor Browne High School
7402 W. Catalina Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85033

West Valley location just north of I-10 at 75th Avenue and Thomas

South Mountain High School
5401 S. 7th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85040

South Phoenix location at 7th Street near Southern Avenue

Tohono O'odham High School
Highway 86
Sells, AZ 85634

Southwest of Tucson in Southern Arizona on Rte. 86

Tuba City High School
Warrior Drive
Tuba City, AZ 86045

In Northern Arizona north of Flagstaff east of I-89 on Rte. 160

Sunnyside High School
1725 E. Bilby Road
Tucson, AZ 85706

Located in Southeast Tucson off I-10 on Bilby Road

Tolleson High School
9419 W. Van Buren
Tolleson, AZ 85353

Far West Valley location just south of the I-10 near 91st Avenue and Van Buren

Tucson High School
400 N. Second Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85705

Central Tucson location south of Speedway and east of Stone

Sunnyslope High School
35 W. Dunlap Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85021

North Phoenix location near Central and Dunlap Avenues

Sunrise Mt. High School
21200 N. 83rd Avenue
Peoria, AZ 85382

Located in the Northwest Valley just north of the Loop 101 on 83rd Avenue

Superior High School
199 Lobb Avenue
Superior, AZ 85273

Between Phoenix and Globe in Eastern Arizona on I-60

Tempe High School
1730 S. Mill Avenue
Tempe, AZ 85281

Located at Broadway and Mill about one mile southwest of the ASU campus

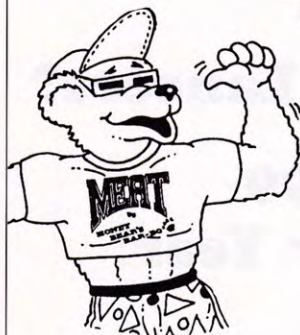
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Valley Christian High School

6900 W. Galveston
Chandler, AZ 85226

Located just off I-10 near 56th Street and Chandler Blvd.

Washington High School

2217 W. Glendale Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85021

Just east of I-17 near 19th Avenue and Glendale Avenue

Willcox High School

240 N. Bisbee
Willcox, AZ 85643

Southeastern Arizona location east of Tucson of I-10

Valley High School

I-40 Route 191
Sanders, AZ 86512

Very near the New Mexico border in Eastern Arizona on I-40

Westview High School

10850 W. Garden Lakes Pkwy
Avondale, AZ 85323

West Valley location north of I-10 off the 107th Avenue exit

Williams High School

440 S. 7th Street
Williams, AZ 86046

Located west of Flagstaff on I-40 in Northern Arizona

Valley Lutheran High School

525 W. Colter
Phoenix, AZ 85013

Downtown Phoenix location near 7th Avenue and Camelback

Westwood High School

945 W. 8th Street
Mesa, AZ 85201

Located in Mesa near Alma School and University

Window Rock High School

P.O. Box 559
Ft. Defiance, AZ 86504

Just a few miles from the New Mexico border on Rte. 264

Valley Union High School

4088 Jefferson Road
Elfrida, AZ 85610

In Southeastern Arizona between Willcox and Douglas on Rte. 191

Wickenburg High School

251 S. Tegner
Wickenburg, AZ 85390

Located off I-60 about 60 miles west of Phoenix

Winslow High School

800 Apache
Winslow, AZ 86047

Northern Arizona location east of Flagstaff on I-40

Salpointe Catholic High School



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SALPOINTE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Central Phoenix location just south of Camelback on 5th Street

Yuma High School

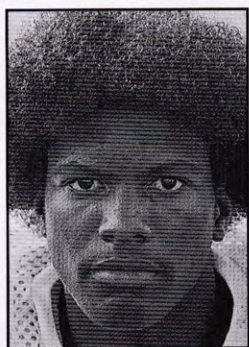
400 6th Avenue
Yuma, AZ 85364

In Central Yuma just off I-8 in Southwestern Arizona

HOW DID WE DO?

Giving short, concise directions to Arizona's High Schools isn't as easy as it sounds. If you can improve upon our directions to your high school, we'd love to hear from you. Please call (602) 955-3303 with any corrections.

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Rodney Peete
Sahuaro



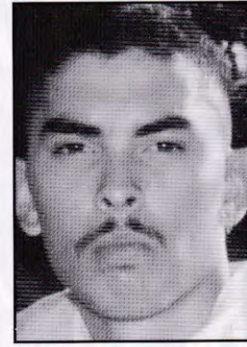
Ryan Kealy
St. Mary's



Fred Enke, Jr.
Tucson



Grady Benton
Mesa



Richard Lucero
South Mountain

HONORING ARIZONA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL QUARTERBACK

1997 Richard Lucero, South Mountain
1996 Todd Mortensen, Tempe
1995 Ryan Kealy, Phoenix St. Mary's
1994 Chris Snyder, Sunnyslope
1993 Jason Maas, Yuma
1992 Jason Verdugo, Tucson Canyon del Oro
1991 Anthony Sanders, Tucson Santa Rita
1990 Grady Benton, Mesa
1989 Aaron Santini, Tucson Santa Rita
1988 Bret Powers, Glendale Cactus
1987 John Bonds, Phoenix St. Mary's
1986 Bobby Valdez, Tucson Sunnyside
1985 Kent Kiefer, Tempe McClintock
1984 Steve Belles, Phoenix St. Mary's
1983 John Walker, Tempe Marcos de Niza
1982 Rodney Peete, Tucson Sahuaro (jr)
1981 Steve Stallworth, Yuma
1980 Trent Hutchinson, South Mountain
1979 Lloyd Coker, Phoenix Central
1978 Kevin Smith, Scottsdale Saguaro (jr)
1977 Mike Pagel, Phoenix Washington
1976 Greg Brady, Scottsdale Coronado
1975 Jim Krohn, Tucson Amphi
1974 Mark Whipple, Phoenix Camelback
1973 Rob Wilson, Scottsdale Coronado
1972 Greg Hubbell, Phoenix Central
1971 Fred Mortensen, Tempe
1970 Fred Mortensen, Tempe (jr)
1969 Danny White, Mesa Westwood
1968 Bill Mannion, Phoenix St. Mary's

1967 Ken Johnson, Scottsdale Arcadia (jr)
1966 John Svob, Tucson Catalina
1965 George Mattingly, Scottsdale Arcadia
1964 Dave Grangaard, Phoenix Camelback
1963 Rusty Tillman, Agua Fria
1962 Timmy Flood, Phoenix Brophy Prep
1961 Elby Bushong, Phoenix Washington
1960 Gary Deak, Scottsdale Arcadia
1959 Eddie Bricker, Miami
1958 John Power, Phoenix Camelback
1957 Eddie Wilson, Chandler
1956 Carlos Rodriguez, Morenci
1955 Jim Wolf, Yuma
1954 Ralph Hunsaker, Mesa
1953 Clyde Nielson, North Phoenix (jr)
1952 Pat Flood, Tucson
1951 Vaughn Patterson, North Phoenix (jr)
1950 James Black, Phoenix Union
1949 Buster Madariaga, Round Valley
1948 Don Ahee, Tucson
1947 Dan Russell, Mesa
1946 Gus Headington, Yuma

FRED ENKE, JR., a three-sport star at Tucson High and the University of Arizona, was the first Arizona schoolboy to start at quarterback in the NFL. He played with Detroit (1948-51), Philadelphia (1952) and Baltimore (1953-54).

Farmers Insurance Group of Companies

Dennis D. Smith, District Manager, 655 N. Alvernon, Suite 211, Tucson, -85711- Phone: (520) 881-0333

"Good luck to all coaches and players in 1998!"

TUCSON HIGH Where Have All The Heroes Gone?

On the eve of winning its 500th football game, a look at Tucson High today shows a school that's just a mere image of its glorious past.

By Barry Sollenberger



Lee Carey



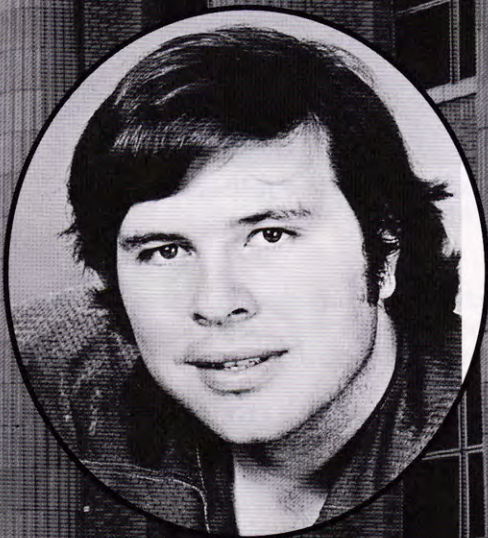
Oscar Carrillo



Derral Davis



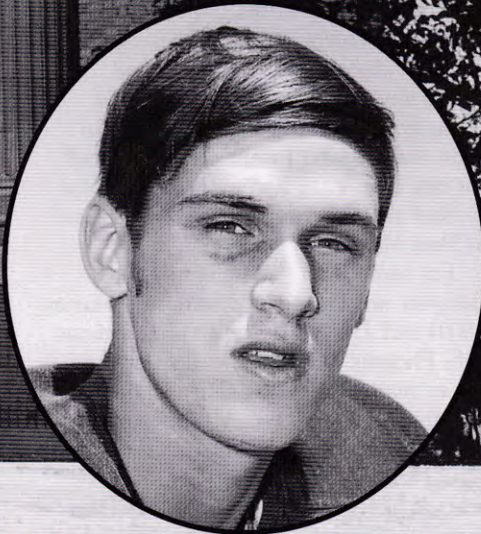
Bill Dawson



Mike Dawson



Fred Enke, Jr.



Joe Petrosus

"We had problems sometimes with El Paso schools. They wouldn't let our black kids play if the game was in Texas. So as time went by, we started scheduling California schools. We were integrated long before the Phoenix schools."

The score was almost meaningless. It ment very little to the playoff race, for either team. It was Friday night, September 26, 1997. Host Tucson High, once the Darth Vader of southern Arizona football, was waxed 64-0 by Marcos de Niza, a Tempe school most Badger alum had never heard of.

It was the worst defeat in Tucson's once-proud football history. Never before had the Badgers been beaten so badly. The state's largest circulated newspaper, *The Arizona Republic*, ran only a box score. No need for a story. Why bother?

But it didn't used to be that way.

Tucson's demise in schoolboy football didn't happen overnight. It started long ago. Besides, how many inner-city schools are football powers? Anywhere. They are far and few between. It didn't used to be that way. Even as an inner-city school, Tucson was a super power. Historically one of Arizona's best.

James "Pop" McKale helped start it. Coaches like Charles McFarland, Rollin T. Gridley, Jason "Red" Greer, John Mallamo and Ollie Mayfield carried the banner. For 60 years. In fact, from 1912 to 1972, Tucson's Badgers were arguably a national power in every sport.

In 1972, Art Johlfs of the *National Sports News Service* in Minneapolis wrote, "Historically, the three greatest schoolboy baseball programs in American history reside at San Diego High, Chicago Lane Tech and Tucson, Arizona."

Tucson High has produced many of Arizona's all-time great schoolboy stars, like Hayzel Daniels, Frank Gentry, Ted Bland, Earl Nolan, Joe Batiste, Fred Batiste, Fred Enke, Sol Ahee, Oscar Carrillo, Lee Carey, Joel Favara, Pat Flood, Art Acosta, Jim Sims, Lewis Cook, Bill Dawson, Joe Petroschus, Mike Dawson, Derral Davis, Marvin Lewis,



Big Mark Simon, a University of Wisconsin signee, was the fullback in the best backfield on the best team in Arizona history.

Jinx Johnson and Sean Harris, to name a few. They came from all walks of life. All colors. All talented.

"The school had kids from all walks of life," recalls 60-year-old Dave DiLorenzo, a Tempe resident and former Badger alum. "Tucson High must have had 4,000 students when I got there. We came from a mining town (Dawson) in New Mexico, and I went out for football for one day. They had more kids out for football than we had in our whole school in New Mexico."

For more than half-a-century, the Badgers' schedule was dynamite. Between 1910 and 1971, Tucson's annual games with Phoenix Union were classics, drawing as many as 16,000 fans. Then there was the interstate clashes - 44 to be exact - with schools from Texas, California and New Mexico. Down in El Paso, it was schools like Austin, Burges or Jefferson. From the West Coast came Inglewood, Pomona, Santa Barbara or Los Angeles Roosevelt. In New Mexico it was the famed Albuquerque Bulldogs. Twenty-one different games, most coached by

McKale, were played against college squads. Overall, nine Badger football teams were nationally ranked.

LIVING LEGEND

Overnight, McKale became a sports legend in southern Arizona. In 1912, his young Badgers beat Phoenix Union and the University of Arizona's freshman teams twice. They even beat their alumni. Mighty Bisbee, the glorious mine town to the east, fell 21-18. McKale's teams so impressed University of Arizona officials they finally hired him. Might as well. They couldn't beat him. It was during his long tenure with the Wildcats that the University of Arizona emerged as a prominate force in collegiate sports in the Southwest.

It was under the direction of Syl E. Paulus that Tucson High crossed into foreign territory, first facing the El Paso Tigers. The Texans won the first game, 31-12, and nine of the remaining 11. It was these Tigers who ruined an otherwise successful interstate slate. Before the books were closed on interstate games,

Tucson was 19-22-3 against out-of-state competition.

It was under Charles McFarland that the Badgers brought home their second state championship trophy. In 1929, only the Arizona freshmen beat THS. Up-and-coming Mesa and Phoenix Union both fell. This was during the Ted Bland era. Bland, who died in combat in World War II, became both a Badger and local college legend. It was during a 48-0 win over Bisbee that Bland scored a state record seven touchdowns.

It was during the Great Depression that Tucson's rivalry with Phoenix Union reached a boiling point. The hated Coyotes, with enrollment figures often exceeding 3,000 students, dominated. But not always. In 1937, a special train and cars from Tucson took an estimated 1,500 fans to Phoenix, where R.T. Gridley's squad beat the Coyotes 7-0, before 10,500 spectators at Montgomery Stadium. So bad was crowd control and behavior after the game, the two teams ceased competition for two years. In nine games in 1937, Tucson averaged 4,577 fans per contest.

One year later Gridley's lineup featured one of Arizona's all-time great athletes, junior Joe Batiste. The season-opener was staged at the local university, where 7,000 fans greeted Hoover High from Glendale, Ca., which arrived by train. Batiste, who would become a member of the United State's mythical '40 Olympic Team, scored on an 85-yard run - and threw a touchdown pass.

The season ended with Batiste scoring early during a 14-6 win over Hoover High of San Diego, and their outstanding back, Jimmy Morgan. In eight games Batiste, whose younger brother Fred would also become a Badger fixture, averaged 13.3 yards every time he carried the ball.

"Joe Batiste was the greatest high school athlete I ever coached or saw," recalled Gridley years later. "He was a great kid, quiet and friendly. His life was destroyed by the war. It was tragic.

"Joe Batiste was the greatest high school athlete I ever coached or saw. He was a great kid, quiet and friendly. His life was destroyed by the war. It was tragic."

ALL-TIME ARIZONA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL VICTORIES



Wins	School	Years
562	.....Mesa.....	1920-97
498	.....Tucson.....	1912-97
470	.....Safford.....	1925-97
431	.....Phoenix St. Mary's.....	1938-97
425	.....Winslow.....	1915-97
408	.....Round Valley.....	1921-97
406	.....Douglas.....	1906-97
405	.....Gilbert.....	1923-97
388	.....Snowflake.....	1929-97
386	.....Flagstaff.....	1923-97
375	.....Tucson Amphi.....	1939-97
370	.....Tempe.....	1924-97
363	.....Miami.....	1923-97
355	.....Peoria.....	1933-97
353	.....Phoenix Union.....	1913-81

"We had problems sometimes with El Paso schools. They wouldn't let our black kids play if the game was in Texas. So as time went by, we started scheduling California schools. They had black kids too. So there was no problem. We were integrated long before the Phoenix schools."

It was Gridley, the 1945 national coach of the year, who guided the Badgers through the school's glory days of the '40s. While the world was at war, Tucson's football legions marched through Arizona like Sherman did through Georgia. To this day, their 32-game winning streak is still an Arizona "large school" record.

THE CLASSICS

In the 20th Century, Tucson High has won 498 games, lost 279 and tied 29. The majority of the losses have come in the past quarter-century. On the verge of winning its 500th game (see chart), it is appropriate to salute several of the Badgers' all-time great games. These 15 classics, historically, are landmark contests, played by and against some of the

state's all-time great teams and players:

✓ On November 2, 1929, before 8,000 fans in Phoenix, Paul Hedderman threw a short touchdown pass to "Red" Mann for the game's only score, as Tucson beat Phoenix Union 7-0 to end the Coyotes' national record of nine consecutive state championships. Ted Bland, later a sensational three-sport star at the University of Arizona, was a member of this Badger squad.

✓ Tucson completed the 1936 season by hosting Albuquerque High, New Mexico's state champion, before 5,000 fans at THS. Badger end John Black was the offensive star, scoring three touchdowns. Hank Egbert also scored. The defensive star was end Harold Seedborg. Tucson prevailed 26-13. It was the 'Dogs only loss.

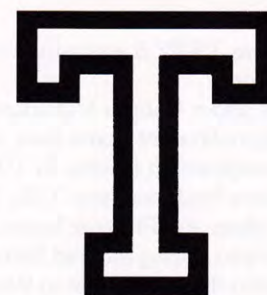
✓ On October 22, 1937, Bob Moffatt's 65-yard pass interception and L.D. Scott's extra point were the only points scored in this historic encounter, played before 10,500 fans at Phoenix Montgomery Stadium. Tucson took over 1,500 fans by train and cars to the Capitol City. As the Southern Pacific



Gridley, the 1945 national coach of the year, won 75% of his games and four consecutive state championships.

Saluting the Great 1945 Tucson High Badgers!

Arizona State Football Champions!



Line, L-R: Guerdon Sines, Nils Johansson, Wayne Crutchfield, Tom Fridena, Jim Tolley, Joe Kelley & Art Pacheco.
Backs, L-R: Frank Borman, Cay Morrison, Bill Walker, Karl Eller & Oscar Carrillo.

"One of the Nation's Best High School Teams!"

Finished '45
season with state
record 32-game
win streak!

Head Coach
Rollin T. Gridley
National Coach
of the Year!

Ranked
No. 10 in Final
U.S.A.
Prep Poll!

Defeated
Mesa 14-7 before
Tucson city record
crowd of 13,000!

Nationally-ranked
defense recorded
7 shutouts
in 11 games!

**Sponsored by
Tucson High School Class of '46**

"Once a Badger, Always a Badger!"

Flyer left Phoenix, it was belted with rocks, mud clots and tomatoes. Shots were fired through the baggage car, just missing the THS equipment manager. Because of the incident, the school's did not play each other in football in 1939. In nine games, the Badgers' drew 41,200 fans.

✓ On November 26, 1939, the Badgers hosted Hoover High from San Diego. The game featured a dual between two exceptional black athletes, Tucson's Joe Batiste and Hoover's Jimmy Morgan, labeled by the press the "Midnight Express." Batiste scored and Eddie Pottorff tossed a touchdown pass to Bill DuPont in a 14-6 Badger win. Although only a junior, it would be the last football game played by Batiste, who earlier broke the national high school record in the high hurdles.

✓ On November 28, 1941, before 5,000 spectators at THS, the Badgers hosted undefeated Santa Barbara, the No. 1-ranked (9-0) Southern-CIF club from the West Coast. The game ended in a 13-13 tie, with Mike Clark and Marshall Littlefield scoring for the host team. One week later Japan bombed Pearl Harbor.

✓ On November 24, 1943, the Badgers caught a great Mesa team again, 27-20. The Jackrabbits couldn't stop Fred Batiste, Joe's younger brother, who scored three touchdowns. Wrenford Tackett scored the other. It was the second of four consecutive state championship clubs coached by Rollin T. Gridley. A road trip to Pomona, Ca. was cancelled because of the war.

✓ On November 22, 1945, before an overflow crowd of 7,500 fans in Mesa, the Badgers prevailed 9-0, thanks to Nils Johansson's short field goal and a touchdown run by Oscar Carrillo. "It was the toughest win for Tucson during its three-year 32 victory span," wrote *Arizona Daily Star* reporter Bill Nixon. Earlier in October, Tucson beat the 'Rabbits 14-7 in front of a city record crowd of 13,000 at the University of Arizona. Junior tailback Wilford "Whizzer" White was Mesa's star. In 11 games, the '45 Badgers played before 82,700 fans.

✓ On October 23, 1952, before 5,200 fans in Mesa, Tucson prevailed 28-21, the key win in Jason "Red" Greer's march to an undefeated season. The Badgers' backfield of Pat Flood, Joel Favara, Mike Morales and Mark Owens was labeled the school's best since 1944 (Sol Ahee, Lee Carey, Armando Carrillo, Joe Goff).

✓ On December 12, 1965, John

Big days

Outstanding individual game performances during the historic history of Tucson High Badger football.

TOUCHDOWNS:

- 7- Ted Bland vs Bisbee, 1931
- 5 - Hayzel Daniel vs Nogales, 1926
- 5 - Joel Favara vs Glendale, 1951 (jr)

RUSHING YARDS:

- 303 - Joe Petrosus vs Pueblo, 1968
- 301 - Hayzel Daniels vs Bisbee, 1925 (jr)
- 300- Hayzel Daniels vs Nogales, 1926
- 300- Bobby Morrison vs Sunnyside, 1967
- 282- Allistaire Heartfield vs Catalina, '70
- 270- Lamar Harris vs Rincon, 1989
- 251- Kelly Langford vs Amphi, 1971

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN RUN:

- 97- Kevin Shelton vs CDO, 1993
- 94- Art Acosta vs Phoenix West, 1956 (jr)
- 93- David Jones vs Maryvale, 1965
- 91- David Jones vs Rincon, 1965
- 89- Teddy Tang vs Catalina, 1959 (jr)
- 89- Harry Yablonski vs Amphi, 1961
- 88- Greg Leavitt vs Pueblo, 1966
- 87- Allistaire Heartfield vs Catalina, 1970
- 86- Frank Borman vs Bisbee, 1945
- 85- Joe Batiste vs Hoover (Ca.), 1938
- 85- Don Gin vs Sunnyside, 1968 (jr)

TOUCHDOWN PASSES:

- 5- Terry Pollock vs Sunnyside, 1972
- 4- Jim Pfersdorf vs Nogales, 1921

TOUCHDOWN CATCHES:

- 4- Dennis Tate vs Sunnyside, 1972

LONGEST PUNT RETURN (Touchdown):

- 91- Art Acosta vs Yuma, 1956
- 90- Benny Rincon vs Phoenix North, 1949
- 90- Mike Odum vs Catalina, 1971
- 88- A.V. Humphrys vs St. Mary's, 1949
- 85- Benny Rincon vs Douglas, 1949
- 85- Joe Petrosus vs Sunnyside, 1967 (jr)

LONGEST KICKOFF RETURN (TOUCHDOWN):

- 95- George Jackson vs Nogales, 1932
- 95- Ray Abrams vs Inglewood, Ca., 1941
- 95- Fred Batiste vs Bisbee, 1942 (jr)
- 95- Eddie Miller vs Amphi, 1965 (jr)
- 95- Chris Flannigan vs Amphi, 1968
- 94- Joe Petrosus vs Palo Verde, 1968
- 92- Soapy Clark vs Mesa, 1931

LONGEST INTERCEPTION RETURN (TOUCHDOWN):

- 85- Chucho Uribe vs Douglas, 1924
- 80- Bob Young vs St. Mary's, 1943
- 75- Jerry Alday vs Santa Rita, 1982
- 73- Oscar Carrillo vs Phoenix North, 1945
- 70- Armando Carrillo vs St. Mary's, 1943
- 70- Joe Petrosus vs Rincon, 1967 (jr)

LONGEST PUNT FROM SCRIMMAGE:

- 74- Lee Secrist vs Phoenix West, 1958
- 74- Darrell Joe vs Salpointe, 1974 (jr)

LONGEST FUMBLE RETURN (TOUCHDOWN):

- 77- Larry Hogan vs Pueblo, 1977
- 71- Kurt King vs Santa Rita, 1991 (jr)

Mallamo's Big Red Machine saved its best game for last. In the state finals against Yuma, before 18,000 fans in Tucson, the Badgers' famed T-formation ran for 309 yards and the defense intercepted four passes. Lewis Cook, David Jones and Rich Sainz scored for the winners. Yuma's high profile player was halfback Ron Jessie, later a star receiver for the Los Angeles Rams and Detroit Lions.

✓ On December 2, 1966, before an estimated crowd of 12,000 at Sun Devil Stadium, Mallamo's last game was a 14-7 defensive battle with Westwood. Art Monje threw two touchdown passes, the last with just seconds remaining to Keith Ritchie. But the night belonged to Tucson tackle Bill Dawson, the game's MVP. He was unblockable. Westwood tailback Bob Soza, banged up before the game, carried the ball 20 times. It was also the last game coached by the Warriors' Edgar "Mutt" Ford, at the time the state's all-time winningest coach.

✓ On October 11, 1968, Tucson coach Ollie Mayfield watched his top-ranked Badgers blitz Phoenix North 53-

33, before 4,000 fans at THS. The Badger's "T" gained 574 yards. Junior quarterback Willie Morales threw three touchdown passes, two to Eric Watson. Halfback Joe Petrosus, the state player of the year, scored on a 74-yard run and a 90-yard kickoff return. In a losing effort, North quarterback Gary Carpenter passed for 292 yards and three scores. Said North coach Tom Casteel: "Tucson has what I consider the best team in the state. They have a real explosive team with plenty of speed. We were ready, but they just ran away from us."

✓ October 17, 1969, in El Paso, a healthy Tucson sprints for 451 yards during a 44-22 win over Jefferson High's Silver Foxes. The offensive star was junior Derral Davis, who scored on an 85-yard kickoff return, a 60-yard punt return and a 31-yard pass. "Tucson is comparable to some of our Texas teams," said Jefferson mentor Don Anderson, a former head coach at Texas Tech. "They have a pretty fair team. That Cornell Lesley is tough, but that No. 30 (Davis) is dangerous. And defensively, No. 71 (Marvin Lewis) hurt us

The Crowds

The largest announced crowds to watch Tucson High play football, based on newspaper reports from *The Arizona Daily Star*, *Tucson Citizen* and *Phoenix Gazette*.

Crowd	Score	Year	Place	Winning Coach
18,000	Tucson 27, Yuma 7	1965	U. of Arizona	John Mallamo
16,000	Tucson 39, W'wood 34	1970	U. of Arizona	Ollie Mayfield
16,000	Tucson 15, Union 12	1971	U. of Arizona	Ollie Mayfield
15,500	Amphi 10, Tucson 7	1953	U. of Arizona	Murl McCain
15,000	Tucson 25, Amphi 7	1952	U. of Arizona	Jason "Red" Greer
15,000	St. Mary's 56, Tucson 8	1969	U. of Arizona	Ed Doherty
15,000	Tucson 20, Tempe 14	1971	U. of Arizona	Ollie Mayfield
13,500	Arcadia 40, Tucson 7	1962	Arizona State	Bob Hendricks
13,500	Tucson 34, St. Mary's 0	1966	U. of Arizona	John Mallamo
13,000	Tucson 14, Mesa 7	1945	U. of Arizona	Rollin T. Gridley
12,500	Union 19, Tucson 7	1948	Phoenix	John R. Black
12,500	Tucson 54, S'slope 16	1970	Arizona State	Ollie Mayfield
12,000	Tucson 21, Union 12	1962	U. of Arizona	John Mallamo
12,000	Tucson 14, W'wood 7	1966	Arizona State	John Mallamo
11,500	Tucson 7, Mesa 7	1947	U. of Arizona	Mallamo/"Mutt" Ford
11,000	Tucson 16, St. Mary's 6	1946	Phoenix	Rollin T. Gridley
11,000	Tucson 12, Amphi 7	1954	U. of Arizona	Jason "Red" Greer
11,000	Tucson 41, Salpointe 20	1970	U. of Arizona	Ollie Mayfield
10,500	Tucson 7, Union 0	1937	Phoenix	Rollin T. Gridley
10,300	Tucson 21, Amphi 12	1948	Tucson High	Jason "Red" Greer

all night. He's a good linebacker." It was the last game ever played by Tucson and a Texas school.

✓ In Tucson on November 25, 1970, the Badgers held off unbeaten Westwood 39-34 in one of the all-time great playoff games in Arizona history. Before 16,000 at the University of Arizona, Tucson's "Blast Backs", featuring Derral Davis, Mark Simon and Allistaire Heartfield, were too much for Dave Gates' Warriors, blasting for 420 yards from the line of scrimmage. Each Badger back gained over 1,000 yards on the season. One week later Tucson beat Sunnyslope 54-16 in the Class 5A finals. This terrific team, one of the state's all-time best, produced two *Parade Magazine* All-Americans: linebacker Marvin Lewis and tackle Mike Dawson. The *National Sports News Service* in Minneapolis rated this Badger club No. 3 in the nation, behind Massillon, Ohio, and Austin Regan, Texas.

✓ On November 24, 1971, at the University of Arizona, before another crowd of 16,000, Tucson beat Phoenix Union 15-12 in one of the most talented semifinal matchups in state history. The game featured no less than 10 Division I-A prospects, including six from Union. The Badgers' Kelly Langford, who was blind in one eye, gained 153 yards on 23 carries. Little Ricky Morris intercepted three passes. Larry Gordon, later an all-

pro linebacker for the Miami Dolphins, was a defensive monster for the Coyotes.

✓ One week later, on the same turf, Tucson staged its last great comeback in a state championship game, sparked by Frank Castro's 80-yard touchdown strike to Jinx Johnson in the fourth quarter, enabling the Badgers to beat Tempe 20-14. Kelly Langford was held to 90 yards on 23 carries. The game featured two prep All-Americans, Tucson tackle Mike Dawson and Tempe quarterback Fred Mortensen, the state player of the year.

TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY

All was not rosy. The Badgers were no different than any fast growing, changing inner city school. Long before the city polititions, school board members and administrators carved up the talent pool, Tucson faced more than its share of triumph and tragedy.

From lost games to lost lives, the story reads like a movie script. The tragic deaths of athletes like Ted Bland, Tom Gentner, Greg Leavitt or Marvin Lewis, all in the prime of their youth, makes heart-breaking losses on the playing field meaningless. Tucson has had its share of both.

At least Bland made it through college. World War II claimed his life. The 230-pound Genter, MVP of the 1959 North-South All-Star game, chose college football over the Navy at the last moment, then became the nation's first football

fatality, dying on the practice field. Leavitt, a star running back who later played at Penn, lost his life in an auto wreck. Lewis, a USC signee, died from neck injuries suffered in a swimming accident in Yuma.

With a 100-year history the list is endless. So are the heart-breaking defeats. In the 1946 opener in El Paso, Austin High's Buster Oppenheim scored on a short run in the fourth quarter to end Tucson's 32-game win streak, 7-0. Once during the game, Lee Carey, the Badgers' all-state back, was stopped on the one-yard line. It was a long ride back to the Old Pueblo.

Seven weeks into the 1960 campaign, Tucson was unbeaten and ranked No. 1 in the state. But Phoenix St. Mary's found a solution to the backfield formula of Teddy Tang, Jim "Zoot Suit" Sims, Jim Doty and Florence Chandler in a 14-13 upset in Tucson. "It's just hard to believe," said Knights' head coach Jack Stovall. "It's our biggest victory in 10 years."

In 1962, Arcadia's bruising rushing game, with backs Everett "Moose" Rollins, Pat McGinty and Dana Woudenberg, crushed favored and top-ranked Tucson 40-7 in the state finals. It was the Badgers only lose in a championship game. Earlier in the season, after Tucson blitzed South Mountain 43-7, South coach Earl Clupper said, "Tucson High has by far the best football team in the state, much better than any Phoenix team I've seen. This team should go all the way."

So good was Tucson in 1968, with its all-star backfield of Joe Petroschus, Vernon Davis and Curtis Flannigan, they were ranked No. 1 in the state at the conclusion of the regular season - and weren't even going to the playoffs. A 21-13 loss to Douglas in mid-October kept the Badgers out of the tournament. To this day, that Douglas win is considered one of the biggest upsets in Arizona football history.

But Tucson suffered its worst playoff



John Mallamo
1956-66



Ollie Mayfield
1967-76



Ted Bland
1929-31



Fred Batiste
1940-43

defeat one year later, when the Badgers, without the services of backs Derral Davis and Cornell Lesley much of the game, could do nothing right in a 56-8 semifinal loss to St. Mary's. The Knights' sophomore quarterback, Tom Baker, picked apart Tucson's defense for 239 yards and three touchdowns.

But the wins far outweighed the losses.

Ken Stites, a former coach at Maryvale and the junior college ranks, observed, "There was a period for several years when Tucson High produced teams that could play with anybody, anywhere."

Prior to the 1970 state semifinals, Westwood head coach Dave Gates said, "They (Tucson) may have the best high school team I've seen since I've been here. That includes all the California schools we faced at Mesa. They're so quick as a team, they have six or seven real fine backs, and all of them can move."

"In the years to come, when people talk of Arizona's greatest high school teams, Tucson will be high on the list," added Sam Payne of *The Phoenix Gazette*.

Bill Buck, head coach at Sunnyslope, saw it coming before his team took the field with Tucson in the 1970 finals. "They are a team the state of Arizona can be proud of," Buck said before the Vikings' 54-16 thrashing.

Only days before the matchup with Sunnyslope, Ollie Mayfield's father died, and the Badgers' coach had to leave for most of the week. Upon returning, he found his team at an emotional level such that some of the players were in tears before the game. Linebacker Marvin Lewis indicated the rapport the team had with its head coach by stating afterwards, "It had a lot to do with the way we played. We couldn't let him lose twice in one week. It's bad enough the man lost his father. We couldn't let him down in the state game."

"They had great players, but the key figure was their coach, Ollie Mayfield,"

claimed Fred Treadwell, who covered the Badgers for *The Arizona Daily Star*. "Mayfield's concerns for the welfare of players, on and off the field, takes precedence over his personal conveniences. Parents look to him as a person concerned with correctly shaping the lives of their sons."

Today, almost one full century after the Badgers started a sports program, the school's athletic success is a mere image of its glorious past. The Badgers no longer dominate the city, much less the state.

"They've had all sorts of trouble, but now the talent is spread throughout the city," claims former Badger baseball coach Ray Adkins. "Some of it by design. When they started cutting up the district, changing boundry lines so more of our minority kids would attend newer schools, I knew then it was only a matter of time."

"Tucson had all the minority kids and lots of good coaches. Long-time coaches who stayed at the school for years. They don't have that today, at most of the city schools."

No high school in Arizona has won more state championships than Tucson High. Since statehood (1912) the Badgers have won 136 state championships in 13 different team sports. Only two schools in

"They may have the best high school team I've seen since I've been here. That includes all the California schools we faced at Mesa. They're so quick as a team, they have six or seven real fine backs, and all of them can move."

America, Little Rock Central and Honolulu Punahou, have won more.

This fall Tucson High is on the verge of another milestone: 500 wins in football. Only Mesa High has reached that mark. Tucson is two games shy. But it won't be easy. The school has made another coaching change. Todd Mayfield, son of Ollie and head coach since 1982, is now coaching at nearby Palo Verde.

When Tucson wins two games, it will become the first high school in Arizona history with 1,000 wins in baseball, 1,000 in basketball and 500 in football. No school in the Southwestern U.S.A. has accomplished that.



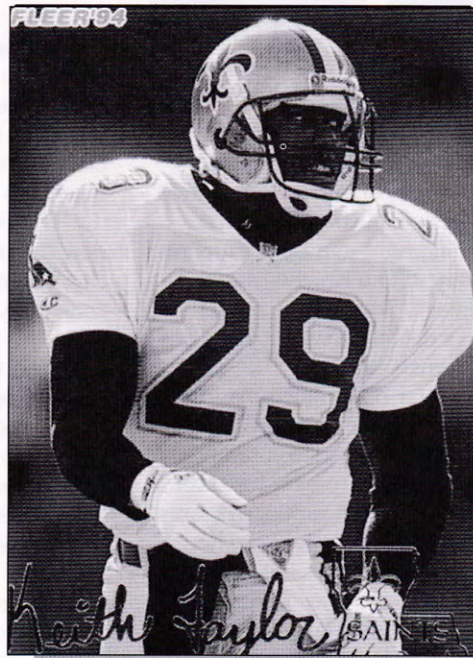
In 1972, Marvin Lewis returned to Tucson High to watch the Badgers play. The former Parade All-American was paralyzed after a swimming accident.



football

fall 98

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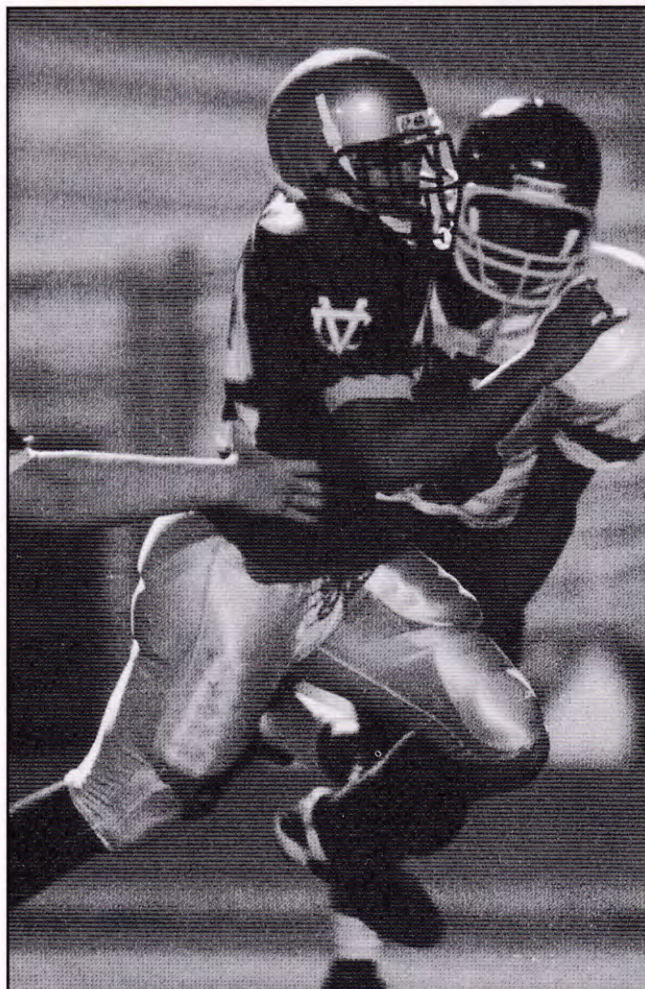
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Desert Vista halfback Bobby Wade scored 26 touchdowns (Rick O'Elia/The Tribune).

Arizona Football Magazine's checklist of outstanding varsity players for the upcoming 1998 high school football season.

QB ... Brandon Tomerlin, Superior, 6-2, 192
 QB ... Miles Mason, Tucson Sabino, 6-3, 195
 QB ... Mike Strack, Peoria Centennial, 6-4, 188
 RB ... Bobby Wade, Tempe Desert Vista, 6-0, 185
 RB ... Francis Turner, Paradise Valley, 5-10, 185
 RB ... Nick Mangosing, Glendale Apollo, 6-5, 255
 RB ... R. Jay Norwood, Tempe Union, 5-6, 150
 RB ... Mack Jones, Flagstaff, 5-10, 205
 RB ... James Smith, Phoenix Camelback, 6-0, 170
 OL ... Marcus Venturo, Tempe Corona del Sol, 6-2, 280
 OL ... Nick Johnson, Mingus Union, 6-8, 308
 OL ... Joe Price, Tucson Sabino, 6-3, 270
 OL ... Sean McCabe, Mesa Mountain View, 6-2, 235
 TE ... Anthony Aguilar, Superior, 6-5, 298
 TE ... Bristol Olomua, Ganado, 6-4, 210
 WR ... Shaun McDonald, Shadow Mountain, 5-9, 165
 WR ... Sammy Moore, Mesa Westwood, 5-10, 166 (jr)
 LB ... Collin Blackburn, Tucson Sabino, 6-2, 225
 LB ... Tony Brunetti, Peoria, 6-0, 202
 LB ... Brian Gaffney, Phoenix Brophy Prep, 6-2, 225
 NG ... Rasheen Rice, Phoenix Maryvale, 6-1, 270
 DE ... Jared Wolfgramm, Tempe Union, 6-5, 215 (jr)
 DB ... Andrae Thurman, Tolleson Westview, 6-0, 175
 DB ... Terrance Bates, Tucson Amphitheater, 5-10, 185
 DB ... Chris Snow, Tempe Desert Vista, 6-0, 180
 PK ... Mike Barth, Tempe Mountain Pointe, 6-0, 205



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Arizona Checklist of Players

quarterbacks

Justin Alford, River Valley, 6-0, 165
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 Layne Campbell, Prescott, 6-2, 210
 Fred Garcia, Williams, 6-2, 185 (jr)
 Andy Gray, Deer Valley, 6-2, 190 (jr)
 Randy Jackson, Chino Valley, 6-2, 215
 Bill Eckle, Bradshaw Mountain, 6-5, 205
 Nate Jackson, Blue Ridge, 5-10, 175
 Dallas Jacobson, Gila Bend, 6-3, 190
 Rocky King, Tolleson Westview, 5-10, 180
 Jeff Krohn, Scottsdale Horizon, 6-2, 175
 Ken Martinson, Fountain Hills, 6-0, 180 (jr)
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 Greg Mortensen, St. David, 6-1, 195
 James O'Connor, Scott. Coronado 6-0, 175
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 John Rattay, Desert Vista, 6-3, 180 (jr)
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 Reggie Robertson, T. Sahuaro, 6-1, 170 (jr)
 Jon Stoner, Glendale Cactus, 6-2, 180 (jr)
 Mike Strack, Peoria Centennial, 6-4, 188
 Brandon Tomerlin, Superior, 6-2, 192



Mike Strack
Centennial



Jason Johnson
Thunderbird

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 Danny McEuen, Ft. Thomas, 6-0, 184 (jr)
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 Marcus Vann, Phoenix Maryvale, 5-10, 180
 Brian Varner, Page, 5-8, 165 (jr)

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 Bobby Wade, Tempe Desert Vista, 6-0, 185
 Julius Wortham, Boys Ranch, 5-11, 190

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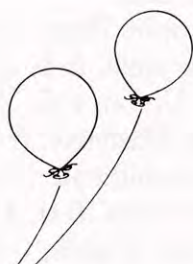
Anthony Aguilar, Superior, 6-5, 298
 Matt Allen, Glendale Cactus, 6-1, 170
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 Levi Duncan, Heber Mogollon, 6-1, 215
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Dusty Peace
Flowing Wells



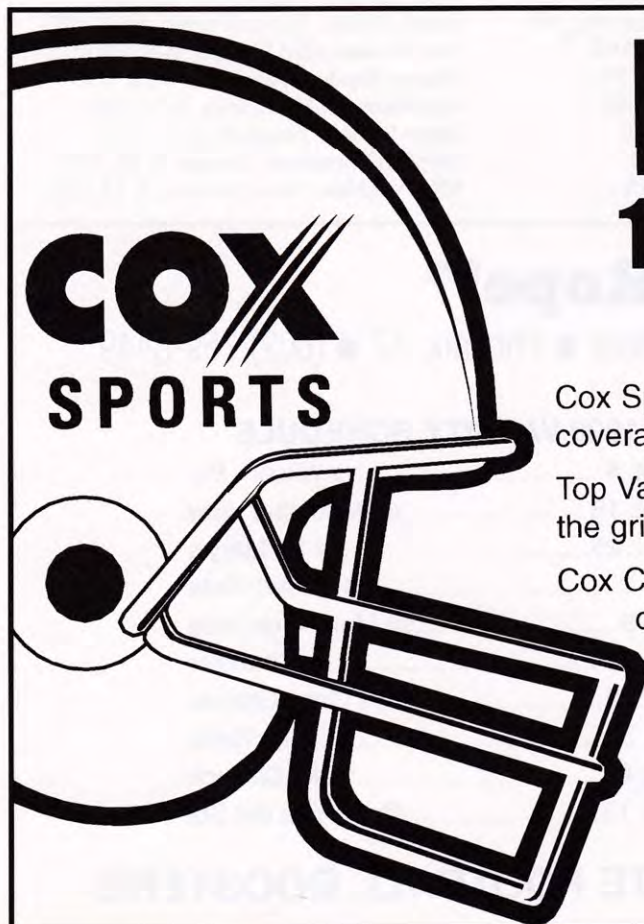
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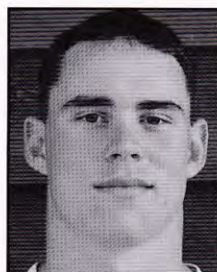
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Jason Sitter
Flagstaff



Eli Milstead
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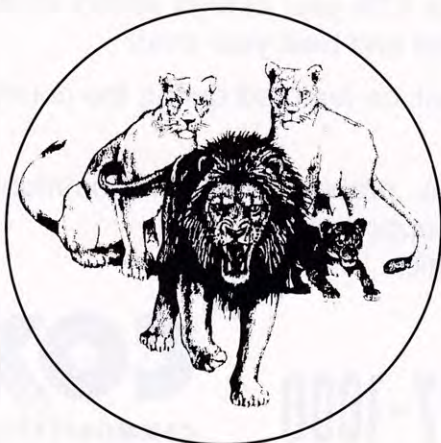
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 James Molina, Tucson Pueblo, 5-11, 175
 Luis Morales, Carl Hayden, 5-8, 140
 Marcos Moreno, Alhambra, 5-11, 190
 Raul Ramirez, McClintock, 6-1, 190
 Bryce Solberg, Flagstaff, 5-11, 175
 Stephen Thompson, Tempe, 5-10, 170
 Mike VanMale, Mesa W'wood, 5-11, 205

"Hold The Rope!"

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1998 VARSITY SCHEDULE

Sept. 4vs Wilson, Pa.
 Sept. 18@ Mountain View
 Sept. 25@ St. Mary's
 Oct. 2vs Desert Vista
 Oct. 9@ Marcos de Niza
 Oct. 16Chandler
 Oct. 23vs Casa Grande
 Oct. 30@ Yuma
 Nov. 6vs McClintock
 Nov. 13@ Corona del Sol

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Salutes the Phoenix Metro Players of the Year

1997 .. Todd Heap, Mountain View, TE/LB
1996 .. Justin Taplin, Tempe, WR
1995 .. Mike Brown, Saguaro, RB/DB
1994 .. Tavon Cooper, Peoria, RB/KR
1993 .. Paul Shields, Paradise Valley, RB/DB
1992 .. Mike Mitchell, Brophy Prep, RB
1991 .. Sam Salts, St. Mary's, WB/DB/K
1990 .. Grady Benton, Mesa, QB
1989 .. Brian Drew, McClintock, RB/RS
1988 .. Mike Salmon, Greenway, WB/DB/K
1987 .. Kevin Galbreath, Maryvale, RB
1986 .. Nathan LaDuke, Alhambra, QB/DB
1985 .. Cleveland Colter, McClintock, RB/DB
1984 .. Steve Belles, St. Mary's, QB
1983 .. Anthony Parker, McClintock, RB/DB
1982 .. Glenn Rogers, Agua Fria, RB
1981 .. Frank Rudolph, Coronado, DE
1980 .. Jimmy Williams, Tempe, LB
1979 .. Todd Shell, Mountain View, LB
1978 .. Rory Barnett, Trevor Browne, RB (jr)
1977 .. Mike Pagel, Washington, QB
1976 .. Greg Brady, Coronado, QB
1975 .. Brian Felix, Phoenix Union, RB/DB
1974 .. David Mitchell, St. Mary's (jr)
1973 .. Rob Wilson, Coronado, QB/DB
1972 .. Keith Sobraski, Coronado, DT
1971 .. Fred Mortensen, Tempe, QB
1970 .. Bob Breunig, Alhambra, FB/LB
1969 .. Danny White, Westwood, QB
1968 .. Bill Mannion, St. Mary's, QB



Between 1990-92, Mike Mitchell scored 76 touchdowns (Gazette photo).

1967 .. Tim Smith, St. Mary's, FB
1966 .. Bob Soza, Westwood, TB
1965 .. Bill Dunning, Mesa, RB
1964 .. Richard Griffin, Westwood, T
1963 .. Earliest Nelson, South Mountain, RB
1962 .. Everett "Moose" Rollins, Arcadia, RB
1961 .. Andy Livingston, Mesa, RB
1960 .. Ted Lawrence, South Mountain, G
1959 .. Bob Olson, South Mountain, RB
1958 .. Lewis Albright, Scottsdale, RB
1957 .. Eddie Wilson, Chandler, QB
1956 .. Warren Livingston, Mesa, RB
1955 .. George Greathouse, Phoenix Union, RB
1954 .. George Greathouse, Phoenix Union, RB
1953 .. Kenny Aycock, North, RB
1952 .. Jack Stovall, St. Mary's, E
1951 .. Bob Black, Phoenix Union, E
1950 .. Don Beasley, Mesa, FB
1949 .. Danny Seivert, St. Mary's, RB
1948 .. Gene Brown, Phoenix Union, FB

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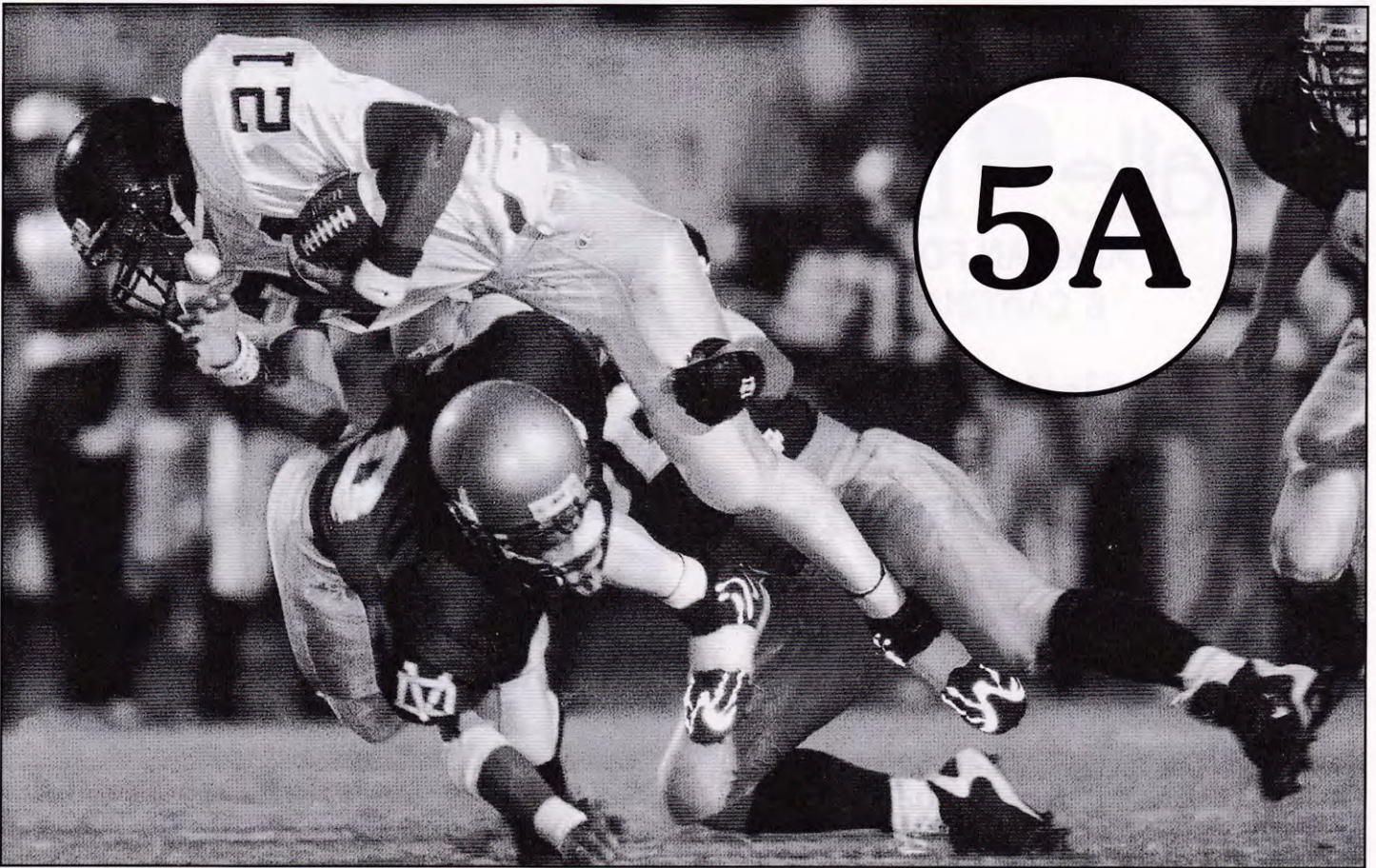
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Mountain Pointe running back Nic Lovett is brought down by two Desert Vista defenders during the Pride's 45-7 win over the Thunder (Pat Shannahan/The Tribune).

Desert Vista's Rolling Thunder

Some things never change. After 19 years at Mesa Mountain View, head coach Jesse Parker packed his bags and moved to Texas. So the school hired another former Texan, Bernie Busken. Three seasons and 41 games later the Toros are 38-3 with two gold 5A championship trophies to show for it. The most recent came last fall, a dramatic 28-24 win over Tucson Amphitheater. The game was played at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, before 14,081 paid fans as part of a double-header following the 4A finals.

Even better, during the 1997-98 school year, the Toros became the first 5A school since 1956 to win state championships in three of the state's four major sports (football, basketball, baseball, track), landing titles in basketball and baseball as well. They just missed in track, where they finished second to rival Westwood.

It was the best state championship

run for a large school since historic Phoenix Union turned the trick in 1955-56. Union turned it back-to-back, winning three "major" crowns in 1954-55 as well.

Three key figures in the Toros' recent 28-game football slate picked up diploma's and headed for Arizona State: quarterback Tate Gunning, linebacker Todd Heap and tackle Damien Niko. Gunning will play baseball. But the cupboard isn't bare. Six full-time starters, anchored by all-city center Sean McCabe, return.

But this year might belong to the Desert Vista Thunder, a 6-5 playoff team which returns 100% of its lineup. The newest school in the Tempe Union School District housed no seniors in 1997-98. They were wiped out in the playoffs first round by Mountain View. No school in the East Valley returns as many talented skill players as the Thunder. Speed, size and depth

abound.

Only once has a school won the 5A football championship in its second year of varsity play. That happened in 1964. Westwood, coached by Edgar "Mutt" Ford, turned the trick, beating Phoenix Camelback in a 10-7 thriller. Desert Vista has a chance.

Not to be overlooked is an early season matchup between Mountain Pointe and Wilson High from West Lawn, Pa. This year's contest, scheduled for September 4, is in Tempe. Last year the Pennsylvania school prevailed 22-13 in the Keystone State. This year's game should be just as close. Other interesting interstate matchups include Tucson Sahuaro against Newbury Park, Ca., and Tucson Sabino against Bonita Vista from San Diego. Both games will be played in Tucson. Tucson Amphi faces Orem, Utah on the road.

The tough Desert Valley Region claimed an Arizona first last fall when

four different schools, Brophy Prep, St. Mary's, Horizon and North Canyon all won nine games. No other region - at any level - had ever done that.

5A CENTRAL REGION

1. Tempe Desert Vista (6-5)
2. Tempe McClintock (8-5)
3. Tempe Corona del Sol (6-5)
4. Tempe Mountain Pointe (4-6)
5. Tempe Marcos de Niza (10-2)
6. Casa Grande (5-5)
7. Chandler (2-8)
8. Yuma (2-9)

More than 30 **Desert Vista** players took the field last November against Mountain View in the playoff's first round. None were seniors. They paid the price, falling 63-21 to the eventual state champs. But the game had some bright spots, starting with tailback Bobby Wade (6-0, 185), who recorded 225 all-purpose yards and scored three touchdowns. In September he scored five against Phoenix Carl Hayden. On the season, Wade gained 1,392 yards on 187 carries, scored 26 touchdowns and 158 points. He can run. He holds the Thunder's school record in the 400 meter dash (49.42). Junior quarterback John Rattay (6-3, 180), a good high hurdler (14.68), completed 50% of his passes for 1,617 yards and 17 touchdowns. Another excellent athlete, receiver/defensive back Chris Snow (6-0, 180), averaged 32.7 yards per catch. He can run, too. Last spring Snow ran 200 meters in 21.74 seconds. In fact, all three of Rattay's receivers, Snow, Josh Gill (5-11, 175) and junior Elton Johnson (5-11, 185) are ready to go. Guard Brent Avila (5-11, 200) and tackle Frank Ruzicka (6-2, 240, jr.) anchor the front. The defense looks improved with Wade and Snow doubling in the secondary, safety Craig Moore, tackle Jason Kelly, and linebackers Jeremy Chafin and Cean Rogers in the lineup. The Thunder got a shot in the arm when young Brian Goggins, a 6-2, 267-pound junior tackle from Flagstaff moved into the neighborhood.

Twenty-five lettermen, including several key linemen, paint a bright outlook at **McClintock**. In 6-1, 255 pound tackle Matt Woods, coach Dennis Johnson has one of the top two-way players in the 5A Central. Guard Derek Greene (6-4, 260) is a good one also. Tackle Mickey Mahlmeister (6-2, 245) joins the mix. Quarterback Rail Aamierz (6-1, 190) is also the team's punter. He's got a strong leg. Defensively, the Chargers are led by

CLASS 5A TOP 20 POLL

1. Tempe Desert Vista
2. Mesa Mountain View
3. Phoenix Brophy Prep
4. Scottsdale Horizon
5. Phoenix St. Mary's
6. Tempe McClintock
7. Mesa Westwood
8. Tempe Corona del Sol
9. Mesa
10. Tempe Mountain Pointe
11. Phoenix Trevor Browne
12. Tucson Amphitheater
13. Desert Mountain
14. Phoenix Maryvale
15. Gilbert
16. Tolleson Westview
17. North Canyon
18. Glendale Ironwood
19. Gilbert Highland
20. Tucson Salpointe

linebackers Scott Walrath (6-0, 235), Mace Vicera (6-2, 220) and Mona Fely (5-10, 205), along with tackles Nathan Oie (5-10, 205) and Eric Beebe (6-2, 220). Vicera and Fely are also running backs. Newcomers from the school's speedy sprint relay team (42.2) include cornerbacks Keyon Cornejo and Shawn Hunter, who is also a good long jumper.

Corona del Sol saw its playoff drive end in the first round against Maryvale. Lots of playoff experience and seven three-year starters should propel Gary Ventura's club back into the hunt. The Aztecs' top prospect might be the coach's son, two-way star Marcus Ventura (6-2, 280), who also handles the team's kick-offs and punts. Little Kenny Clayton (5-9, 165) ran for 1,148 yards and 18 touchdowns. He scored twice in the playoff loss to Maryvale. Bubba Carter (6-3, 240) joins Ventura in the trenches to form a solid defensive front. In fact, with 6-6, 240-pound Brandon Phillips in the lineup, CDS might have the biggest forward wall in the Central Region. Another good all-round player is Aaron Hochuli (5-11,

175), a defensive back and punt return specialist. Last year signal caller Geoff Revling (6-3, 200) passed for 927 yards. Big Mike Waddell (6-2, 220) plays full-back/linebacker. Receiver Dusty Nenaber (6-2, 175) and linebacker Brandon Pavlovic (5-10, 190) earned post season honors. Pavlovic had 53 unassisted tackles. "We should be tough," adds Ventura. "We have size and depth at the skill positions and our line is stronger."

It was a rough start for **Mountain Pointe**. The Pride dropped an interstate battle in Pennsylvania to start the season and never seemed to jell. Highlight of the season was a 45-7 win over nearby Desert Vista. "But that was about it," says head coach Karl Kiefer, with 260 wins the state's all-time leader. Senior Mike Barth (6-0, 205) is by far the Pride's top prospect, especially as a kicker. He may be the best in the state. With 4.7 speed he doubles at running back/defensive back. So does little Alfred Smith (5-7, 165). J.D. Nichols (6-1, 215) and Chris Ensminger (6-4, 210) are excellent linebackers. Quarterback Sean Costanza (6-2, 190) started only five games but passed for 537 yards. He threw only three interceptions. Linemen Jeff Stanley (6-1, 220), David Marler (5-11, 200) and Ben Clingman (6-2, 260) saw plenty of action. Young Nick Lovett (5-11, 165), a junior with 4.5 speed, is a promising running back. The Pointe again faces Mountain View and Phoenix St. Mary's in non-league games.

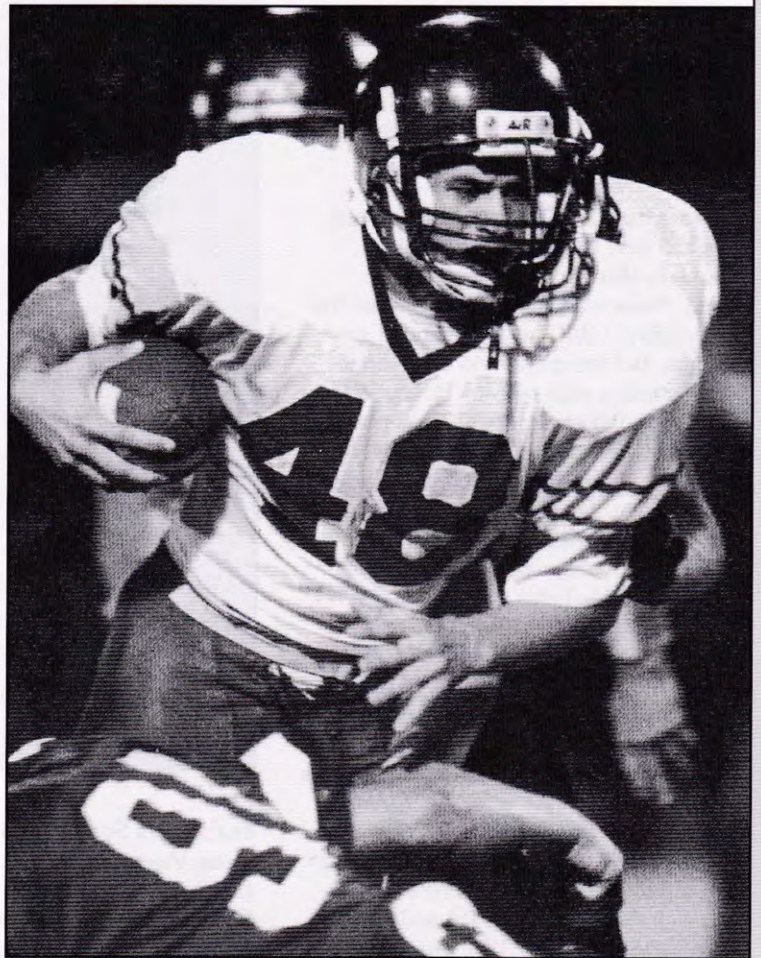
Marcos de Niza caught everybody off guard. City rival McClintock ended the Padres joy ride 20-8 in the state quarterfinals. That gave Marcos a 10-2 season, the school's best in 23 years. Second-year coach Tom Joseph landed 5A Coach of the Year honors. "It was a super year," says the head coach. "The young men in our program are starting to learn our system." Best returning learner appears to be linebacker Ray Salazar (6-0, 195), who might replace Scott Gerlach at quarterback. Salazar, junior linebacker Luke Hauptman (6-1, 230) and defensive back Steve Anderson (5-9, 185) give Joseph three solid defensive players. Joe Brilz, Sam Langston and Charles Klingensmith tip the scales at 200-plus pounds and form a solid front wall. Little Frank Saenz (5-5, 150) could start at tailback. Kevin Jones (6-1, 200) is a good target at tight end. Mike Kissell (5-10, 190) is the Padres' center.

It's a familiar tune in **Casa Grande**. The Cougars are looking for a new football coach. In fact, since 1985, this Pinal

MESA CITY Sports HALL OF FAME

We Salute the Mesa City Players of the Year

1997 Todd Heap, Mountain View, TE/LB
 1996 Cody Price, Westwood, LB
 1995 Tom Pace, Mesa, QB
 1994 Matt Griffith, Mesa, NG
 1993 Mikel Moreno, Mesa, QB
 1992 Brandon Thomas, Westwood, WR
 1991 Mike Cook, Mountain View, WR/DB/K
 1990 Grady Benton, Mesa, QB
 1989 Mark Jorgensen, Westwood, DB
 1988 Lance Smith, Mountain View, RB
 1987 Josh Arnold, Dobson, RB/DB
 1986 Quin Rodriguez, Dobson, PK
 1985 Bob Davis, Mountain View, LB
 1984 Pat Schabel, Westwood, WR
 1983 Paul Kasprzyk, Mountain View, RB
 1982 Keith Moody, Mountain View, T
 1981 Brian Denton, Mesa, T
 1980 Kevin Van Norman, Mountain View, DB
 1979 Todd Shell, Mountain View, LB
 1978 Keith Miller, Mountain View, WR
 1977 Ron Sowers, Mountain View, T
 1976 Fred Freeman, Westwood, T
 1975 Darrel LeSuer, Mesa, LB
 1974 Ronnie Bonner, Westwood, RB
 1973 Mickey Hatcher, Mesa, WR
 1972 Don Woods, Mesa, WR
 1971 Greg Daly, Mesa, RB
 1970 Dick Harris, Westwood, WR
 1969 Danny White, Westwood, QB



Mesa quarterback Mikel Moreno (Mesa Tribune photo).



Danny White
Westwood



Paul Kasprzyk
Mountain View



Mickey Hatcher
Mesa



Bob Davis
Mountain View

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County school has had nine different head coaches. Seventeen lettermen return, including halfback T.J. Rackley (5-9, 165), one of several Central Region backs to gain 1,000 yards. He's durable, with 38 carries for 171 yards in a win over Desert Vista. He also caught 15 passes for 293 yards. The running game should click again with Tommy Tracas (6-2, 215), Gabe Gonzales (5-11, 210) and Mark Luna (6-2, 240, jr.) in the trenches. The key position will be quarterback. Whoever starts has two capable receivers in Jason Barber (6-0, 175) and Brandon Stephens (6-0, 190). Barber is the team's kicker.

Finally, **Yuma** returns a solid group of experienced 5A players. Fifteen to be exact. Coach Curt Weber played lots of underclassmen. Junior Ryan Priest (6-1, 175) completed 111 passes out of 241 attempts for 1,535 yards and 14 touchdowns. Little Ruben Gomez, a 5-8, 165-pound flanker, is a good receiver. Fred Dammeyer (6-5, 255) is a big tight end. K.J. Nelson (6-3, 210) is a hard running back. The Criminals will field a bigger than average front line with Sergio Vazquez (5-11, 265), Jason Chretien (6-1, 260), Scott Carruthers (6-1, 215) and Tony Warnock (6-4, 255). Depth looks better. The junior varsity posted a 7-1 mark.

Chandler was hit hard by graduation, but running back David Rague (6-0, 188) is still on the roster. He's a good one. Safety Mike Mortensen (5-10, 175) and quarterback Jared Barney (6-4, 215) are starters. Barney also plays defensive end. Halfback Devin Richardson (5-11, 175) and kicker Tom Baumbauer (5-10, 175) are two of the better juniors in the league.

5A EAST VALLEY REGION

1. Mesa Mountain View (14-0)
2. Mesa Westwood (5-5)
3. Mesa (5-5)
4. Gilbert (7-5)
5. Gilbert Highland (9-3)
6. Mesa Red Mountain (6-4)
7. Mesa Dobson (1-9)
8. Yuma Cibola (0-11)

For the first time since 1985, a 5A school has won consecutive state crowns. **Mountain View**, with a few late heroics, joined an elite group with a 28-24 come-from-behind win over Tucson Amphitheater. Coach Bernie Busken's forces have now won 28-straight. Most of the firepower which produced 5,022 yards total offense and 512 points has graduated. But the Toros won't give up

Streak Busters

Class 3A state champion Blue Ridge of Lakeside enters the 1998 football campaign with a 52-game winning streak, longest in state history. The state's all-time leaders, and the schools which beat them:

Streak	School	Year	Lost To/Score
52	Lakeside Blue Ridge	1994-97	Active!
43	St. Johns*	1992-95	Monument Valley, 24-16
34	Round Valley	1977-81	Payson, 21-20
32	Tucson	1943-45	El Paso Austin, Tex., 7-0
29	Patagonia	1986-87	Valley Union, 26-8
28	Mesa Mountain View ..	1996-97	Active!
27	Pima	1969-71	Fredonia, 57-28
27	Phoenix St. Mary's	1984-86	Phoenix Moon Valley, 14-7
26	Coolidge	1942-45	Mesa, 27-12
25	Phoenix Carver	1951-53	Blythe, Calif., 20-14
25	Bisbee*	1953-56	Tucson, 12-6
25	Safford	1968-70	Agua Fria, 48-26

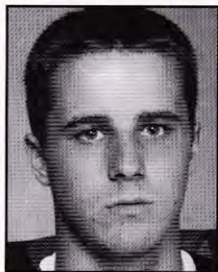
**Includes ties.*

the crown without a fight. "The kids are working hard," says Busken. "We are looking for the typical Toro players to step forward and compete." Center Sean McCabe (6-2, 235) is a typical Toro. Big, strong and good. Five additional starters return: Dustin Swanson (6-0, 215), Leo Christensen (6-3, 185), Justin Douglas (6-2, 220), Luch Cardon (5-11, 235) and James Norman (6-0, 210). All start on the defensive side of the ball, although Norman could double at fullback. Swanson is an excellent linebacker. Safety Christensen, a hurdler on the track team, intercepted three passes. Tailback Byron Hendershot (5-11, 190) managed six touchdowns in a backup roll. Mark Riggs (6-3, 200) and John Beck (5-10, 160) will probably compete for the quarterback slot. At 6-3, 295-pounds, senior Matt Capane is the biggest Toro in camp. With 4.54 speed, linebacker Travis Martin is the quickest.

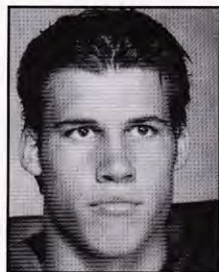
Westwood lost 20 players through graduation and head coach Curt Palmer via retirement. But the best collection of skill players in the region make the Warriors a threat. Half the school's state championship track team plays football. But the key offensive player could be quarterback Jon Mendez (5-10, 150), "a smart, good thrower," according to Palmer. In six games he managed 394 yards in Westwood's run-oriented offense. His father and two brothers played quarterback for the same school. Senior Augie Gastellum (6-1, 210), a fullback/linebacker, finished second in the state 400 meter dash at 49.29. He averaged 5.4 yards per carry. Halfback Deone

McClelland (6-2, 180) joins him in the backfield. Jon Budge (6-0, 180) is the Warriors' tight end and plays safety. Michael VanMale (5-11, 205), a good wrestler, handles the punting and starts on the line. Danny Becerra (5-11, 215) and Damian Handley (6-3, 280) join him. Junior Jacob Whisenant (5-10, 185) is a good, young linebacker. But the real offensive threat is junior flanker Sammy Moore (5-10, 166), one of the state's premier athletes. Moore averaged 21.4 yards per catch on 20 receptions. He ran 100 meters in 10.92 seconds and long jumped 24-feet, 4-inches, a state sophomore class record. Moore and Gastellum were members of Westwood's state championship 1,600 meter relay team.

Mesa, the state's all-time winningest program, finished an uncharacteristic 5-5, but looks to bounce back with 17 lettermen. "It was a tough year for us," says head coach Bill McKane. "We were in most games, but came up short." The 'Rabbits should be improved and more competitive. They lost three games by seven points each. Only one returning player earned post season honors, junior linebacker Cole Golightly (6-3, 190). However, several others, including tackle Joe Dobbins (6-3, 250), linebacker Jaasiel Amado (6-2, 215), safety Jeff McKane (6-1, 160), fullback Sedrick Rivers (5-11, 205) and cornerback Ryan Pace (5-10, 185) logged starting time. But the line is the key. Jared Allen (5-11, 210), Logan Blau (5-10, 215), Vaughn Mickelson (6-2, 205), Dan Patterson (6-2, 225), Jason Dempsey (6-1, 205) and Jeremy Hammond (6-3, 270) must stay healthy.



Aaron Hochuli
Corona del Sol



Brand Pavlovic
Corona del Sol

Junior Jeff Prince (6-2, 215), a transfer from Highland, is a good looking line-backer. Watch for Nathan Skinner (6-0, 165) to start at quarterback. Still, the 'Rabbits lack speed.

For the first time in a decade **Gilbert** reached the playoffs. In the process the Tigers became the next in a growing list of Arizona schools to win 400 games. John Holaday's forces (7-5) fell to Marcos de Niza in the playoffs, so the book reads 405-267-18 since 1923 (see chart). Twenty players return, including five who landed all-region votes. Tailback Drayson Alcantar (5-9, 195) rushed for 1,175 yards and 14 touchdowns. Quarterback Fred Clare (6-0, 190) passed for 1,144 yards and 13 TDs. With Clare and backup Mike Doran (6-2, 180) in the lineup, the Tigers' kicking game is solid. Clare is the punter, Doran the place kicker. Veteran Tyler Merritt (5-10, 225) starts at center. Matt Perry (6-5, 270) is a strong defensive lineman. So is Antwon Hazzard (6-4, 270). If Danny Burrell (6-3, 235), Rhett Tenney (6-0, 210), Mike Butler (5-11, 225) and Blake Robinson (6-3, 230) mix well with Merritt up front, Gilbert's offense should be improved.

Off to a good start is **Highland**, which has won 73% of its games in five seasons, all under Bill Epperson. This year's unit will be coached by Mike Reardon, out of Salt Lake City. Last year the Hawks went 9-3, losing 28-19 to Tucson Amphi in the quarterfinals. They dropped a 7-0 midseason game to Mountain View. Twenty lettermen return, but 95% of the offense picked up diploma's. Travis Epperson, the former coach's son, is one of the region's best kickers. He was good six times on field goal attempts and could start at quarterback, if not safety. Big Ryan Rechichar (6-3, 215) starts at tight end. He caught seven passes for 92 yards. Young wideout Marquis Cooper (6-2, 185, jr.) caught six for 121. David Airey (6-1, 222) and Ricky Hanchett (5-10, 170) are good two-way players. If Tieg Justesen (6-2, 265), Ed Patterson (6-

0, 205) and Sandor Binkley (6-1, 205) block to their ability, the ground game will be solid. Young Travis Bright, a 6-3, 265-pound sophomore, could start. Brandon Fitzpatrick (6-1, 180) should challenge for the quarterback slot. Look for Tony Shockley (6-1, 175) and Brent Daniels (5-10, 170) to start in the secondary.

Red Mountain started strong (5-0), but losses to Gilbert and Westwood in close games led to a 6-4 finish and no playoff tickets. But no team in the East Valley returns as many players - 35 to be exact - so this might be the Lions' year. Almost every offensive threat graduated, so defense is the name of the game. Ryan Mull (6-3, 230) and Rick Andreatos (6-2, 205) form a solid front line which includes Bryan Hyer, Randon Walters and Charles Disano, who is also the Lions' center. David Suffko, Mike Neilson, Chris Belter and James Churgovich make up the linebacking corps. J.T. Hunsaker, who could start at quarterback, also plays safety. "We feel good about our chances," says Jimmy Jones. "The key in the East Valley to making the playoffs is to get out of the region. Every game is like a playoff game."

Mike Clark needed just one win to reach the magic 100 plateau. Unfortunately, that's all the **Dobson** coach got, giving him a 100-83-0 record at the school. "We should be back on track," says Clark. "The kids are working hard. But talk is cheap. We will see." The Mustangs appear to have no true stars, with several players of equal ability. Two-way back Cale Ackerley (5-10, 195), quarterback Bryan Hangartner (5-10, 190), end David Jepson (6-2, 200), full-back/linebacker Matt Morris (5-11, 215), center Hector Cervantes (6-1, 268), and receivers Blaire Wilkes (6-1, 186) and Ramey Peru (6-2, 180) look good on paper.

Yuma Cibola, which set a state record for losses in a season, has nowhere to go but up. The Raiders had a tough year (0-11), but showed improved play in November. Still, the junior class will be the key. Two-way tackle Jesus Dominguez (6-2, 265) is a good bet for post-season honors. Young Brian Lines (5-11, 180) is the Raiders' quarterback. Little Josh Castaneda (5-9, 172) doubles at running back/linebacker. "We will be an improved team," insists head coach Shawn Wehrer.

5A DESERT VALLEY REGION

1. Phoenix Brophy Prep (9-3)
2. Scottsdale Horizon (9-2)

3. Phoenix St. Mary's (9-4)
4. North Canyon (9-2)
5. Paradise Valley (5-5)
6. Shadow Mountain (3-7)
7. Yuma Kofa (4-6)

This could be one of **Brophy Prep's** stronger teams. Coach Tim Sanford's Broncos have lost five games in the past two years, four to state champ Mountain View. It's been 11 straight trips to the playoffs. Ten starters return, including all-region linebacker Brian Gaffney (6-2, 225), the leading tackler with 95 stops. In 10 games quarterback Carson Bradley (6-1, 180) passed for 1,200 yards and seven scores. Halfback Courtney Golden (5-10, 175) gained 576. Lenno Melton (5-9, 170) gained 364 yards. Monte Coleman (6-2, 215) is a capable tight end. Two big juniors, Jared Rosell (5-11, 230) and Craig Lundberg (6-0, 240) will start on the line. Seniors Ryan Dickerson, Brian Barba, Pat Walsh, Aaron Black and Brian Goldsworthy are game tested two-way players.

Graduation cleaned out most of **Horizon's** starting lineup, but shed no tear for the Huskies. Although Doug Shaffer lost 18 lineman, good skill players will help make a run for the playoffs. Quarterback Jeff Krohn (6-2, 175) completed 78 of 169 passes for 1,127 yards. Seven went for touchdowns. Split end Derek Carr (6-0, 165), the team's place kicker, caught 21 passes for 258 yards and two TDs. Deep back Mike Schreiber (6-0, 185) recoded 30 tackles, two fumble recoveries and one interception. Defensive end Doug Daly (5-11, 200) dumped the quarterback seven times. Wingback Steve Gubernick, tight end Tom Winn, strong safety Mark James and linebacker Brian Vainisi have shown good leadership. Still, for Horizon to keep pace with the pack, the line must jell by October. "We have good skill players," says Shaffer, who won his 100th game last year. "But that means nothing if you don't have a line."

St. Mary's, one of four Desert Region clubs to win nine games, has a solid nucleus back, including three of the region's top two-way players: fullback/linebacker Greg Swenson (5-10, 190), receiver/cornerback Bobby Carillo (6-0, 156) and junior halfback Thomas Beier (5-8, 150). Carillo, a good pass catcher, is also the Knights' kick returner. Swenson is a tough, hard-nosed runner. Guard Andy Hill (5-9, 195) and tackle Jason Stevenson (6-3, 225) return to the line. Defensive end Chad Howell (6-4,

GILBERT HIGH SCHOOL



75th

FOOTBALL ANNIVERSARY



We salute head coach John "Doc" Holaday and the 1997 Class 5A playoff Gilbert Tigers.

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- ✓ Has Won Eight State Championships Since 1923!
- ✓ Only Arizona School to Win State Titles in Four Different Classifications!
- ✓ Has Produced 86 First-Team All-Staters Since 1926!
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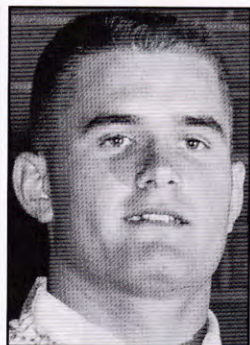
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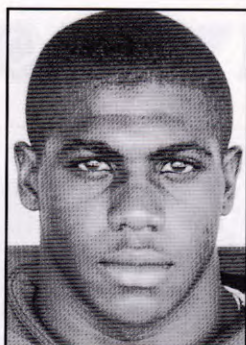
Assistants: Mike Hazzard, Mark Nolan, Tim Ruff, Aaron Van Briesen, Drew Boruch,
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Salute the WHIZZER WHITE AWARD WINNERS



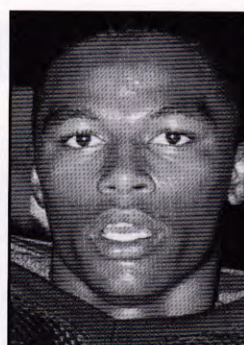
MOOSE ROLLINS
Arcadia



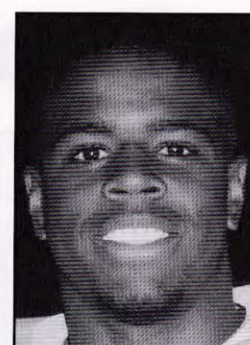
REGGIE MCGILL
St. Mary's



WHIZZER WHITE
Mesa High



KYRAN JONES
Peoria



NATHAN WIZE
Tucson Sabino

HONORING ARIZONA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL RUNNING BACK

1997.....Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino
1996.....Kyran Jones, Peoria (jr)
1995.....Mike Brown, Scottsdale Saguardo
1994.....Tavon Cooper, Peoria
1993.....Robert Holcombe, Mesa
1992.....Mike Mitchell, Phoenix Brophy Prep
1991.....Chris Hopkins, Tucson Salpointe
1990.....Mario Bates, Tucson Amphi
1989.....Brian Drew, Tempe McClintock
1988.....Michael Bates, Tucson Amphi
1987.....Kevin Galbreath, Phoenix Maryvale
1986.....Reggie McGill, Phoenix St. Mary's
1985.....Cleveland Colter, Jr., Tempe McClintock
1984.....David Winsley, Flagstaff (jr)
1983.....Paul Kasprzyk, Mesa Mountain View
1982.....Glenn Rogers, Agua Fria
1981.....Stan Gill, Flagstaff
1980.....Fred Sims, Tucson Sunnyside
1979.....Fred Sims, Tucson Sunnyside (jr)
1978.....Mike Cade, Eloy Santa Cruz
1977.....Alvin Moore, Coolidge
1976.....Willard Reeves, Flagstaff Coconino
1975.....Brian Felix, Phoenix Union
1974.....David Mitchell, Phoenix St. Mary's (jr)
1973.....Ronnie Bonner, Mesa Westwood (jr)
1972.....Jesse Parker, Tucson Rincon
1971.....Manuel Jones, Phoenix Union
1970.....Don Washington, Agua Fria (jr)
1969.....Benny Malone, Eloy Santa Cruz

1968.....Joe Petroschus, Tucson
1967.....Tim Smith, Phoenix St. Mary's
1966.....Bob Soza, Mesa Westwood
1965.....Art Malone, Eloy Santa Cruz
1964.....LeRoy Peoples, Marana
1963.....James Dugan, Flagstaff
1962.....Everett "Moose" Rollins, Scottsdale Arcadia
1961.....Andy Livingston, Mesa
1960.....Jim Sims, Tucson
1959.....Bob Olson, South Mountain
1958.....Lewis Albright, Scottsdale
1957.....Clay Freney, Globe
1956.....Warren Livingston, Mesa
1955.....George Greathouse, Phoenix Union
1954.....George Greathouse, Phoenix Union (jr)
1953.....Kenny Aycock, North Phoenix
1952.....Joel Favara, Tucson
1951.....Hadley Hicks, Bisbee
1950.....Don Beasley, Mesa
1949.....Danny Seivert, Phoenix St. Mary's
1948.....Gib Dawson, Douglas
1947.....Marvin Wahlin, Casa Grande

WHIZZER WHITE, a 1946 high school All-American, was a three sport star at both Mesa High School and Arizona State University, and later played in the National Football League with the Chicago Bears.

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182), linebacker Josh Ahern (5-9, 175) and cornerback Andrew Rideau (5-11, 165) also started.

At **North Canyon** the Rattlers finally reached the playoffs, only to fall to McClintock 20-18 in the first round. Twenty-two squadmen return, and two earned post-season honors. But one of them, junior tailback Conrad DeLaCruz, graduated early. That leaves linebacker Jake Barnard (5-10, 200) as the best bet for post season honors. Three two-way players return: receiver/safety Shawn Quimby (6-2, 161), wingback/safety Alfred Akinyemi (6-0, 175) and guard/defensive end Don Drew (6-3, 245). Strong safety John Belisle (5-11, 172) could start at quarterback. Alex Wright (5-11, 213) is the Rattlers' center. Jake Carruth (6-3, 216) and Chris Artigas (6-0, 305) start at defensive tackle.

The same tough schedule faces **Paradise Valley**, which had one of the Valley's best 5-5 teams. Unfortunately for Trojan fans, four schools in the league won nine games. Coach Bob Lambie's five losses were to teams with a regular season record of 43-7. Twenty players return, including three of the region's best. With halfback Francis Turner (5-10, 185) in the lineup, PV has one of the best backs around. Last year he gained 942 yards on 183 carries and scored 13 TDs. He also caught 16 passes for 145 yards. If guards David Thompson (5-9, 200) and Aaron Boussu (6-0, 215) stay healthy, Turner could have a good year. Adam Marazzo (6-0, 200) will be a four-year starter at inside linebacker. He recorded 77 tackles and four sacks. As a tight end he caught 16 passes. Fullback Ryan Abel (5-10, 190) gained 483 yards and scored six times. If first-year quarterback Dallas York (5-10, 175) plays well, PV has a shot. Junior Josh Gwatkin (5-10, 175) is a promising two-way back. Depth is better, but the Trojans still have very little size.

Shadow Mountain got off to a 3-3 start, then ran into four Top-10 teams and finished 3-7. "We had good games against St. Mary's and Horizon," says coach Hal Pigusch, who enters his fourth year. "This could be our best club." The Matadors return eight starters on defense, every receiver and running back, plus all-star kick returner Shaun McDonald, brother of A-State receiver Tariq McDonald. With 4.5 speed, the 5-9, 165-pound McDonald scored 17 touchdowns, five on kickoff returns and three on pass receptions. During a 59-16 loss to North Canyon he returned kickoffs 95 and 99

Race to 100

In the annals of Arizona schoolboy football, no high school has ever won 100 games in a decade. Phoenix St. Mary's, with 99 triumphs in the 1980's, holds the state record. Below are the leaders in the Decade of the '90's:

Wins	School	Years	Overall	Winning %
90	Lakeside Blue Ridge	1990-97	90-8-0	(.918)
89	Mesa Mountain View	1990-97	89-15-1	(.856)
87	Tucson Sabino	1990-97	87-16-0	(.845)
81	Phoenix St. Mary's	1990-97	81-22-0	(.786)
79	Mesa	1990-97	79-19-1	(.806)
77	St. Johns	1990-97	77-13-1	(.856)
77	Tucson Amphitheater	1990-97	77-24-0	(.762)
75	Peoria	1990-97	75-18-3	(.806)
74	Tucson Sahuaro	1990-97	74-22-3	(.771)
73	Scottsdale Horizon	1990-97	73-22-1	(.768)
71	Snowflake	1990-97	71-24-1	(.740)
70	Thatcher	1990-97	70-20-0	(.777)

yards for scores. One week later he returned a 92-yarder against Brophy. In 10 games he caught 39 passes for 764 yards. Linebacker Josh Amobi (6-3, 205) and guard Matt Watson (5-10, 180) earned votes on the all-region squad. Nick Sofranick, Dan Boring, Jason Krahm, Quin Collier, Marc Bast, Robert Grim, Ben Haering and Tony Bernardo give SHS one of the best senior crop of players in many years.

Linebacker Damond Farar (6-2, 190), who also plays tight end, looks like to be the top returning player at **Yuma Kofa**. The Kings finished 4-6 with a senior-dominated lineup. In fact, only 10 players return. Three start on the offensive line: Efrain Velasquez (6-0, 240), Mario Aguayo (6-0, 230) and Edgar Moctezuma (5-10, 250). Little Steve Kelly (5-8, 180) starts at fullback and plays linebacker.

5A METRO REGION

1. Phoenix Trevor Browne (6-4)
2. Phoenix Maryvale (11-1)
3. South Mountain (5-5)
4. Phoenix Alhambra (5-5)
5. Phoenix Camelback (2-8)
6. Phoenix Central (1-9)
7. Phoenix Carl Hayden (1-9)
8. Phoenix North (2-8)

Trevor Browne missed the playoffs for the second straight year, but should regain its post-season form. Twenty underclassmen played for the 6-4 Bruins. Four all-region picks and six key starters are back. All eyes will be on halfback Jeff Howard (5-9, 170), a transfer from Alabama. He was the Bruins' lethal weapon. Big games included 179 yards

and five TDs against Central, 113 yards and four scores against Carl Hayden. Defensive back Leondre Lewis (5-9, 167), linebacker Muhammad Sumare (6-0, 205), tackle Eric Montijo (5-11, 230), tight end Kevin Candelaria (6-0, 170) and junior kicker Kevin Hughes (5-6, 150) are the guys who make the Bruins go.

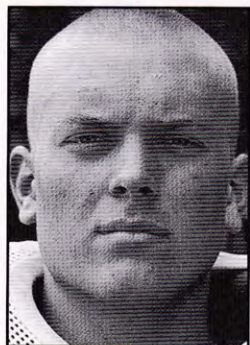
It was near perfection at **Maryvale**, where a heart breaking two-point loss to St. Mary's finished the Panthers season at 11-1. During regular season play Maryvale scored 416 points. "We will reload and continue to compete as well as we can," says head coach Tom Bruney, who placed four seniors in Division I schools and 12 in the JC ranks. Three three-year starters return, plus one of the fastest cornerbacks around. Defensive tackle Rasheen Rice (6-1, 270), running back Marcuss Vann (5-10, 180, 4.5) and receiver Torrey Hargrow (5-10, 170, 4.6) were all-region picks. Rashaun Ross (6-1, 175, 4.4) has developed into an excellent cover guy. His sprint times of 10.74 and 21.12 last spring were tops in the state. Guard Raul Morales (6-1, 275), tight end Matt Slate (5-10, 185) and tackle Angel Alvarado (6-1, 285) are playoff tested. All are seniors. The junior class shows promise, especially if halfback Tyrone Neal (5-10, 170, 4.5), end Josh Kirkwood (6-4, 235), center Mike Marshall (6-3, 215) and safety Galindo Godinez (5-10, 180, 4.7) continue to improve.

It was a tough season at **South Mountain**, to say the least. The Jaguars, because of construction problems, played 10 games on the road. "Still, we were very competitive," claims head coach

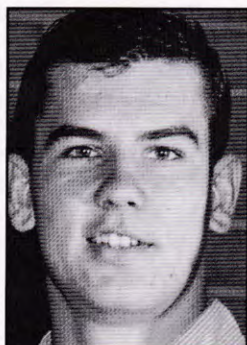
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Salute the

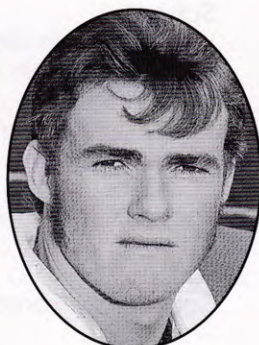
BRIAN MURRAY AWARD WINNERS



**John Tait
McClintock**



**Bob Bertelsen
Arcadia**



**Brian Murray
Salpointe**



**Glen Gresham
Phoenix Union**



**Mike Saffer
Tucson Sabino**

HONORING ARIZONA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL LINEMAN

1997 Mike Saffer, Tucson Sabino
1996 (TIE) Ralph Zarate, Tucson (OT)
..... Brian Kula, Phoenix Brophy Prep (DL)
1995 Chris Watkins, Gilbert Highland (DL)
1994 Matt Griffith, Mesa (NG)
1993 Todd Thompson, Tucson Sahuaro (DL)
1992 John Tait, Tempe McClintock (OT)
1991 Willie Walker, Tucson Desert View (DL)
1990 Grady Stretz, Tempe McClintock (DL)
1989 Mike Ciasca, Tucson Sahuaro (OT)
1988 Eric Ipock, Peoria (OT)
1987 Richard Griffith, Tucson Catalina (DL)
1986 Tim Landers, Round Valley (DT)
1985 Gary Pay, Glendale Apollo (OT)
1984 Vincent Byrd, Eloy Santa Cruz (DT)
1983 Steve Spurling, Scottsdale Horizon (C)
1982 Richard Bear, Moon Valley (DT)
1981 Frank Rudolph, Scottsdale Coronado (DL)
1980 Tom Briebl, Phoenix Gerard (T)
1979 Dave Wood, Phoenix Washington (DL)
1978 Doug Kellermeyer, Scottsdale Coronado (DL)
1977 Marty Van Gorder, Chandler (C)
1976 Jack Housely, Phoenix Maryvale (DL)
1975 Phil Hedrick, Phoenix Maryvale (T)
1974 Jimmy Moore, Tempe Marcos de Niza (DL)
1973 Jon Abbott, Phoenix Central (T)
1972 Keith Sobraske, Scottsdale Coronado (T)
1971 Mike Dawson, Tucson (T)
1970 Glen Gresham, Phoenix Union (OT)

1969 Roger Kronberg, Tempe (OT)
1968 Fernie Mendoza, Tucson Salpointe (T)
1967 Ken Hatcher, Mesa (C)
1966 Bill Dawson, Tucson (T)
1965 Bill Dawson, Tucson (T) jr.
1964 Richard Griffin, Mesa Westwood (OT)
1963 Curley Culp, Yuma (MG)
1962 (TIE) Gary Swift, Scottsdale Arcadia (T)
..... Bob Bertelsen, Scottsdale Arcadia (T)
1961 Allen Thorn, Phoenix St. Mary's (C)
1960 Ted Lawrence, South Mountain (G)
1959 Dennis Couse, Tucson (T)
1958 Stacey Ostland, South Mountain (C)
1957 Wayne Magnusson, Phoenix West (G)
1956 John Vucichevich, Miami (C)
1955 Sumner Smith, Phoenix Union (T)
1954 Al Carr, Phoenix Union (G)
1953 Dick Nordmeyer, Tucson (DT)
1952 Guy Barrickman, Tucson (T)
1951 Robert Green, Phoenix Carver (T) jr.
1950 Glenn Bowers, Mesa (G)
1949 Phil Russell, Phoenix St. Mary's (T)

BRIAN MURRAY, a 1972 Salpointe H.S. grad, was a three-year starter at Arizona, and projected as a high NFL draft pick, but was killed in a fall at Redington Pass, between the Catalina and Rincon mountains, in 1977.

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Cleveland Dansby. "We lost a couple of close games we had a chance to win. And we were young." In junior Ray Hodge (5-11, 170), South has one of the region's top players. An excellent defensive back, he may be moved to quarterback. His skills are that good. So is his speed (4.5), as is the case with wideout Alvin Smith (5-11, 170, 4.6), another gifted two-way player. Tackle Chris Munoz (6-2, 250) never leaves the field. Junior Raul Mori (5-11, 200) is a promising guard. Andre Beckett (5-9, 165) and Antoine Mitchell (5-10, 190) should start in Dansby's Wing-T backfield. Defensively, Elijah Dixon (6-0, 175) and Troy Hester (5-10, 180) are quick linebackers. With the addition of an undefeated junior varsity, South could make noise in the Metro. But the early season schedule, with Tucson Amphi, Mesa and Highland, is tough.

Seventeen letter winners, an excellent linebacker and a top flight punter return at **Alhambra**, where Frank Lauth saw lots of improvement. "We played Maryvale tough, lost 29-26 to Kingman, 27-21 to South and still finished 5-5," says Lauth, who returns most of his line on both sides of the ball. Two-way player James Smith (6-0, 205) might be the Lions' best player. He's really tough at linebacker. Dawon Matthews (6-3, 205) and Joel Canchola (5-10, 180) join him. Jace Johnson (5-9, 170) looks to start at quarterback and in the secondary. His ace receiver could be Brian Tice (5-10, 160), also a deep back. Juvenal Saldana (6-1, 255) and Steve Sotelo (6-0, 235) join tight end Curtis Robinson (6-2, 225) on the line. Two-way player Marcos Moreno (5-11, 190) is the Lions' punter, and he's a good one. Junior halfback Daryl Johnson (5-8, 165) will compete for a starting spot.

At **Camelback**, the Spartans offense

will operate around halfback James Smith (6-0, 177), one of the regions best athletes. Last year Smith rushed for over 500 yards on a team which won only two games. In the spring he won the high hurdles (14.1) at the state 5A track meet and finished second in the long jump. His best performance is 23-feet, 4-inches. Nate Boone (6-1, 225) was a second team all-region pick on the defensive line. Junior Tim Driscoll (5-10, 150) was an honorable mention pick at cornerback. Several sophomores played, including Steven Moreno (5-10, 234), Victor Salazar (5-11, 220) and Max Wiesinger (6-2, 180).

It's nowhere to go but up at **Central**, where the Bobcats won only one game. In fact, the offense scored only 98 points, while the defense yielded 415. It's a youth movement from top to bottom, with juniors being the key players. Quarterback Zach Sparksman (6-1, 160), halfback Wayne Marshall (5-9, 185) and defensive end Lee Ignac (5-11, 178) have two years to improve. Senior Joe Moreno (6-0, 220) earned all-region votes on the offensive line. The sophomore class also featured 6-3, 310-pound tackle Chris Cockerhern.

Carl Hayden's record mirrored that of Central's. But the Falcons may have farther to go. Tight end Marteen Washington (6-3, 220) appears to be the squad's top prospect. However, running back Rashad Jackson (6-2, 215) is a strong, hard runner, and little Luis Morales (5-8, 140) is one of the region's best kickers.

Improvement is the name of the game at **North**, but Gary Somo returns only five seniors. One, halfback/linebacker Gary Hargus (5-9, 190), played both sides of the ball, but didn't start. If Fred

Wilkerson, Charles Thruston, Sam Phillips and Roger Long, four sophomores who played, return, that will help. But it looks bleak.

5A NORTHWEST REGION

1. Scottsdale Desert Mountain (8-3)
2. Tolleson Westview (6-5)
3. Glendale Ironwood (6-4)
4. Kingman (9-3)
5. Glendale Deer Valley (2-8)
6. Glendale Mountain Ridge (2-8)
7. Phoenix Goldwater (4-6)

Five teams from this new region moved up from 4A, and every team was competitive. **Desert Mountain**, with more than 2,000 students already, should return to the playoffs. Coach Steve Belles has it going. In just their second year, the Wolves were bounced out of the playoffs by Brophy Prep. Eleven starters return, including all-state candidates Greg Santilli (6-0, 215) and Jeremy Girod (6-2, 230). A guard/linebacker, Santilli led the team in tackles (94) and sacks (4). Fullback Girod ran for 890 yards and scored 10 TDs. Brent Bessinger (5-11, 180), one of two excellent defensive backs, intercepted seven passes and recovered three fumbles. The other is Brian Colby (5-10, 175), the Wolves' fastest player who was hurt last year. "If he stays healthy he could be one of the state's best players," claims Belles. Center Chris Tardie (5-9, 190) is a three year starter. Nose guard Adam Suraci (6-0, 190, jr.) made 40 tackles, five fumble recoveries. Junior Matt Petersen (5-10, 190) could see a lot of playing time on both sides of the ball. Although just a sophomore, Chad Christensen (5-11, 165) should be the one leading the quarterback race.

Young **Westview**, one of three

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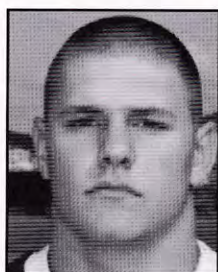
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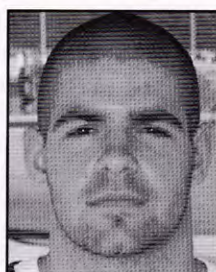
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Northwest clubs to reach the playoffs, bowed out in the first round to Tucson Amphitheater. Twenty-four lettermen return, including 15 starters. Quarterback Rocky King (5-10, 180) runs the show. He completed 121 of 238 passes (51%) for 1,779 yards and 15 touchdowns. But he threw 20 interceptions. All-state defensive back Andrae Thurman (6-0, 175) made up for most of that, intercepting 12 passes in the secondary. A top-notch receiver with 4.6 speed, Thurman caught 39 passes for 613 yards and six scores. He averaged 15.7 yards per grab. Wideout Leonard Jeffers (6-3, 185) caught 28 passes for 409 yards. Safety Aaron Campbell (5-8, 165) picked off two passes and recovered three fumbles. Place kicker Ernie Santa Cruz (6-2, 180) booted five field goals and averaged 39.6 yards per punt. Andy Sniegowski (6-0, 200), Philip Eager (6-3, 200), Russell Fleming (6-0, 190) and Armando Gastelum (6-3, 265) give the Knights beef up front. The latter two are juniors. Two-way Knights like Matt Harris, Chris Chavez, Charlie Sleseman and Drew Sille have played in the playoffs.

An early season upset of Tempe Corona del Sol got **Ironwood's** first year in 5A off to a good start. Chuck Esquivel's forces finished 5-5 with 33 underclassmen on the roster. "We have a lot of good, young players coming up," says Esquivel. "We should be ready this year." At this school the man of the hour is big Marcus Griffith, a 5-11, 230-pound fullback with 4.9 speed. He also plays on the defensive line. With 4.5 speed, two-



Greg Santilli
Desert Mtn.



Jeremy Girod
Desert Mtn.

way back Calen Laos (5-10, 160) is one of the region's quickest players. Nick Beckford (6-1, 175), Jeff Hite (6-1, 170), and quarterback Zach Martin (6-2, 175), a transfer from Peoria, give the Eagles excellent depth in the backfield. Derek Corry (5-11, 167) is a capable wideout. Joel King (6-3, 220), Mike Kirst (6-3, 230), Nick Hilton (6-4, 275) and Garrett Sneed (5-11, 190) anchor the line. Defenders Greg Serrano (5-11, 200) and Dustin Thompson (6-0, 190) guard the flanks. Look for several players from an undefeated JV squad to contribute, including tackles Ryan Morgan (6-4, 220) and Mike Johnson (6-4, 240), along with speedy (4.6) receiver Rick Augustine.

If **Kingman** can find some running backs, look out. The Bulldogs, in their first year of 5A ball, finished 9-3, won the league and lost a 14-9 thriller to St. Mary's in the playoff's first round. Twenty lettermen return, including quarterback Kyle Edwards (5-11, 155), who completed 83 of 138 passes for 1,218 yards and 10 touchdowns. He threw a 95-yard

strike to fullback Stephen Racher. With linebacker Philip Hudgens (5-10, 195), end Dan Robles (6-3, 200) and deep back Ben Garcia (5-9, 170) in the lineup, head coach Ray Smith has three of the better defenders in the region. Brent Bridges (6-2, 210), Ernie Tapie (6-2, 215) and Joe Gilbert (6-4, 275) form a solid front line. Fullback Even Hopper (5-11, 195) and young Dustin Mote (5-11, 175) could start in the backfield.

First year coach Rick Mey welcomes 17 letter winners at **Deer Valley**, where the Skyhawks won two games with 15 underclassmen logging playing time. "We seem solid at the skill positions," says Mey, a former assistant at Centennial. "However, our line on both sides of the ball is a question mark." Junior quarterback Andy Gray (6-2, 190) started every game, and three as a freshman. Three-year starter Collin Hurd (5-8, 170) combined for over 1,000 yards rushing and receiving. Fullback/linebacker Matt Polk (6-1, 235) passes the eye test. He looks like a big time player and runs well for his size. Defensive tackle Mike Reischman (6-4, 315) will probably move to the offensive side of the ball. Linebacker Allen McBride (5-11, 185) picked up several all-region votes.

Young **Mountain Ridge**, coached by Jim Ewan, was competitive in every game except Maryvale and Kingman. "We were better on offense and showed significant improvement on defense," claims Ewan. Two all-region picks return, and that's a first too. Halfback Jose Virgil (5-10, 185) doubles in the secondary. Kevin Callahan



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(5-11, 235), who earned post season honors at center, also starts on the defensive line. These two are the leaders. Russ Trollope (6-0, 205), and juniors Jeff Sharp (6-2, 215) and Matt Hayward (6-0, 200) form a solid linebacking corps. Little Chris Stillman (5-8, 165) doubles at receiver/defensive back. So does senior Kyle Hoffman (5-10, 160).

Goldwater was up and down, playing well at times. The Bulldogs' senior-dominated lineup managed four wins. Biggest loss was all-star Landon Benson, a terrific all-round player who picked up his diploma. Up front the 'Dogs look like giants, with Seth Williams (6-4, 240), Vince Lovatoe (6-0, 260), Joe Whitmer (6-5, 285) and Ray Carrillo (6-0, 245) four big underclassmen on last year's roster. Linebacker Kory Gilliland (5-11, 185), who returned an interception 81 yards for a score in one game, also returns.

5A SOUTHERN REGION

1. Tucson Amphitheater (13-1)
2. Tucson Salpointe (6-4)
3. Tucson Canyon del Oro (4-6)
4. Tucson Sunnyside (4-6)
5. Tucson (5-5)
6. Sierra Vista Buena (3-6)
7. Tucson Pueblo (0-10)

Tucson Amphi was about two minutes shy of perfection. That's when Mesa Mountain View rallied for a 28-24 win in the 5A finals at Sun Devil Stadium. Still, the season which started with a thrilling 22-19 win over Orem, Utah, ended with 13 wins and more thrills than the average fan could stand. Exactly 90% of the Panthers' scoring punch graduated, including all-state back Antrel Bates (2,240 yards, 34 touchdowns, 206 points). Tight end John Felix (10 catches, 191 yards), center Luis Alvarez (6-0, 240), and tackles Marc Gutierrez (6-2, 250) and Rocky Huntsinger (6-0, 225) played in the finals. So did all-city defensive back Terrance Bates (5-10, 185), who will see more duty on offense. Linebackers Chris Wingate (6-1, 210) and Ryan Grise (5-9, 175) look sharp. Head coach Vern Friedli enters the '98 campaign with a 250-91-2 career log. Typically, Amphi's JV unit went unbeaten, so the varsity just reloads.

At **Salpointe**, the Lancers were one game shy of the playoffs, so this year's squad has something to shoot for. Sixteen players return, including two who earned post-season honors: 5-11, 230-pound tackle Jose Figueroa and 5-10, 175-pound halfback Josh Blitt. Coach Pat

Welchert thinks the Lancers will be stronger if lineman Brandon Katz (6-1, 230), receiver Brock Marum (6-3, 190) and defensive back Andy Bratt (6-0, 180) continue to improve. Junior John Porter (6-0, 160), a split end with 4.7 speed, looks good. Size is a weakness. Only four Lancers top the scales at 200-plus pounds.

Canyon del Oro, with four returning all-city picks, looks to rebound from a 4-6 finish. Deep back Kason Creviston (5-11, 160), linebacker Chris Duncan (6-6, 206), halfback Mike Romano (5-11, 202) and defensive end Conner Ohlau (6-1, 203) earned post-season honors. Ricky Risner, Justin Gorkowski and junior Ryan Schroyer look good. The latter can play quarterback, running back or defensive back, and he's just a junior.

Look for **Sunnyside**, with all-league picks B.J. Mills and Frankie Hernandez, to air it out again. Mills passed for 1,415 yards, but only four went for scores. Hernandez caught 66 passes for 926 yards, averaging 14.0 yards per catch. Lineman Skyler Allen (5-11, 210) and junior defensive back Henry Urena (5-9, 150) started. Twenty underclassmen suited up, including 220-pound Aaron Posey, 235-pound George Percy, 240-pound Eric Soto and 260-pound Eli Castillo, only a junior.

Tucson High batted .500 and lost half its roster to graduation, including head coach Todd Mayfield, who moved over to Palo Verde High. Still the Badgers, two wins shy of 500, look strong on the line and return an experi-

enced quarterback. The kicking game, with Tony Caccavale back, is set. Quarterback Fernando Cortez, tackle Gilbert Huerta, guard Chuck Jerz, safety Ryan Kippes, center Wesley McCalley, deep back Jon Purdie and tackle Ernie Hawkinson all started. Hawkinson is a 6-3, 240-pound junior. Defenders Xavier Lopez and Akil Rashad look strong. The Badgers could be the surprise team in Tucson.

Buena, another school which has lost its coach, is trying to regroup after a 3-7 finish. Mike Hayhurst's contract was not renewed, so the Colts took another step backward. Highlight of the season was a 70-19 win over Tucson Pueblo in early November. That was about it. All-league back Sergio Romo, who gained 258 yards in that game, graduated. Two players, tackle Nathan Barnes (6-0, 215) and defensive back Beldon Holmes (6-2, 160), won post-season honors. Linemen like Joshua Wilke (6-2, 252), Will Moore (6-3, 210) and Fred Kelley (6-3, 275) played. The Sierra Vista school has never lacked for size.

Just win a game. That's the motto at **Pueblo**, where the Warriors have lost 28-straight. They could do it this year. Quarterback James Molina (5-11, 175), an all-league kicker, is back, along with running backs Angel Acuna (5-9, 185), Richard Morales (5-10, 165) and Alejandros Arenas (5-8, 150). During that 70-19 loss to Buena, Molina booted a 44-yard field goal and corner back Richard Rodriguez scored on a fumble recovery.

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Glendale Apollo's Nick Mangosing ran over, through and around Skyline foes for 1,351 yards and 30 touchdowns. Here he plows through Flagstaff (Glendale Star photo).

Sabino's Powerhouse Packed Again

It was a break-through season for Mingus Union and an historic individual outing for Tucson Sabino's Nathan Wize. The Cottonwood school, a contender under former coach Bill Rudolph, became a state champion under Bob Young. The Marauders turned the trick against favored Sabino, 23-14 at Arizona State. It was the first undefeated campaign registered by a school from Mingus Mountain since 1950, when historic Jerome High rolled unbeaten through all seven northern Arizona opponents.

Speaking of history, on November 15 the Marauders were involved in the highest scoring football game ever in Arizona, a 78-44 first-round playoff rout of Peoria Centennial. In that game, Centennial junior Mike Strack - one of this year's promising young quarterbacks - passed for 482 yards in a losing cause. He threw 45 times.

But individually, the '97 campaign

belonged to Sabino's Nathan Wize. In 14 games, the 5-8, 180-pound senior (today a freshman at Cincinnati) rewrote the state rushing and scoring records. His 3,101 yards, 51 touchdowns and 306 points were among the nation's best. During a 37-7 win over Bonita Vista in San Diego, Wize gained 161 yards on 20 carries and scored twice. How much difference can a year make? In 1996, Wize gained 457 yards on 43 carries and scored nine TDs for Jeff Scurran's semifinalist club.

Speaking of Scurran, his consistently strong Sabercats are the hottest brand going in 4A football. During the Decade of the '90s, the Purple & Gold have won 85% of their games and two state championships. Last year's win over Bonita Vista was Scurran's fifth out-of-state win in seven tries. Salt Lake Skyline has beaten the 'Cats twice. Scurran's teams have won road games in Connecticut and Ohio. During the

'90s, no school in Tucson has sent more players into college football than Sabino High.

Last year two Valley schools, Glendale Apollo and Scottsdale Chaparral, establish themselves as true state powers. Both return an abundance of talented players to make a run for the playoffs again. In fact, during the '90s, the 4A ranks have sent more players into college football than the state's larger 5A schools.

Since the Flagstaff School District reinstated football at the lower levels, all three high schools have improved on the field. Last year Sinagua, with a junior-dominated squad, recorded a 10-2 season. Between 1981-84, Flag High, coached by Rick Smith, won four consecutive 4A crowns. Today, the city of Flagstaff has two of the state's premier running backs - the Eagles' Mack Jones and Sinagua's Jeremiah Miller, who gained 1,898 yards and scored 33 TDs

as a sophomore. In 4A, it's the year of the runner.

4A KINO REGION

1. Tucson Sabino (13-1)
2. Tucson Flowing Wells (8-3)
3. Marana Mountain View (8-4)
4. Tucson Santa Rita (4-6)
5. Tucson Desert View (0-10)
6. Douglas (5-5)
7. Tucson Catalina (2-8)

Yes, it was another near-perfect season at **Sabino**, where Jeff Scurran's forces posted back-to-back one loss campaigns. Last year's ended in the finals, a 23-14 loss to big, tough Mingus Union. Several key starters and one transfer who could be an impact player are ready to go. Center Joe Price (6-3, 270), deep back Santos Olague (5-10, 200), end Chris Conroy (6-3, 200), guard Aaron Huertas (6-1, 190) and linebacker Collin Blackburn (6-2, 225) were first team all-city picks. Blackburn, who bench presses 450 pounds, is the defensive captain. He recorded 98 solo tackles, 15 behind the line of scrimmage. Kevin Amidan, Zac Cesarz, Jovan Vercel, Dan Perry, Josh Kemberling, Blake Kinart, Tony Stewart, Robert Fox, Blake Kahlich, Jeremy Nausin and Justin Starnes all played and return. The junior varsity lost only once. But the real impact could be at quarterback, where Miles Mason (6-3, 195) steps in. At Rincon, Mason was the whole show, completing 151 passes in 288 attempts (52%) for 2,279 yards and 19 touchdowns on a team which won three games. One receiver, Marcus Erkel, caught 81 passes. Mason threw only seven interceptions.

At **Flowing Wells**, first year coach Pat Nugent was pleased with the commitment the seniors made in making a coaching change go smooth. All the way to the playoffs. The Caballeros posted an 8-3 campaign after falling to Marana Mountain View in the first round. Key defensive players return, including two-way linemen Joe Nilson (6-0, 225) and Dusty Peace (5-10, 210). Pearce, just a junior, led the club in four defensive categories, including tackles for losses. Defensive backs Cameron Leipart (6-0, 165) and Ryan Sandoval (6-1, 190), another junior, played big roles. Quarterback Mike Weber (5-10, 170) and fullback Steve Carpenter (6-0, 215) have two years of varsity play remaining. "Our next step is to take the young players into the season with the confidence the upper classmen showed last year," says Nugent.

CLASS 4A TOP 20 POLL

1. Tucson Sabino
2. Glendale Cactus
3. Scottsdale Chaparral
4. Glendale Apollo
5. Flagstaff Sinagua
6. Peoria
7. Tucson Sahuaro
8. Avondale Agua Fria
9. Peoria Centennial
10. Mingus Union
11. Phoenix Thunderbird
12. Flagstaff
13. Tempe Union
14. Scottsdale Saguaro
15. Phoenix Greenway
16. Tucson Flowing Wells
17. Scottsdale Coronado
18. Marana
19. Prescott
20. Phoenix Moon Valley

The Caballeros might be one year away.

Mountain View was another playoff club, reaching the quarterfinals. Glendale Cactus finished the Lions' season at 8-4. Twenty underclassmen suited up for the Cactus game, and four earned honorable mention all-region votes. Split end Danny Kraft, halfback John Carreon, linebacker Jerry Murillo and tackle Brian Dawson are four key players. Dawson, a 6-2, 218-pound two-way performer, earned all-city recognition.

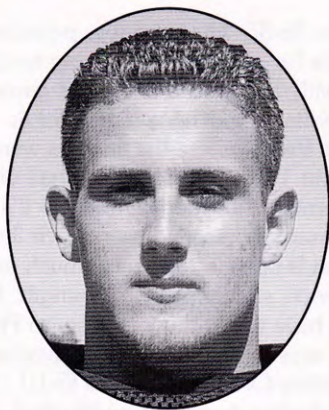
Santa Rita finished with four wins, despite the sometimes heroics of Donnie Bunyon and Tony Manning. Bunyon passed for 1,015 yards and 10 touchdowns. Manning, his ace receiver, caught 30 passes for 417 yards, averaging 13.9 yards per catch. Defensive back Jeff Anderson (6-2, 170) might be the team's best defender. Linebacker Luis Lopez (5-11, 190), guard Jason Campos (5-11, 166), tackle Brian McNiece (6-1, 225) and end Jason Appleby (6-3, 205) all started. Junior Chris Johnson (6-4, 261), a two-way tackle, is the Eagles' kicker. He may have set some kind of a record when he booted a 52-yard extra point to beat

Catalina 36-35. His team was penalized 30 yards for celebrating the tying touchdown with 12 seconds left in the game.

They had a touchdown drought at **Desert View**, where the Jaguars went winless in 10 games. However, half of the 28 returning lettermen started. So it's easy to see why second year coach Jeff Feldman is upbeat. "We have much more experience, size, speed and strength, but we still have to get the job done on Friday night," says the head coach. In quarterback/safety Christian Romero (5-10, 180) and linebacker Antonio Caudillo (6-3, 215), Feldman has two of the better players in the Kino. Romero passed for 427 yards and ran for 210. Defensively, he made 65 tackles and picked off four passes. Caudillo recorded 68 tackles. Halfback Marchello Smith (5-10, 180) gained 728 yards rushing, 243 receiving. The coaching staff is counting on linemen like Omar Estrella (6-4, 290) and Sonny Lopez (6-3, 280) to be a force. The junior class contributes with good size also, including Josh Gutierrez (6-1, 230) and transfer Richard Rodriguez (6-4, 270), a two-way starter at Sahuarita as a sophomore. Wideout Miguel Encinas (5-10, 175) is the Jaguars best deep threat.

After a better than average campaign, **Douglas** is looking for a new coach. Mark Brunenkant is now at Catalina Foothills. The Bulldogs (5-5) lost three critical close games or they would have been in the playoff picture. Three players, cornerback Daniel Ellsworth (5-11, 170), tackle Michael Barrett (6-0, 210) and linebacker Eric Hurtado (5-10, 185) earned post-season honors. On offense, Ellsworth is the Dogs' best receiver and Hurtado a good blocking fullback. David Gonzales (6-0, 226) joins Barrett up front to give the team stability on the line. Depth is a problem. Graduation almost cleaned out the cupboard.

Catalina, which recently put an end to a 28-game losing skid, won two games, skunking Desert View 24-0 and 3A Rio Rico 42-24. "We played much better last year," claims head coach Chuck McCollum, whose team lost five games in the fourth quarter. "We expect this to be our best team in years." With 6-2, 215-pound Pablo Hernandez in the backfield, McCollum has one of the city's best backs. During a 36-35 loss to Santa Rita, Hernandez carried the ball 31 times and scored four times, one an 80-yard sprint. Frank Coronado (6-0, 200), a tight end who doubles at linebacker, is another good one. In the past, size and depth has been a problem, but that looks improved



NICK MANGOSING
All-State Fullback

APOLLO HIGH SCHOOL HAWKS



BEN BOWLEN
All-Region Lineman

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1998 SCHEDULE:

Head Coach
Gregg Parrish

Sept. 4 at Flagstaff
Sept. 11 vs Prescott
Sept. 18 at Saguaro
Sept. 25 vs Washington
*Oct. 2 vs Buckeye
*Oct. 9 at Thunderbird
*Oct. 16 vs Sunnyslope
*Oct. 23 vs Greenway
*Oct. 30 at Glendale
*Nov. 6 at Lake Havasu

**Skyline Region games*

1997 SKYLINE CHAMPIONS (11-1)

HAWKS 27, Flagstaff 17
HAWKS 44, Prescott 0
HAWKS 30, Saguaro 15
HAWKS 35, Washington 10
HAWKS 49, Lake Havasu 12
HAWKS 70, Thunderbird 27
HAWKS 48, Sunnyslope 14
HAWKS 42, Greenway 6
HAWKS 48, Glendale 0
HAWKS 49, Buckeye 6

Playoffs:

HAWKS 51, Cortez 28
HAWKS 26, Mingus Union 38

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with Steve Graves (6-3, 200), Rye Corral (6-2, 260), Jake Stark (6-1, 200) and Mikel Lewis (6-5, 215) in the starting lineup. Graves and Lewis are juniors. Tim Richner is a speedy little receiver.

4A SKYLINE REGION

1. Glendale Apollo (11-1)
2. Phoenix Thunderbird (6-4)
3. Sunnyslope (6-4)
4. Lake Havasu (4-6)
5. Buckeye (1-9)
6. Glendale (0-10)

Apollo looks too strong for the pack again. The Hawks lost only once and Gregg Parrish returns a lineup that looks just as awesome - at least on paper - and could match last year's mark. Biggest threat is 255-pound fullback Nick Mangosing, a real bulldozer. "Big Nick" rushed for 1,351 yards on 165 carries (8.2) and scored 30 touchdowns. He also caught 25 passes for 556 yards. The lightest man on the line looks to be 225-pound guard Ben Bowlen, as Parrish looks to start Eric Oless (6-3, 230), Martin Lopez (6-6, 270) and Aaron Monnet (5-10, 230) in the trenches. Bowlen, a two-year all-region pick, recorded 79 tackles and eight quarterback sacks. Wingback Derrek Shank (5-11, 165) managed 617 yards on 55 carries. Tight end Joey Reiman (6-0, 190) averaged 25.6 yards per catch. Last year's juggernaut, which lost to Mingus Union in the quarterfinals, ground out 5,553 yards and scored 519 points. "If we can find a quarterback we should be good again," warns Parrish. "We will be big and fast."

Thunderbird really turned it around, going from 1-9 to 6-4. Coach Gary Mauldin's club lost two games by a combined three points. The skill positions look strong, especially at quarterback and tight end. Last year Nate Van Peursem (6-2, 190) completed 122 of 241 passes (51%) for 2,031 yards and 21 TDs. Tight end Jason Johnson (6-6, 210), who runs so well he plays in the secondary, caught 30 passes for 502 yards and six scores. Flanker Chris Lundberg (5-8, 150) averaged 19.0 yards per catch. He's also the team's kicker. Kyle Lane (6-2, 250) landed post season votes at defensive line. He's one of the strongest in the league. Two-way players Andy Bohaty, Jacob Hughes and Kierre Dumas add senior leadership. Steve Custer, Marcus Parker, Sean Bowman and Chris Culda give the junior class clout.

It was a good year for **Sunnyslope**. After going 0-19-1 the previous two

Centennial quarterback airs it out at 482 yards

During a 78-44 loss to Mingus Union in the first round of the 4A state playoffs, Centennial junior Mike Strack passed for a record 482 yards and three touchdowns during the highest scoring football game in Arizona history. Below are the state's all-time single game passing leaders:

- 482 - Mike Strack, Peoria Centennial vs Mingus Union, 1997(jr)
- 479 - Marty Rincon, Tolleson Westview vs Prescott, 1993
- 452 - Mike Bitsule, Ganado vs Chinle, 1995 (jr)
- 449 - Jarrett Huma, Hopi vs Sanders Valley, 1988 (so)
- 440 - Jarrett Huma, Hopi vs Bagdad, 1988 (so)
- 435 - Gentry Gillespie, Round Valley vs Holbrook, 1991
- 426 - Brad Chilcote, Tucson Sahuaro vs Tucson Amphitheater, 1985
- 425 - Dennis Bene, Tucson Salpointe vs Tucson Sahuaro, 1983
- 424 - Rodney Peete, Tucson Sahuaro vs Tucson Amphitheater, 1982 (jr)
- 404 - Mike Makings, Scottsdale vs Mesa, 1971
- 403 - Rick Johnson, Paradise Valley vs Phoenix Sunnyslope, 1983
- 402 - Richard Lucero, South Mountain vs Phoenix Trevor Browne, 1997
- 399 - Aaron Santini, Tucson Santa Rita vs Tucson Amphitheater, 1988 (jr)
- 395 - Jonathan Beasley, Glendale Cactus vs Peoria, 1994 (jr)

years, Dallas Hickman watched his Vikings finish 6-4, good enough for third in the region. "I believe we have the potential to be a playoff team," claims Hickman. They may be one year away, since most of the strength resides in the junior class. Young R.C. Matock (6-1, 170) looks to start at quarterback. Adam Harness (5-11, 180) averaged 6.2 yards per carry and scored nine TDs. Linebacker Randy Crosby (5-8, 180), another junior, assisted with 106 tackles and recovered five fumbles. Guard Todd Gladden (6-0, 220) and tackle Todd Schlinglof (5-10, 205) started. Two-way players Jeremy Haren, Robert Peay, Armond Woodson and James Isbell are game tested. Size and depth still loom as a problem.

A senior-dominated **Lake Havasu** club managed just four wins, but two juniors, defensive back Drew Matter (5-8, 147) and wideout Dan Cole (6-0, 164) earned all-league votes. Matter could start at quarterback. Fullback Jason Ward (5-10, 196) and tackle Jason Sayre (6-1, 205) look to be three-year varsity players. Still, experience is a problem. Fifteen underclassmen suited up but only five started.

Buckeye is looking for a few more wins and a new coach. The Hawks won only once, edging Glendale 15-7. League champ Apollo beat them 49-6. Still, a lot of juniors and two key sophomores played. One, halfback Todd McCrae (5-8,

195), started. McCrae and junior guard Mike McLaughlin (5-9, 180) picked up several all-region votes.

It was a tough season for **Glendale**, one of only three 4A schools to go winless. Coach John Croteau and his staff look for improvement in all aspects of the game, especially on the line. Two-way tackle Cameron Nickerson (6-2, 250) is the driving force. Tackle Brandon Parvin (6-2, 230) was an honorable mention all-region pick. So was quarterback Ron Huff (6-2, 190), an improved signal caller. Halfback Jeremiah Trotter (5-8, 160) is the quickest of a thin junior class. Eric Blake (5-10, 170) is a good receiver. Big Anthony Chapman (6-4, 260) was switched from tight end to fullback. He's a load. Victor Morales (5-10, 225) is the school's best linebacker.

4A DESERT SKY REGION

1. Phoenix Greenway (4-6)
2. Prescott (4-6)
3. Phoenix Moon Valley (6-4)
4. Phoenix Cortez (9-2)
5. Phoenix Washington (3-7)
6. Bradshaw Mountain (3-7)
7. Glendale Independence (0-10)

If things go according to plan, **Greenway** will work its way back to the top. The Demons hope to dethrone Cortez as region champs. They appear to have the horses to do so. Coach Mike Brown returns three of the league's best

players in tailback John Armijo (5-9, 175), receiver Jimmy Conner (5-10, 150) and tackle Omar Rabadi (6-4, 278). Both Conner and Rabadi were all-region picks. Defensive back Colby Cordova (5-9, 155) was honorable mention. Armijo rushed for 1,248 yards and 12 touchdowns. He gained 1,204 two years ago. Conner caught 31 passes for 742 yards and four TDs. Justin Echols (6-4, 180) returns at quarterback. Look for him to improve on 63 of 130 (48%) for 1,197 yards and seven strikes. Wideout Chris Williams (6-0, 175) caught 14 passes for 291 yards. Matt Oliver (6-1, 170) is another capable receiver. Center Jim Danielek (6-1, 210) starts the show. Guards Mike Kelso (6-0, 175) and Tim Wilson (6-1, 210, jr.) flank him. Nate Davis (6-4, 185) doubles at tight end/linebacker. The Demons open against Scottsdale Arcadia.

It was real close at **Prescott**. The 4-6 Badgers lost two close games. Had they won them, they would have been league champs. Coach Lou Beneitone returns 22 players, including quarterback Layne Campbell (6-2, 210), whose tough enough to play linebacker, and deep back Matt Rice (6-0, 160). Rice, who can play quarterback if called upon, blocked five kicks. Jared Stone (5-11, 195) was an honorable mention all-region lineman. Classmates Sam McGee (5-11, 175) and Matt Berry (6-2, 245), along with juniors Cody Zandt (6-5, 290) and Nate Ullyot (6-1, 250), join Stone on the Badgers' line. Adam Roberts (6-3, 205) is a two-way end. Adam Pehl (5-8, 210) plays fullback and linebacker. "For a first year coach, I was pleased with the changes we made, and the support of the parents and players," adds Beneitone.

Moon Valley looks to improve, which means they'll be right in the thick of the playoff race. Coach John Burke lost his big gun, running back Chasada Martin (Northwestern), but returns seven who earned post season recognition. Two of the better players come from the junior class, linebacker Matt Graves (6-0, 200) and down lineman James Odishoo (6-1, 190). In fact, with Graves, Jeff Davis, Chris Richardson and Shawn Patterson in the lineup, MV might have the best collection of linebackers in the league. The offensive line looks stout: Steve Gomez (6-4, 265), Brad Dalee (6-3, 270), Matt Schwander (6-3, 300), Jeremy Rose (6-3, 240) and Dustin Lange (6-0, 240). The Rockets' field general is Brent Hodges (5-10, 170), a senior who batted .386 last spring for a baseball team which won 30 games. Sophomore Tony Smith (5-10,



N. Van Peursem
Thunderbird



R. Jay Norwood
Tempe

160) is a promising running back.

It was a great year for **Cortez**. The Colts, coached by former alum Rob Roberson, won the region title and set a school record for points in a season (456). Six of nine wins came with scores like 42-0, 62-7, 42-6, 48-0, 70-6 and 72-0. In halfback Travis Gammage (5-11, 185, 4.5), Roberson returns one of the regions best backs. In 10 regular season games Gammage gained 1,196 yards on 141 carries (8.5) and scored 15 touchdowns - on a team which passed for 3,000 yards. Senior Dustin Rodosta (6-1, 215) is the Colts' fullback. Junior Sherome Weatherspoon (6-2, 180) will back up Gammage. Defensively, linebacker Nick Sinoris (6-2, 210) is the leader. Two-way linemen Alvin Hawks (6-4, 255), Albert Abril (6-0, 250), James Krull (6-1, 260), Adrian Jaramillo (5-10, 205) and Andy Heikila (6-4, 226) should all start. Heikila is just a junior. "We should have another good season if we can find a replacement at quarterback," warns Roberson. The likely candidate is Dennis Gile, a 6-0, 175-pound senior. Trevor Thompson, David O'Hara and Tom Bice form the receiving corps.

Washington played a tough schedule, but a lack of depth resulted in a 3-7 finish. "We didn't fault the kids' effort," says coach Steve Chisman. "They played hard and were in every game." Still, the strength is in the junior class, where three of the best linebackers in the region reside: Sam Jacobs (5-10, 195), Cameron Norwood (6-2, 205) and Pat Allen (5-11, 170). Offensively, seniors Derek Stark (6-2, 210) and Drew Johnson (6-2, 210) are book-end tackles. Juniors Doug Rush (6-2, 215) and Dan Crellin (5-10, 155) will compete at quarterback. If Crellin gets the nod look for Rash at linebacker. Ryan Giboney (6-4, 205) makes for a good target at tight end. Keith Brewer (5-9, 175) looks to start at halfback. Transfers Marlon and Daniel Thornburg could start in the secondary.

Bradshaw Mountain went with

youth and it showed. The Bears won just three games, but avoided the cellar by beating Independence. By November, the varsity roster numbered less than 20 players. At one time or another, underclassmen started at almost every key position. Quarterback Bill Eckle (6-5, 205), guard Joe Rosenblatt (6-2, 210), safety Brad Braudrick (6-3, 185), fullback Chris Delquioke (6-1, 225), and tackles Eric Oxborrow (6-1, 215) and Sean Gatke (6-1, 270) were good examples. Eckle will be a four-year varsity player.

First-year coach Kelly Epley has nowhere to go but up at **Independence**. The Patriots were winless and gave up 436 points. Two players, quarterback Gabriel Flores (5-10, 185) and tight end/linebacker Norman Wellington (6-4, 225) picked up a few all-region votes. For whatever reason, size is no problem on this side of town. Joining Flores and Wellington in Epley's Wing-T offense is center Paul Bardo (6-0, 240), guards Andy Mestas (5-8, 220) and Mike Stuckey (6-1, 215), and tackles Jeremy McDonald (6-3, 270) and Nick LaBelle (6-3, 270). Art DeLaTore (6-1, 225) could start at tight end. Junior Danny Jarramillo (6-2, 200) will challenge at quarterback and play linebacker. He logged playing time as a sophomore. The real problem is depth. Each player will be asked to go both ways.

4A EAST SKY REGION

1. Scottsdale Chaparral (12-1)
2. Tempe Union (6-4-1)
3. Scottsdale Saguaro (6-5)
4. Scottsdale Coronado (6-5)
5. Apache Junction (4-6)
6. Scottsdale Arcadia (1-9)

They're optimistic again at **Chaparral**, where the Firebirds went 12-1 and reached the semifinals. "We are a little thin due to graduation," claims head coach Ron Estabrook. "But we have a core of players who are returning starters." Halfback Josh Griffin (5-10, 180) and linebacker Austin Sendlein (6-3, 230) are two of the best juniors in Scottsdale. Griffin ran for 1,066 yards on 115 carries (9.3) and scored 24 touchdowns - two on kick returns. Sendlein recorded 64 tackles. So did senior Mike Reisner (5-10, 210). Younger brother Brad Reisner (5-10, 210) made 50 tackles, two sacks and recovered three fumbles. Safety Zach Bies (6-2, 210) intercepted five passes. Center Dan Kaufmann (6-3, 260), cornerback Mike Camello (6-0, 185), tackle Ellie Davis (6-2, 220) and

receiver John Hogue (6-0, 175) all started. Hogue averaged 13.2 yards per catch. Linebacker Matt Molina (6-3, 215), a transfer from Georgia, is an early University of Arizona signee.

With just three returning starters from a state championship club, **Tempe** went 6-4-1 and played in the post-season again. Coach Tim McBurney's forces played Tucson Sahuaro tough, falling 20-19 in the last 37 seconds. This time around the Buffaloes return 11 starters. Watch out. Defense is the name of the game and it starts with 6-5, 255-pound all-state junior Jared Wolfgramm. One of the city's bright young prospects, he blocked five passes, forced two fumbles, recovered two, made four QB sacks and helped out on 72 tackles. The other defensive end, Marcus DeLuna, sacked the quarterback five times. Mix junior David Torrez (5-10, 220) in their with them and the Buffs' have a solid defensive front. The offense centers around R. Jay Norwood (5-6, 150), a mini-back whose bite is every bit as big as his bark. Last year he gained 1,439 yards on 196 carries (7.3) and scored 23 touchdowns. Quarterback Jordan Sermon (6-2, 180) completed less than 50% of his passes, but hit for 1,139 yards and seven scores. He was intercepted eight times. Receiver Willie Haefs (6-2, 180) caught 39 passes for 670 yards and four TDs. Stephen Thompson handles all the team's kicking.

After a one year absence, **Saguaro** visited the playoffs again. Coach Walt Sword's forces look thin, facing another rebuilding year. Only nine lettermen return. One, 6-foot, 6-inch, 220-pound tackle Andrew Seiferth, is a three year varsity player. He will start on both sides of the ball. In fact, everybody will, including quarterback Joe Keierleber (6-3, 190), who will see action at linebacker. End Josh Rebholz (6-5, 240), linebacker Nolan Woolfolk (5-10, 180), linebacker Jesse Greer (6-1, 205) and wideout Pat Thomas (6-2, 180) can be seen all over the field.

Coronado is making a coaching change, as veteran Joe Corte steps down after 16 years at the helm. His 142 wins is a city record in Scottsdale. Corte's last game was a 42-27 loss to Cactus in the playoff's first round. Fifteen underclassmen saw action, including one freshman, 6-2, 250-pound John Stimbert. Four picked up votes on the all-city team: quarterback James O'Connor (6-0, 175), receiver J.D. Durbin (6-0, 175), guard Mike Renfro (6-1, 200) and tackle Aldo Valenzuela (5-10, 215). Durbin, just a

junior, caught 28 passes for 703 yards and six touchdowns. His 25.1 yards per catch was Scottsdale's best. He made 37 tackles and intercepted seven passes as a defensive back. Surprisingly the Dons, with very little depth, might be one of the region's biggest teams physically.

A much improved **Apache Junction** won four games and should at least match that again. Coach Steve Neal's club returns 14 starters - most in the region - with improved speed and line play. Tailback Bobby Adams (6-0, 165) gained 906 yards and scored six times. Quarterback Kyle Anderson (5-11, 165) passed for 938 yards. Linebacker Mike Lonero (5-8, 185), the team's leading defender, made 89 tackles in nine games. The Prospectors look solid up front with center Cooter Debow (6-0, 200) flanked by linemen James Earles (6-6, 280) and Rob Kingman (5-11, 260). Junior Jason Perry (6-3, 196) is a promising tight end.

Former assistant Mark Lescoe takes over the head job at **Arcadia**, which returns 13 starters, eight on offense. The big question is quarterback, since all-city selection Matt Cooley picked up his diploma. Wide receiver Robert Milligan (6-3, 185) combined with Mitch Christensen (6-1, 197) to be Cooley's favorite targets. Milligan hauled in 40 passes for 708 yards. Center Chris Lundin (6-2, 230) anchors the Titans' line which includes experienced players like John Harvey (6-5, 260) and Cody Goodell (6-3, 260). Junior Bill McCasland (6-1, 190) is an up-and-coming two-way player.

4A WEST VALLEY REGION

1. Glendale Cactus (10-2-1)
2. Peoria (6-2-2)
3. Agua Fria (4-6)
4. Peoria Centennial (5-4-2)
5. Tolleson (6-4-1)
6. Bullhead City Mohave (3-7)
7. Sunrise Mountain (JV)

It's easy to see why Larry Fetkenhier is all smiles at **Cactus**. His young Cobras, with 22 underclassmen in the lineup, won 10 games and reached the state semifinals. Tucson Sabino ended the ride at 42-22. "We achieved beyond expectations," says the head coach. "We were really young, and have a chance to be real good again." In the Cactus' offense the game starts at quarterback. Last year Jon Stoner (6-2, 180) was 109 of 216 (50%) for 1,783 yards and 16 touchdowns - as a sophomore. Split end Matt Allen (6-1, 170) caught 53 passes for 1,012 yards (19.1) and 12 scores. Center Adrian

Zvirgzdins (6-3, 268), like Allen and Stoner, has two years of varsity play remaining. Linebacker Norman Boebert (6-5, 248) was an all-region pick. So was place kicker Sean Higuchi (5-9, 184). Size-wise, the Cobras' offensive front resembles a college team: Danny Lewis (6-6, 252), Dave Schaefer (6-3, 299), Matt Villegas (6-2, 287) and Brian Harman (6-1, 244). Defensively, Pat Donnellan (6-2, 228) and Jared Garrison (6-2, 225) anchor the front line. Junior Dustin Randolph (6-2, 231) is a promising linebacker. Deep back Bobby Raskey, with 4.5 speed, is the fastest Cobra in camp.

Critical injuries to three **Peoria** starters created some problems, and the loss of all-state back Kyran Jones for the last two games added to the mix. It resulted in a 6-2-2 finish. But the Panthers, with 25 returning players, should bounce back. In fact, only twice in the last 12 years has Doug Clapp's teams failed to win seven or more games. This year linebacker Tony Brunetti (6-0, 202) is the marquee player, but Clapp sees several no-name players emerging as big time performers. Brunetti, an intense player, has a chance to break all the school's defensive records set by linebackers. That's saying a lot. Peoria plays lots of kids. Very few go both ways. Still, the strength in '98 resides in the junior class. Split end John Sabari (6-1, 185) has great hands and is a good blocker. Junior safety Andrew Garcia (6-1, 170) started as a sophomore. Junior Brandon Peterson (6-1, 223) starts at center. Junior Alex Goreski (5-8, 215) is a strong, quick guard. Senior Kevin Loscheider (5-10, 155) and junior Doug Hall (6-3, 185) will compete at quarterback. Kicker Mike Marquez (6-1, 215), another junior, has a major league leg. Tight end Brian Schroeder (5-11, 215) is a good blocker. As always, Peoria fields big teams, with Jose Lopez (6-1, 235), Wes Graham (6-0, 230), Todd Kessler (6-4, 210), Robby Byrne (6-4, 205) and Brad Krutzenberg (6-7, 215) in the big mold.

Agua Fria was talented but young and it showed in the big games. "This year we have a strong senior class, with a very talented sophomore-to-be," claims Mickey Bell. The best among the veteran class includes running back and kick returner Robert Ramirez (5-9, 185), tackle Amos Walker (5-10, 260), tackle Alan Parker (6-5, 240), and linebacker Gabe Hernandez (5-11, 225). Each earned all-region acclaim. Walker, Parker and Hernandez are three year lettermen. The

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bright young prospect is sprint sensation Lamar Baker (5-10, 180, 4.5), an outstanding two-way back. He landed all-region votes in the secondary as a freshman. Quarterback Nick Taylor, receiver Jason Wood, halfback Keith Drunasky, fullback Austin Scott, tight end Josh McHenry and guard Dion Waddell are senior starters.

It was a wild ride at **Centennial High**. Coach Richard Taylor's Coyotes lost the region championship game to Cactus, 16-15, then were blown away in the first round of the 4A dance by Mingus Union, 78-44. In that shootout - the highest scoring game in Arizona history - quarterback Mike Strack (6-4, 188) was 16 of 45 for 482 yards and three scores (see chart). The game produced 1,167 yards total offense. On the season, Strack was 130 of 272 (48%) for 2,348 yards, 16 touchdowns and 12 interceptions. "He's getting more attention from big time schools than Jon Clanton (Nebraska) did this time last year," says his head coach. Senior Justin Naylor (5-10, 165) is one of four returning receivers. He averaged 14.8 yards per catch. Junior Ryan Dempsey (5-11, 235) was an all-region pick at center. Defensive end Nathan Clark (6-2, 195) and tackle Rollie Rawlings (6-2, 270) are two more key players. Little halfback Jimmy Labita (5-8, 153) averaged 5.4 yards per carry as a sophomore. Eddie Knipp (5-9, 180) averaged 3.9. Neither started. Tackle Alfredo Peralta (6-0, 230), wideout Mark Stratton (5-9, 170) and linebacker Scott Krumpos (5-10, 200) should contribute a lot. Krumpos is just a junior.

Tolleson was the fourth West Valley school to visit the playoffs. Unfortunately for the Wolverines they met Tucson Sabino in the first round. Coach Dan Widmaier has to replace his quarterback and receivers, but faces no problem at running back. DaRon Gilbert (6-0, 210) and James Harris (6-0, 200) are back. These two workhorses combined for 786 yards on a pass-oriented team. Gilbert is an excellent defensive end and Harris starts at free safety. Dajuan Hill (5-10, 195) is the strong safety. Center Jerry Magdaleno (5-10, 250), tight end Uzoma Okoroh (6-3, 220), tackle Dan Molina (6-3, 245) and guard Jose Figueroa (5-8, 215) block for the ground game. Junior Ty Solie (6-1, 200) looks to start at quarterback.

Defensively, if Al Portillo, T.J. Bell, Dan Blake, Jim Cassrez, Marshawn Hayes and Joe Ortiz play well, the Wolverines are set.

At **Mohave** the season started with a bang but ended with a thud. "We had no senior leadership," says first year coach



Brad Darr
Flagstaff



Ron Jerumbo
Flagstaff

Mark Ruckle. This year it's a youth movement, with little experience. Only one returning player, linebacker Mike Messina (5-9, 185), earned post season honors. He can also play fullback. Senior Kyle Reed (6-0, 175), the Thunderbirds' quarterback, is also the punter. Two-way end Hector Santa Cruz (6-1, 190) handles the place kicking. Tight end/linebacker Dustin Lash (6-2, 200) and tackle Robert Ensley (6-2, 285) are quality two-way players. Wideout Brandon Racheff (6-0, 165), with 4.66 speed, is the Birds' fastest receiver. Depth and team speed look to be a weakness.

Finally, after two seasons, **Sunrise Mountain** is fielding a varsity. It will be a rough road early, since the Mustangs have no seniors. Coach Bill Gahn, 113-67-6 at Prescott, has watched his underclassmen squads post 7-1 and 8-0 seasons. They'll be ready in one year. For now, they'll go with the likes of quarterback Bert Auzini, backs Dustin Phillips and Mike Batz, and receivers Justin Andreen and Aaron Walls at key skill positions. Walls is a 6-3, 205-pound tight end. Mark Norman, Paul Popoff and Josh Cameron are young linemen who already tip the scales at 200-plus pounds.

4A GRAND CANYON REGION

1. Flagstaff Sinagua (10-2)
2. Mingus Union (13-0-1)
3. Flagstaff (3-7)
4. Flagstaff Coconino (5-5)
5. Page (2-8)
6. Chinle (1-9)

For the first time in 13 years the 4A state champion came out of this region. The preseason favorite is **Sinagua**, with 22 returning players. The best group of athletes in the school's young history produced a 10-2 season, averaging 41 points per game along the way. The junior varsity went 7-1-1. Surprisingly, the varsity's big gun was a sophomore, running back Jeremiah Miller (6-0, 178). He gained

1,898 yards and scored 33 touchdowns. Highly honored underclassmen included tackle Jonah Bense (6-3, 295), linebacker Larry Penrose (6-1, 215), halfback Don Reid (5-10, 170) and tackle Juan Ulibarri (6-0, 240). Bense helped on 48 tackles - four for losses. Transfer Justin Bryan (6-2, 180) could start at quarterback. Justin Byrd (6-3, 180) is a speedy wide receiver. Coach Ed Campos looks for lots of playing time from Ryan Robinson, David Shafer, Ryan Watkins, Joe Gibbs, Jeremy Pennington, Jarod Smith, Jason Shafor and Jay Gallegos. "We could be improved," says Campos. "We had great line play. If our defense improves we could win 10 games again."

Without a doubt, **Mingus Union** was the surprise school in the state. The storybook season ended with a 23-14 win over Tucson Sabino at the state finals in Tempe. This edition looks young, with only 10 players returning. But several were starters, and one, tackle Nick Johnson (6-8, 308), is a "big time" recruit. Speedy little Matt Earls (5-8, 160) saw time in the backfield (two TDs) but more in the secondary. Defensive tackle Nick Travers (5-10, 290) recorded 65 tackles, including two QB sacks. Linebacker Bryan Allen (6-3, 188) played great in the playoffs. Players like running back Austin French, tackle Nick Louvar, linebacker Brad Bowers and quarterback Bryan Lerum must step to the front. Watch for junior Robert Stokes to play a key role in the Marauders' running game.

Flagstaff, absent from the playoff picture for four years, could be back in the hunt. If they survive September. The Eagles again play Apollo, Chaparral, Tucson Sabino, Scottsdale Saguro and Moon Valley in non-league conflicts. Always strong skill-wise, defense will be the key ingredient. Last year Craig Holland's squad averaged 30 points per game, but gave up a 74-year high 31 each night. Defensively, they return two-time all-region cornerback Ben Johnson (5-11, 175, 4.6), a good college prospect. Jake Biggerstaff and Bryce Solberg join him in the secondary. Solberg is the Eagles' all-region kicker. He booted a 57-yard field goal against Apollo in Glendale, and was 34/35 on extra points. Defensive end Ryan Ainsworth (6-3, 198) and tackles John Deering (6-1, 201) and Nick Kwiatkowski (6-4, 220) comprise the front. Linebackers Jason Sitter, Brad Darr and Mack Jones give the Eagles terrific speed. Jones, at 5-10, 205, will lead the way at tailback. He totaled 2,000 yards rushing and receiving, includ-



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ing 239 and five TDs during a 49-33 win over Scottsdale Saguaro. Junior Ron Jerumbo (5-10, 170) could see his first varsity start at quarterback.

Coconino also looks better. Last year only five seniors started. With 20 letter winners back, George Moate's Panthers could be in the hunt. Running back Dennis Clinger (5-8, 180) ran for over 700 yards, averaging 5.4 per tote. Sophomore Corrin Johns (6-1, 180) started several varsity games as a freshman. Quarterback Casey Gonzales (5-10, 180) completed 50% of his passes. But this time around "defense" is the name of the game. Linebackers Adrian Sedillo (5-10, 185) and Jeff Despain (5-10, 180) had over 70 tackles each. End Lincoln Stalnaker (6-2, 195) and down lineman Leander Begay (6-1, 220) were all-region picks. There's better than average size in the pit, with Mark Lee (6-3, 270), Shawn Sullivan (6-3, 265), Carlyle Begay (6-1, 205), Mark Mageary (6-0, 220), Dusty Tissaw (6-1, 220) and Roger Neville (6-3, 200) penciled in as starters.

At **Page** an extremely young team resulted in a 2-8 finish. Eight sophomores played. With 20 experienced players returning it should get a little better. Still, head coach Mike Proctor is faced with a

senior-thin lineup. But two who should carry their weight are linebacker Mitch Crane (6-1, 185) and flanker Val Whitehorse (6-0, 175). Crane assisted in 63 tackles. Whitehorse caught 31 passes. Backup quarterback Jeremy Bohn (6-2, 175) played mostly at safety. Now he's in charge of the offense. Junior halfback Brian Varner (5-8, 165) managed 507 yards on 115 carries. Split end Philip Napolitan (6-1, 165) averaged 13.2 yards per reception. Seniors Trevor Akkerman (6-3, 205) and Grant Bigman (6-1, 225) gained experience on the line and look to have a good year.

At **Chinle**, Gary LaFrance's out-manned players never gave up. "We'll play harder this time," says the Wildcats coach. "We just don't have the numbers in football." The whole season rides with four key seniors: flanker Anthony Sanford (6-0, 150), quarterback Daryl Dedman (5-10, 150), halfback Mike Echikuwoke (6-0, 150) and fullback Calvin Dominguez (6-0, 180). That's Chinle's starting backfield. It's also their secondary. The 'Cats got creamed in the line.

4A SONORAN REGION

1. Tucson Sahuaro (7-5)
2. Marana (6-4)

3. Nogales (10-2)
4. Catalina Foothills (4-6)
5. Tucson Cholla (4-6)
6. Tucson Palo Verde (3-7)
7. Tucson Rincon (3-7)

Sahuaro played a terrific September schedule, facing Sabino, Glendale Cactus, Tucson Amphi and Newbury Park, California. It helped mold a 7-5 playoff club with 19 underclassmen contributing. First year coach Nemer Hassey, the Cougars' defensive coordinator, takes over. With a sophomore quarterback at the controls, Sahuaro reached the quarterfinals. That young field general, 6-1, 170-pound Reggie Robertson, gave Sabino a scare in a 49-35 loss (18 of 31 for 236 yards and five TDs). He performed well out of town too, passing for 141 yards with no interceptions in a 32-28 loss to Newbury Park. On the season, Robertson was 128 of 241 (53%) for 2,095 yards and 25 TDs. This year, junior Calvin Dacus (6-1, 180) looks like his main target. Sahuaro's improved defense revolves around linebackers Adam Sweeney (6-2, 205) and Lanny Daniels (5-10, 215), with safety Jarad Preston (6-0, 180) the quickest Cougar in camp. Up front, Charles Easterling (6-2,

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270), Darren Hicks (6-1, 215) and Allen Bynum (6-2, 275) are the key players. Another receiver, senior Joe Sullivan, is the team's kicker. He's a good one. Jayson Myers, Mike Lucas and Brandon McAlister are potential starters. "If some new players step in at the vacancies we could be pretty competitive," says Hassey. "But we have a real tough schedule again."

Look for **Marana** to reappear in the state-wide polls. Coach Marty Honea's Tigers are vastly improved. All four of their losses were to playoff teams. Three were close, winnable games. If they win them this year they're right in the hunt. Honea has two of the top players in the Sonoran, halfback Clay Hardt (6-1, 170) and lineman Corey Brown (6-0, 230). Hardt averaged 8.7 yards per carry, gaining 935 yards in the process. Safety Noah Brown (5-7, 170), center/defensive end Daryl Finfrock (5-11, 200), line-backer Sam Rodriguez (5-9, 200) and junior tackle Frank Ulibarri (6-1, 270) were honorable mention all-region picks. Receiver Roger Jernigan, guard Ricky Cano and quarterback Rion Westfall look to start. Westfall is just a junior. Big Jason Flood, a 6-6, 225-pound two-way end, could be an impact player. But he hasn't played in three years.

One of the best teams in **Nogales** history won 10 games and lasted two weeks

into post season play. In the first ever home playoff game, the senior-dominated squad beat Flagstaff Sinagua 52-36. Coach Jim Paul will rebuild around two all-region picks, tackle Humberto Cruz (6-3, 250) and two-way end Ricky Paco (6-3, 220). Quarterback Ivan Silva (5-10, 175) has big shoes to fill. Last year's starter, Roger Fontes, passed for 2,709 yards. Guard Abe Santillanez (5-10, 230) and tackle Fabian Madril (6-5, 240) logged playing time on the offensive line. Junior flanker Eddie Rosas (5-11, 160) is the Apaches' new deep threat. Edgar Verdugo, Mario Rodriguez, Freddie Figueroa, Carlos Lopez and Tim Valenzuela are scheduled to start on defense. Valenzuela is a 300-pound nose guard.

Former Douglas coach Mark Brunenkant brings his Wing-T offense to **Catalina Foothills**, which improved from 0-10 to 5-5. Eleven players with varsity experience return. The Falcons have one of the city's biggest lines, but depth and team speed is a concern. Senior tackle Karson Lown (6-4, 320) will go both ways. Wide bodies Sean Tudor (6-0, 255), Colter Lockhart (6-1, 225) and Dan Allen (6-3, 270) can play. The junior class will supply the skill players: halfback Jon Mancuso, receiver Jeff Welter, tight end Matt Jentgen and receiver Wyatt Arnold are examples. The key

newcomer is quarterback Jerod Woodruff, a 5-11, 175-pound transfer from Cholla High. Last year he completed 101 of 233 passes (43%) for 1,146 yards and 10 TDs.

Cholla lost 18 seniors to graduation and quarterback Jared Woodruff, who moved over to Foothills. Still, four players return who landed all-region votes, including running back Tavares Harper, defensive end Almuric Stine, and junior tackles John Hyatt and Richard Cervantes. Little Harper (5-8, 150) darted for 1,013 yards on 195 carries. At 6-2, 290, two-way tackle John Valenzuela is the biggest returning Charger. At least 10 players tip the scales at 200-plus pounds.

Todd Mayfield, head coach for 16 years at Tucson High, takes over a **Palo Verde** squad which won three games. Four underclassmen were honored at post-season: running back David Mebane (6-1, 166), defensive end Jeremy Rutherford (6-2, 205), kicker Jerrod Fuell (6-2, 215) - this year's quarterback - and sophomore receiver Peanut Haslem (5-10, 170). Tackle Shane Krenzke (6-2, 215), tight end Mike Biancuzzo (6-2, 220), guard David Hermann (5-10, 205) and halfback Derek McCready (5-10, 185) are sure starters. The same goes for receiver/safety Adrian Fernandez (6-0, 185), one of the best from the junior class.

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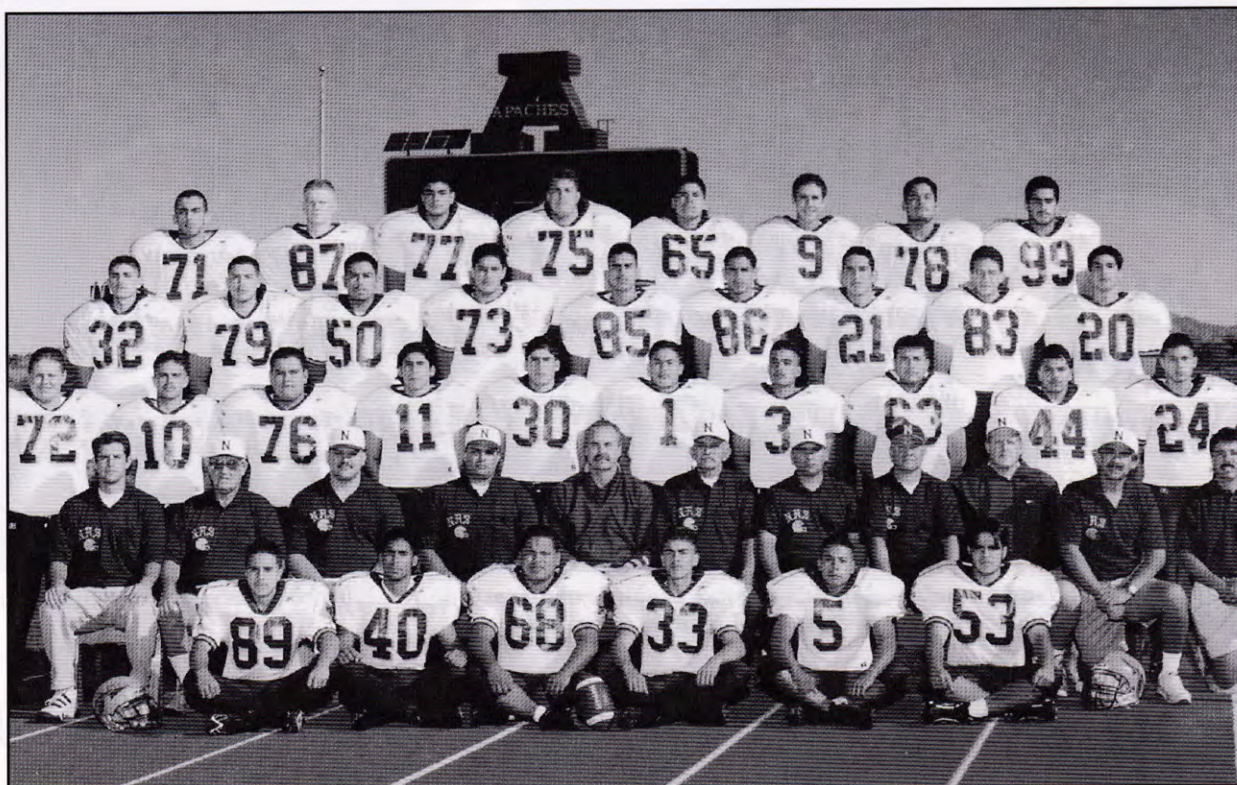
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NHS 41	Catalina Foothills	21
NHS 35	Tucson Cholla	9
NHS 21	Tucson Sahuaro	38
NHS 52	Flagstaff Sinagua	36
NHS 19	Scottsdale Chaparral	34

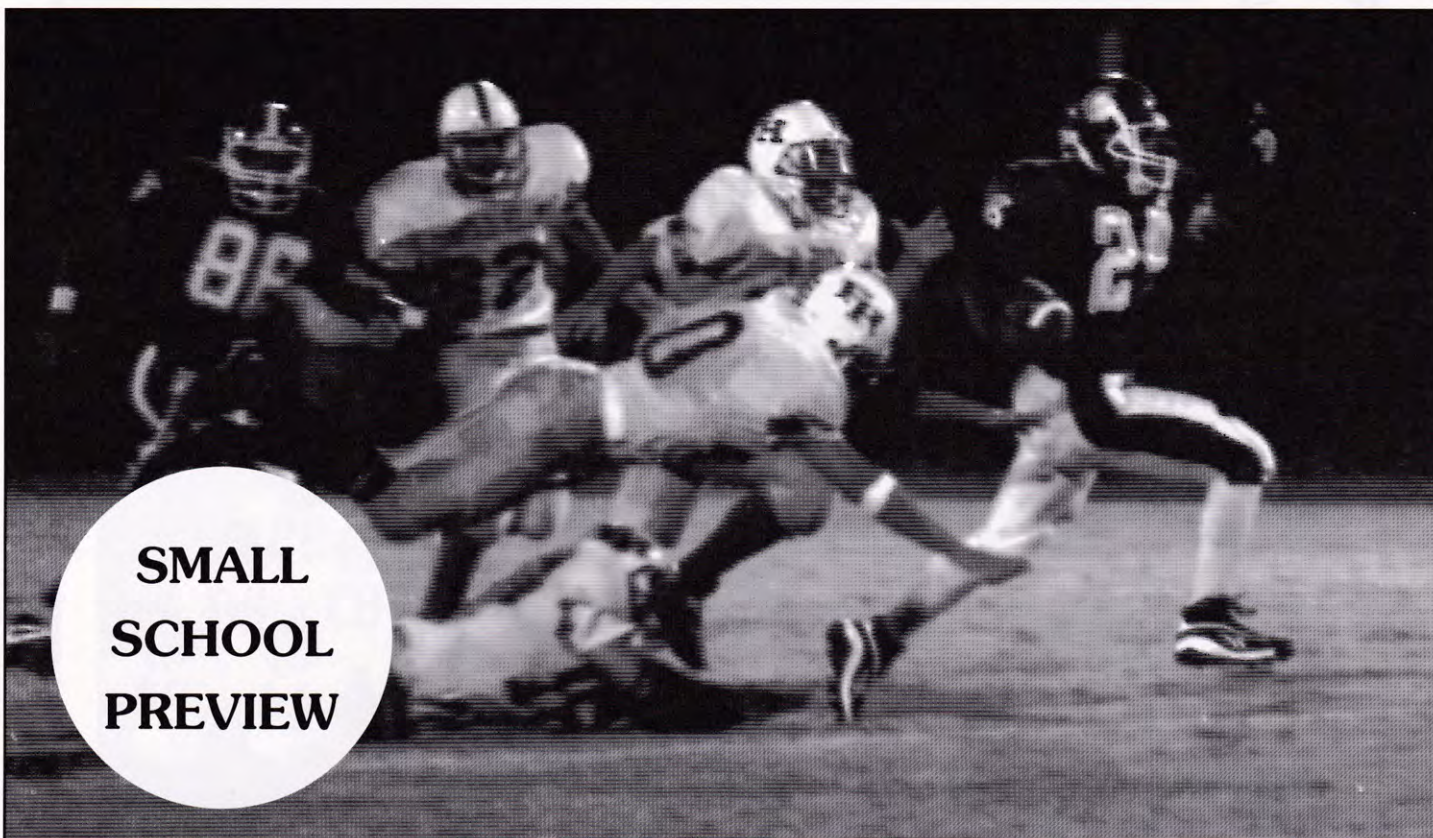
✓ Wide receiver Gilbert Tovar had 75 catches for 1,414 yards and earned First-Team All-South honors according to the *Tucson Citizen*.

✓ Offensive lineman Javier Madril also won First-Team All-South recognition on the *Tucson Citizen's* 1997 squad.

✓ Quarterback Ruger Fontes fired the pigskin for 2,709 yards and 27 TDs, landing Second-Team All-South accolades.

✓ Gilbert Tovar (WR/DB), Javier Madril (OG), Ruger Fontes (QB), Marlon Bonillas (RB), Miguel Clark (DL), Luke Kory (LB) & Chris Soto (DB) were named to the *Arizona Daily Star's* All-4A Sonoran Region Team.

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SMALL SCHOOL PREVIEW

Speed is a Boys Ranch trade-mark and here's a good example, halfback Julius Wortham, who averaged 8.6 yards per carry in a back-up role. The Spartans averaged 51.8 points per game.

52-AND-COUNTING FOR THE 'JACKETS

You can't get much better than this. But Blue Ridge will give it a shot. After 52-straight wins and four consecutive state crowns, Paul Moro's Yellow Jackets are ready to suit up. They hate to sound greedy, but losing isn't on the menu. The road to the 3A championship throne goes through Lakeside. Last year's ride was a dandy, climaxed by a terrific championship game with Arizona Boys Ranch. Before a standing room crowd of 5,112 paid fans at Mesa Community College, the 'Jackets edged the Spartans for the third year in a row, this time 27-21. In 1996, Blue Ridge scored with seconds remaining to beat the Ranch 22-20. It wasn't close in '95, when the 'Jackets prevailed 41-13.

Not since the late '70s has the 3A Conference seen a run like this. It was back then that Eloy Santa Cruz, with future college stars like Mike and Mossy Cade, went three straight years without losing in the finals, including an historic 40-36 win over Willcox in 1978. In that game Mike Cade scored a championship game record six touchdowns.

Willcox running back Steve George scored four. Eloy had a similar run between 1965-69, when players like Art and Benny Malone, Paul Ray Powell and Larry Shorty ran roughshod through the 3A ranks.

In Class 2A, Seton Catholic of Chandler capped its dream season with a surprising 41-13 win over Superior. It was a rematch from an early season game, won by Superior 40-33 on a 97-yard kickoff return by Brandon Tomerlin. Seton's title was the first in football at the school, which first fielded a team in 1956.

The dwindling 8-man ranks produced a real shootout in the finals, where St. David outscored Mogollon High 58-26. Since 1970, this class has lost 50% of its football-playing schools. It was the first of three state championships for the Tigers last year. They also won basketball and track.

3A EAST REGION

1. Lakeside Blue Ridge (13-0)
2. Show Low (10-2)

3. Snowflake (7-4)
4. St. Johns (5-4)
5. Round Valley (5-4)
6. Winslow (2-7)
7. Holbrook (2-7)
8. Whiteriver Alchesay (2-7)

Blue Ridge is still the team to beat. Coach Paul Moro, 133-24-0 (.847) at the White Mountain school, returns enough key players and more than enough tradition to make another run. Three of the better players in the 3A ranks wear the Purple & Gold. At the high school level it starts at quarterback and the Yellow Jackets are set. Three-year starter Nate Jackson (5-10, 175), in two varsity seasons, has passed for 2,697 yards and 29 TDs. His longest was a 90-yarder to mini-back Robert David (5-9, 178), who also returns. Although he missed the championship game, David still ran for 1,582 yards and 23 scores. He scored three times on kickoff returns. Two-way end Jeff Brown (6-4, 188) has the size and hands to make a good target. Junior line-backer Charles Parkinson (5-11, 178) is

one of two sophs to start last year. He sometimes plays running back. Center Ben Stidham (5-11, 210), guard Tommy Brooks (5-10, 175), tackle Josh Atchison (5-10, 180), linebacker Josh Cluff (6-3, 170), tackle David Sheetz (6-1, 200), and linebacker Brian Vozza (6-0, 185) all started. Sheetz and Vozza are juniors. Split end Blake Bennett (6-1, 185) was injured but could move into a starting role. Junior Trevor Whipple (6-3, 250) could add size to an already quick line. If he develops he could be a force. Receiver Chad Ashcraft, once at Blue Ridge, has transferred back from Colorado and might start in the secondary.

Right down the road is **Show Low**, still smarting from a 52-6 shellacking by Blue Ridge in October. Coach Bill Morgan's crew (10-2) regrouped and sailed through to the semifinals. Only eight players return, so the Cougars will rebuild. Still, Morgan has three of the better players in the White Mountains, including defensive stalwart Garrett Johnson (6-2, 215), who also plays fullback. He managed 10 touchdowns and 800-plus yards. Tough Wiz Akpan (5-9, 205) was a first team all-region defensive tackle. Linebacker Travis Bell (6-0, 200) was all-region as a sophomore, but was lost for the season after a knee injury on the third play of the Blue Ridge game. "If he's 100% healthy he'll be a big impact player," says Morgan. "He's an all-state candidate." Senior Tyler Ries (6-0, 180) could start at quarterback. He has big shoes to fill. Last year's starter (Cory Seymore) passed for 2,212 yards. Young Jeff Adams, J.R. Pearce, Jacob Kerr, Art Bauer, Steve Frost, Rustin Genet and Dustin Cluff could all start.

Snowflake's playoff ride ended in the quarterfinals. Coach Neil Westover lost a good senior group, but still hopes to be in the thick of things when the dust settles. The Lobos are switching to the West Coast offense, so September could be interesting. Twelve players return, including all-region linebacker Jordan Green (5-9, 190). He never leaves the field. Two-way back Garrett Nikolaus (6-0, 175), quarterback Chad Brimhall (5-9, 170), tackle Mike Saline (6-2, 210) and wideout Tayler Bigler (5-6, 160) give the new senior class stability. Josh Anderson, Tim McDowell, Chris Flake and Matt Hatch should become starters.

One year away from contention is **St. Johns**, which could start one dozen juniors. Last year's tough schedule was a real challenge, since the Redskins play several schools twice their size. Still, Mike

CLASS 3A TOP 20 POLL

1. Lakeside Blue Ridge
2. Payson
3. Arizona Boys Ranch
4. Coolidge
5. River Valley
6. Show Low
7. Snowflake
8. St. Johns
9. Safford
10. Cactus Shadows
11. Sahuarita
12. Round Valley
13. Fountain Hills
14. Chino Valley
15. San Manuel
16. Ganado
17. Winslow
18. Eloy Santa Cruz
19. Monument Valley
20. Benson

Morgan's squad showed fight and won five games, plus the sophomore squad finished unbeaten (8-0). Two-way end Derek Hunt (6-1, 185), tackle Mike Davis (6-3, 215), halfback Jeff Greer (5-10, 180) and receiver Thomas Aguilar (6-2, 160) are four key players. Taraney Frank (5-11, 230), Logan Price (6-0, 170), Jared Jarvis (6-0, 205), Steve Allen (6-1, 230) and David Platt (6-0, 185) form a strong link in the trenches. Jarvis started as a sophomore. Tight end Aaron Heap (6-1, 200) started both ways as a sophomore. Juniors Afton Lambson (5-11, 190) and Jason Bingham (5-10, 180) are tough linebackers. Junior running back Josh Raban (6-1, 185), with 4.6 speed, is the fastest player on the team.

Round Valley is looking for a coach, although last year's mentor, Tim Slade, guided the Elks to their first winning season in five years. Linebacker Jacob Belshe (6-3, 230) is the man of the hour and enters his fourth year of varsity play. With 4.6 speed he's one of the top 3A players in the state. He also starts on the offensive line, joining Mark Brady (5-10, 205) and Paul Merrill (5-9, 175), two vet-

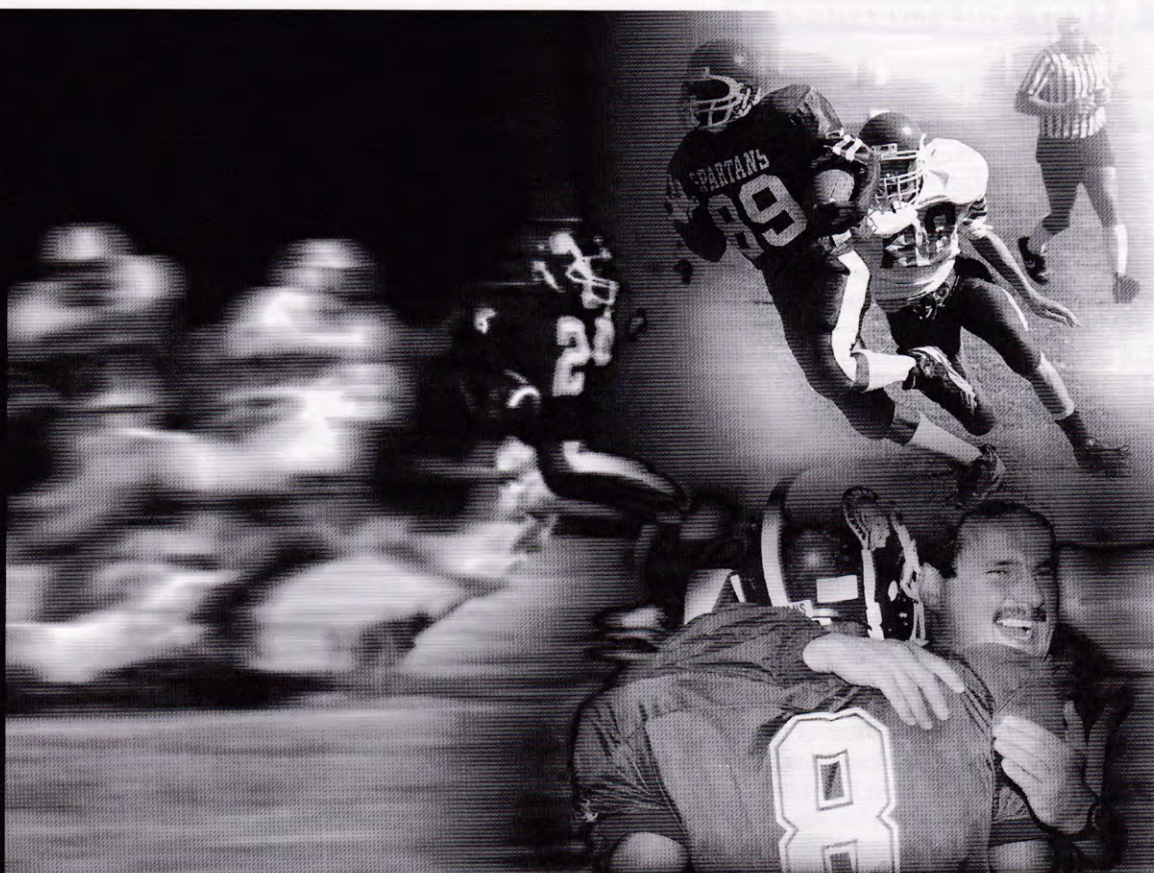
eran players. Sophomore Matt Belshe (6-1, 205) could start at quarterback. He also plays linebacker. So does senior Ben Slade (5-8, 160), the Elks' best running back. Still, depth is a reason for concern, with only 14 returning players. The freshmen were undefeated.

Mike Olson, who coached at Camp Verde last year, takes over at **Winslow**, where the Bulldogs finished a disappointing 2-7. The 'Dogs are not without talent, however. Junior lineman Michael Shumway (6-3, 240) could be an all-state level performer. He finished third in the state wrestling tournament. Senior Bryan Hays (6-3, 180) looks like the team's field general. Backs John Manthei (6-0, 200) and Scott Larsen (6-0, 175) also play linebacker positions on defense. Manthei is just a junior. Steve Henling (6-2, 175), the state 3A triple jump champ and a good basketball player, starts at split end. Nick Tanner (5-11, 185) will be the center. Junior lineman Pat Thomas (6-3, 200) is a two-way player. Junior Martin Woods (5-10, 160) starts in the secondary. Problems: too many coaches. The 'Dogs have had three different head coaches in four years. Also, the school had no freshman program last year.

But **Holbrook** has more problems. The Roadrunners have won just four games in four years. Still, second-year coach Dain Thompson is optimistic, and looks for his squad to improve. "Our team's energy level was as high as it's been in years," says the head coach. "We showed a competitiveness that's been absent for some time." The season might resolve around three key players, starting with junior quarterback Matt Castillo (6-1, 165), who also plays safety. Senior John Whitten (6-1, 175) was a second team all-region linebacker. With 4.8 speed he's a good cover guy. He also plays running back. Two-way lineman Evan Yazzie (6-0, 215) was an honorable mention all-region pick. He's the force in the middle. Depth and a lack of team speed is still a problem. Thompson is the 'Runners' fourth coach in four years.

Alchesay moved up a class and into a buzzsaw. Still, the Falcons managed a couple of wins, and with very few seniors in the starting lineup. Two underclassmen, fullback/linebacker Tony Parke and two-way star Carlton Goseyun, earned post season honors. Goseyun is a 225-pound defensive tackle. Quarterback Kyle Goklish is a good athlete. So young was Alchesay that six sophomores besides Parke played: back Leroy Curtis, back Loren Lupe, receiver Garret Paxson, line-

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backer Garren Edwards, guard Ray Fall and center Lucas Dazen.

3A CENTRAL

1. Payson (9-2)
2. Arizona Boys Ranch (12-1)
3. Coolidge (9-3)
4. Cactus Shadows (5-5)
5. Fountain Hills (4-5)
6. Eloy Santa Cruz (3-6)
7. Globe (2-7)
8. Miami (0-9)

Coach Jim Beall, winner of two state crowns at Snowflake, has **Payson** on pace. The vastly improved Longhorns rolled through a 9-2 campaign - best in 10 years - and fell to Blue Ridge 20-14 in the quarterfinals. Twenty-five lettermen, the most returning in the league, sound a warning bell. The junior varsity was unbeaten. The school's best athlete plays quarterback. Senior Hunter Walden (6-0, 175) is probably the best at that position in the region. Last spring he even set an all-time state record for home runs in a season (17). Defensive back Jeremy Hoff (6-2, 180), tight end Mark Bennett (6-2, 200) and kicker Josh Barnhart (5-10, 175) joined Walden on the all-region squad. Fullback Ryan Lorentz (6-1, 190), safety Brian Cork (5-10, 175) and linebacker Jimbo Armstrong (6-2, 180) picked up some votes. Seniors dominate the trenches: T.J. Kowacz (6-2, 250), Blair Kiver (6-3, 285), Mike Barker (6-1, 200), Jordan Siverson (6-0, 200) and Ty Hulbert (5-8, 170), to list a few.

It's been a wild three-year ride for the **Boys Ranch**. But today, Gary Galante's squad may have to take a back seat to more than just Blue Ridge. Graduation took a big chunk out of the Spartans' armor. The team suffered a setback when two all-state players, Khalid Meals and Foalima Pule, graduated early. Derrick Cook (6-0, 210), last year's special team player of the year, takes over at quarterback. Robert Harris (5-9, 170), who gained 383 yards on 23 carries, and Julius Wortham (5-11, 190) will start in the backfield. In a backup role, Wortham averaged 8.6 yards per carry. The Spartans are set at linebacker, with Orlando Howell (6-2, 235), Eddie Rodriguez (6-1, 195) and Cook. Big Ricky Jones (6-0, 220) is the tight end. Kilona Tome (6-2, 250) is a solid two-way tackle. Calvin Smith (5-10, 185) and Francis Taylor (5-11, 190) are the safeties. Speed is a premium. Last year's powerhouse averaged 51.8 points per game and gained 4,648 yards.

Ganado's Olomua is the toast of the North



Bristol Olomua

It's not very often that a football player in the 3A North attracts such attention. But such is the case with **Ganado** all-state receiver Bristol Olomua. Basketball may be king in this section of the state, but when the Hornets take the field in September all eyes are on Olomua.

Last year Greg Hubbell's club finished 8-2. Both losses were competitive games to playoff teams. Monument Valley beat them 24-12, and Payson ended their season 28-8. "When we lost the regional championship game to Monument Valley it shifted our season to a different path," says Hubbell. "That loss put us in a tough bracket and we lost to a good Payson team in the first round. But the kids did a great job."

All eyes will be on the Hornets' 6-4, 210-pound tight end, one of the best athletes ever to come out of Ganado or the 3A North. Olomua should attract attention from college scouts. The 1997 region's offensive player of the year caught 74 passes for 920 yards and 15 touchdowns. Including sophomore stats, his career credentials read 149 receptions, 1,365 yards and 27 scores. He runs 40 yards in 4.7 seconds, and when he isn't catching passes plays a mean middle linebacker.

The Hornets will miss quarterback Jason Jesus (126 completions, 161 attempts, 1,816 yards and 23 TDs). Junior Buddy Lynch and sophomore Almond Nelson will compete for the job. Tackle Thomas Yazzie (6-2, 220) and guard Arlo Thomas (5-9, 190) give the coaching staff something to build around. Fullback Regis Morgan (5-10, 190) should take pressure off the passing game. Two brothers, Chris and Jason Semore, starters last year at Winslow, moved in and should help make Ganado a force.

Coolidge, once a dominating force in football, regained its form and reached the semifinals. They lost to Blue Ridge 44-7. This year's squad could be better. At least up front, where players like center Nathan Palmer (6-2, 215), tight end Tim Siquierros (6-1, 220), tackle Adam Delsi (5-11, 205), guard Ryan Whoelecke (5-10, 190) and tight end Travis Wuertz (6-1, 190) give the Bears size, speed and experience. The latter three are juniors. Junior defensive back Lee Wheeler (5-10, 175) looks to start at quarterback. He runs 40 yards in 4.5 seconds. Ty Johnson (6-0, 180) starts at running back. Big Lamar Slaughter (6-4, 180) lines up at split end. Juniors Cedrick Viola, Chris Tapia, Danny Bechtel and Fred Viola all played. "We should be good on defense," says coach John Kashner. "We won't have the people we had last year, but we will be bigger up front on offense."

Underclassmen dominated the lineup at **Cactus Shadows**, where Gerry LaBelle's forces battled .500. After a 1-3 start, they battled everybody tough, falling to Coolidge 7-0 and Payson 28-16. "Then we began putting things together"

says LaBelle. "Sophomores and juniors got all the playing time." A 14-7 road loss at Monument Valley ended the campaign at 5-5. The senior class will supply the muscle, with David Anspach (6-1, 213), Nate Snell (6-3, 231), James King (6-2, 204), Ryan West (6-1, 194) and Eric Hanf (6-1, 178) manning the trenches. Two-way back Dirk Walker (5-10, 172) looks like the best skill player, with Ryan Miller, Scott Buckley, Drew Weber, Jon Lunsford and Jason Pflanz not far behind. Quarterback Justin Jouas (6-0, 160) and tackle Chris Khan (6-0, 211) are newcomers who could contribute. Especially Jouas, since the quarterback position is up for grabs.

It looks good for **Fountain Hills**. Coach Jim Fairfield has all his linemen back and a strong quarterback to run the show. Last year as a sophomore Ken Martinson (6-0, 180) passed for 1,460 yards and 10 touchdowns. For protection, the Falcons have big, experienced players up front, like Tom Weathers, Payson Hedlund, Shane Eaton and Nate Decker. All tip the scales at 200-plus pounds, with Weathers a 235-pounder. And all four play defense. Running backs Zac Peyton

and Lenny Young give the Falcons a balanced offense. "I like the new region we're in," claims Fairfield. "With good battles each week it gets us ready for the playoffs."

Lack of depth and the injury bug took a big chunk out of **Eloy Santa Cruz**, resulting in a 3-6 finish. Veteran coach Jay Denton should have more size, strength, and hopefully numbers. Matthew Rodriguez (6-0, 190), a tough linebacker, was selected to the all-region team. He's also the Dust Devils' center. Nose-guard Richard Damron (5-11, 180), tackle Ramon Ruiz (6-3, 220) and end Rick McCollough (6-0, 185) give the defense some muscle. Junior Joe Bojorquez (5-11, 190) is a good, young linebacker. Skill position players who should start include Davey Perales, Edward Meza, Mike Patino, Donte Henry and Damion Wilson, to name a few. Eloy always has good speed. Juniors Chad Price and Donsha Masters will compete at quarterback.

It was tough sledding in **Miami**. The Vandals were winless and scored only 53 points. But 23 squadmen return, and most saw playing time. The coaches are hoping for good, steady play from several key seniors, including two-way tackle Joe West (6-4, 235), the Vandals best bet for post season honors. Classmate Brian Williams (5-10, 195) is another two-way lineman. Running backs Mark Alonzo (5-9, 160) and Manuel Cruz (5-9, 165) also play in the secondary. Sophomore wide-out Chris Goss (5-11, 175) doubles at linebacker. Overall, it was a real downer for football in the Globe-Miami region. **Globe**, at one time a state powerhouse, won only two games and gave up 338 points

3A WEST REGION

1. River Valley (9-1)
2. Chino Valley (5-5)
3. Parker (2-7)
4. Camp Verde (4-6)
5. Wickenburg (2-7)
6. Dysart (0-9)

River Valley, in its sixth year of varsity play, won the region, then lost a first round playoff game to Coolidge, 28-21. "Our kids worked extremely hard in the off-season and it paid off," says head coach Ray Fenton. Most of them return - 25 to be exact. The young Dust Devils look solid. They have speed and strength to go with experience. It starts at quarterback, where 6-0, 165-pound three-year starter Justin Alford won offensive player



Derrick Cook
Boys Ranch



Julius Wortham
Boys Ranch

of the year honors. Linebacker Josh Mayes (5-10, 180) won the same award defensively. He'll be a four-year starter. Jason Hogencamp (5-10, 193), an all-region back, runs 40 yards in 4.6 seconds, bench presses 350 pounds and cleans 275. Guard Jeremy Eldridge (5-10, 230) is just as strong. Seniors Ray Hernandez, Josh Waldrup, Mike Julius, Jorge Salgado, Paul Campbell and Adam Brown all started. Two newcomers, tackles Paul Kirby (6-3, 225) and Aaron Hassin (6-3, 230), add beef to the offensive line. The Devils look strong.

After a slow start **Chino Valley** came on strong and made the playoffs. The ride ended in a first round loss to Show Low. Like River Valley, Chino returns starters at almost every key position. Every skill position player is back. Quarterback Randy Jackson (6-2, 215) passed for 1,057 yards and 12 TDs. Tight end Jason Livernois (6-1, 180) caught 25 passes for 405 yards and eight scores. As a linebacker he made 58 tackles and intercepted three passes. 'Backer Todd Newman (5-10, 185) recorded 70 tackles and three sacks. Wideout Tom Duer (5-11, 165), just a junior, averaged 12.2 yards on 34 receptions. Halfback J.R. Call (5-11, 195) averaged 5.3 yards per carry. Strong safety Mickey Allison (5-10, 165) is game tested. Linebacker Allen Short (5-11, 225) played as a freshman.

Parker got off to a bad start. All-state linebacker Robin Lewis quit the team. Those who stuck around played hard. Fifteen underclassmen lettered. One, young Kris Foss (5-11, 245), saw action on the line as a freshman. Junior defensive back Mike Perez (5-9, 150) was an all-region pick. Tight end Brett Castle (6-1, 180) and fullback Justin Riesland (5-11, 185) were honorable mention. Ryan Crook and David Thompson, both 6-5, 235-pounders, were the biggest Broncos on campus.

Camp Verde has to replace its running backs, receivers, linebackers, defensive backs and head coach, as Mike Olson

left for Winslow. In other words, it might be a long season. It's a complete rebuilding job, with juniors being forced to the front. The best in that class is Jeremiah Stanfield, a 6-0, 225-pound all-region defensive end. He made 66 tackles and forced four fumbles. Quarterback John Buckley (5-9, 165), guard Roger Rodriguez (5-10, 200) and tackle Manuel Varela (5-10, 215) help give Cowboy fans two more years of hope. Seniors Dan McDonald (6-1, 180) and Branden Hassett (5-11, 180) are two of the better all-around players on the squad. McDonald can also play quarterback, but stands out on defense. Hassett is a two-way back with good pass catching ability.

The move up to 3A was tough on **Wickenburg**, where the Wranglers won just two games. But the entire roster (40 deep) listed just five seniors. Look for lots of playing time and leadership skills from center Colin McArthur (6-2, 202), quarterback Dennis Neely (6-2, 200) and split end/defensive back Austin Nichols (5-9, 140). Neely, a good athlete, also plays defensive end. Last year most of the size was in the sophomore class. Tackles Colt Egbert (6-2, 240) and Slade Willert (6-5, 280) logged varsity time.

Improvement is top priority at **Dysart**. The Demons were winless but lots of underclassmen played. Last year's roster featured young players like tailback Fred Hernandez, guard Mario Ozuna, center David Parker, quarterback Frank Ramirez, halfback Rudy Vasquez, guard Sam Beltran and tackle Ulysses Cardiel in the lineup. Cardiel, Ozuna and Parker tip the scales at 200-plus pounds. Still, depth is a major weakness.

3A SOUTH REGION

1. Safford (9-1)
2. Sahuarita (9-2)
3. San Manuel (6-4)
4. Benson (2-7)
5. Bisbee (2-7)

Since 1985, **Safford** has gone 103-36-0 on the gridiron, winning 74% of the time. It's those early playoff games which haunt the Bulldogs. Last year's squad sailed through an unbeaten regular season campaign, but crashed at home in the playoffs, 46-6 to Snowflake. Half the roster returns, including all-region defensive back Everson Turner (6-2, 165). Look for Trent Blake (6-2, 160) to play more at quarterback. Junior Louie Rios (5-11, 160) is available. Backs like Johnny Figueroa, George Jackson, Kent Hancock, Bryan Romero and Candy

Galarza have one more year of eligibility. Center Ernie Gutierrez and guard Victor Garcia are the only linemen tipping the scales at 200-plus pounds.

It was the best season ever at **Sahuarita**, where the Mustangs won the school's first ever playoff game, 41-0 over Window Rock. Coach Chris Fanning's senior-dominated club then lost a heart-breaker to Coolidge, 21-14. They dropped a regular season contest to Safford, 17-12. Fifteen starters picked up diploma's. But winning breeds winning and the Mustangs could be right back in the race by November. With senior Kelton Smith (6-1, 185) in the lineup, Fanning has one of the region's best players. He starts at linebacker and can play several positions on offense. He averaged 20.1 yards per reception, catching 21 passes for 423 yards and five TDs. Halfback Felix Blanco (6-0, 180) gained 437 yards on 82 carries. Senior Jason Lurkins (6-1, 190) starts at center. Junior Cody Miller (5-11, 215) can play linebacker, tackle or fullback. Tackle Ricky Rodriguez tips the scales at 240 pounds.

Three South teams reached the playoffs and one was **San Manuel**. The Miners were then blitzed by Boys Ranch, 75-0. It's time to pick up the pieces. This year's squad will build around four veteran players: cornerback Joel Marquez (5-9, 150), tackle James Abrizo (6-1, 231), fullback Kyle Craig (6-1, 200) and defensive end Jerrel Jackson (6-3, 234). Junior tackle Tommy Madrid (6-1, 280) was the biggest Miner in camp. Fifteen underclassmen played, including freshman linebacker Justin Cline.

Midseason injuries doomed **Benson**, but the Bobcats look tough if the quarterback position gets filled. Last year's roster listed sophomores Bourke Bowen (5-11, 150) and Bob Perkins (5-9, 150) at that position. It's the receiver corps that's set. Coach Pete Bearse has two of the best in the region in Sam Husted (6-3, 195) and Bryant Alexander (6-0, 160). Guard Byron Raush (6-0, 175) is a tough three-year starter. C.J. Trujillo (6-0, 230) and Ryan Hamilton (5-10, 175) are two-way linemen. Tailback Brian Taylor (6-0, 160) is quick and shifty. "If we find a quarterback we'll be just fine," claims Bearse.

It's still a struggle at **Bisbee**. Last year's unit won two games. The Pumas have recorded only two winning seasons in 26 years. The only bright spot in the season finale, a 40-0 loss to Sahuarita, was the performance of frosh Eric Shisslak, whose 4 tackles, 5 assists was a team high on a bad night.

Class 2A Top 20 Poll

1. Superior
2. Phoenix Christian
3. Chandler Seton
4. San Pasqual
5. Thatcher
6. Willcox
7. Florence
8. Pima
9. Northwest Christian
10. Williams
11. Palo Verde Christian
12. Valley Christian
13. Wellton Antelope
14. Winkelman Hayden
15. Phoenix Bourgade
16. Morenci
17. Kearny Ray
18. Sedona Red Rock
19. Gila Bend
20. Queen Creek

2A CENTRAL REGION

1. Superior (12-1)
2. Florence (6-5)
3. Tucson Palo Verde Christian (6-4)
4. Winkelman Hayden (5-4)
5. Kearny Ray (2-7)
6. Queen Creek (2-7)
7. San Carlos (0-8-1)

It's **Superior** at preseason. On paper, the Panthers are the team to beat. They aren't too bad on the field, either. Seldom does a small 2A school produced two college prospects like Brandon Tomerlin and Anthony Aguilar. Tomerlin, last year's Class 2A Player of the Year, is the best quarterback to come out of Arizona's "small school" ranks since Phoenix Christian's Tim Rattay (Louisiana Tech). The Panthers' ace signal caller led the state with 136 completions in 214 attempts (64%) for 2,721 yards and 28 touchdowns - all school records. He gained 489 yards rushing, including a 59-yard TD dash in the state championship game. He returned three kicks for scores. Defensively, his six interceptions brings

his career total to 23 - three shy of the state mark. He even returned a fumble 47 yards for a score. Aguilar, the MVP of the 2A state basketball tournament as a sophomore, is a giant 6-5, 298-pound two-way star. He caught 38 passes for 600 yards and seven TDs. He even threw a touchdown pass in the state finals. Defensively, Aguilar recorded 19 sacks, forced seven fumbles, blocked six passes and intercepted two. He blocked four kicks. With two-way lineman Jerry Young (6-3, 284) in the lineup, Superior has two of the best down linemen in 2A ball. Fullback Danny Padilla (6-2, 221) gained over 600 yards. Junior wideout Ricardo Sanchez (6-1, 180) now becomes the club's best deep threat. Fonzy Duarte (6-1, 213) is the best linebacker. Look for more production from the running game, with senior Louie Peralta (6-0, 187), plus underclassmen Anthony Magana (6-2, 288), Joe Pena (5-8, 218), Leo Aparicio (5-10, 212) and Jesse Navarro (5-11, 242) in the trenches. "Quantity is not our strength," claims head coach Bryan Munoz. "But if we stay healthy we definitely have quality. The kids are working hard and want to redeem our state final loss to Seton." Yes, the Panthers have something to prove, after losing 41-19 to Seton Catholic in the 2A finals.

Florence, a state quarterfinalist, could be in the hunt if everybody makes the grade. When healthy, the Gophers played Superior tough, falling 33-28. Coach Rick Beeler returns senior Mike Vasquez (6-0, 240), an all-region pick at guard. In fact, the defense looks the strongest, with Vasquez, end Kevin Hill (6-4, 200), junior linebackers Alex Valencia and Jayson Varnes, and a secondary with Bobby Padilla, Pat Silvas and Cody Kempton. "It's feast or famine," claims Beeler. "If our players make it in the classroom and we have very few injuries, we could be a contender."

Palo Verde Christian posted a winning record and hosted a first round playoff game. Phoenix Christian cut the season short. The Crusaders return half the roster, including three all-region selections: quarterback Aaron Sloan (5-10, 155), and linebackers Wes Northrop (5-11, 175) and Brad Bettcher (6-2, 170), who is a junior. Guard Aron Baquet (6-0, 195) is another good one.

Hayden is another school with three returning all-region picks. The top dog is quarterback/safety Bobby Lorona (6-0, 155), one of the region's best all-around players. Linebacker Julian Garcia (5-9, 170) and defensive end Kevin Waddell (5-

10, 175) give the Lobos speed up front. Big Marvin Brumley (6-0, 280) is a force in the middle. Several freshmen, including Dan Free, Angelo Lagunas, Mathew Waddell, Wedo Espinoza, Greg Garcia and Mike Manriquez lettered.

With only eight seniors on the roster, it was a rough ride for **Queen Creek**. Still, several players stood out, including center Andy Pace (6-1, 195), linebacker David Flores (5-11, 195) and two-way back Steve Herrera (5-7, 140). On the line, underclassmen Nick Perkins, Mike MacMonigal, Mall Neihuis and Justin Ashton tipped the scales at 200-plus pounds.

2A METRO REGION

1. Phoenix Christian (10-2)
2. Chandler Seton Catholic (10-2)
3. Phoenix Northwest Christian (7-2)
4. Chandler Valley Christian (7-3)
5. Phoenix Bourgade Catholic (3-5)
6. Scottsdale Christian (1-8)

If the line play improves, **Phoenix Christian** will be right in the hunt. This school is consistently strong. Coach Keith Brown welcomes 21 lettermen and several key players from an unbeaten JV squad. Metro foes have two years to deal with quarterback Mark Tefteller. Last year he completed 72 passes in 124 attempts (58%) for 1,246 yards and 16 TDs. Wideout Rick Huisman (6-3, 180) caught 32 passes for 725 yards and seven scores. Back Mark Ortman (6-0, 195) gained 610 yards and scored 17 touchdowns. Nose guard Dale Hipes (5-11, 235) made 33 tackles and recovered four fumbles. Safety Nick Thorson (6-2, 165) recorded 27 tackles. Up front, Major Perkins, Austin Fletcher, Nathan Maroney, Willie Luzader and Klinton Kerber give the Cougars size and speed. Newcomer Sean Bowman, a junior wide receiver/defensive back, is a welcome addition.

State champ **Seton Catholic** capped its dream season with a 41-19 win over Superior. The Sentinels look strong again. Coach Joe Timpani returns 17 players, a strong line and flanker James Scott. The speedy little senior is one of the region's most exciting players. Defensively, Scott also plays on the corner. But the real strength is at tackle, where all-stater Jesse McDonald (6-2, 275) roams. He's an excellent two-way player. So is tight end/linebacker Tony Tossotti (6-3, 215), giving Seton three of the best players in the 2A ranks. Royce Martin (6-2, 190) and Larry Forsythe (6-0, 210) give the



Mark Ortman
Phoenix Christian



Paul Jajou
Bourgade

line more muscle. Peter Rhee (6-0, 200) is the Sentinels' center. Andy Meister (5-11, 165) might get the nod at quarterback. Seniors Charles Bollig, Darren Spetz and Eric Magne are veteran two-way players.

Northwest Community Christian made an encouraging transition from 8-man to 11-man, posting a 7-2 record. Coach Charlie Bell welcomes most of his linemen along with quarterback Jake Wright. That's a big plus. Wright, a 5-10, 170-pound senior, is regarded as one of the best in the region. Big Kyle Johnson (6-3, 230) returns at center and has a lot of big friends, like Rob Able (6-2, 250), Aaron Hake (6-1, 260) and Ted Fowler (6-2, 250). Skill players like Tim Owens, Bryan Larson, Sonny Claus and Brant Nave played. Nave is the Crusaders' kicker. "We could have another good season," warns Bell. "We should have lots of senior leadership."

After losing a great senior class the year before, **Valley Christian** made a remarkable recovery, won seven games and made the playoffs. During a rebuilding year. Thatcher ended the campaign 20-12. Both lines look stronger, but replacing quarterback Mike Garrett will be a chore. Juniors Mike Weg and Brad Zehring get the call. Five starters return: defensive back Pat Ells (5-9, 140), defensive end Will Hipple (6-1, 180), guard Andy Warren (5-9, 185), halfback Mike Brewster (6-0, 160) and linebacker David Mehan (5-9, 165). Center Keith Nichter (6-3, 165) is joined on the line by such wide bodies as Justin Cates (6-2, 250), David Downs (6-2, 300) and Dallin Pennington (6-0, 270). Tackles Ryan Kortman (6-3, 190) and Jeff Larson (6-3, 180) aren't as big, but both could start. At 5-5, 120-pounds, wingback Jon Gellner may be the smallest player in the league. Marshall Tague, an all-region tailback, has decided to concentrate on basketball.

After a two-year break from the sport, veteran coach Pat Lavin is back in the

picture, this time at **Bourgade Catholic**. The Golden Eagles new coach has won 119 games in the profession, coaching at St. Mary's, Agua Fria, Paradise Valley and Independence. In fact, Lavin's winning percentage (.833) at St. Mary's is the best in the school's history. Only 11 players with varsity experience showed up for spring ball. But two, running back/linebacker Eli Milstead (5-8, 172) and center Paul Jajou (6-1, 203) are all-state candidates. Jajou is a junior. Tackle Andrew May (6-4, 285) has potential. Milstead, with 4.7 speed, gained 1,000 yards on a pass-oriented team which won only three games. He's a dedicated weight room athlete with good strength. Even as a junior, Jajou has the skills to be one of the region's best players. Martin Laswell could get competition from junior Adam Steuter at quarterback. Both play in the secondary. Most key positions are manned by seniors, with wideout Matt Caretto, tight end Scott Cookman, running back Jason Dishmon and tackle Tom Dickson sure starters. Size and depth is a weakness, and the Eagles play in one of the most physical football regions in 2A competition.

2A WEST REGION

1. Winterhaven San Pasqual (7-3)
2. Wellton Antelope (4-5)
3. Gila Bend (5-5)
4. Maricopa (2-6)
5. Ajo (2-5)

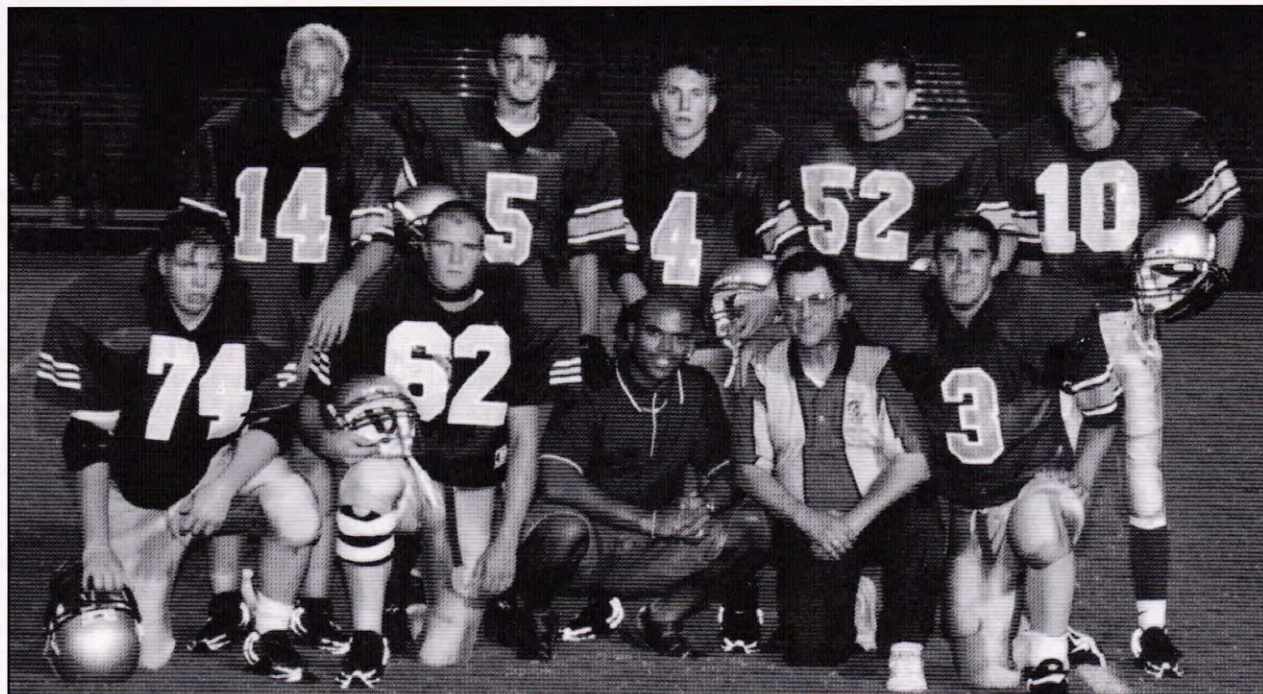
San Pasqual, located across the state line in Winterhaven, near Yuma, has made great strides in football. Don Klostreich's club posted a 7-3 record and went down swinging, 35-28 to Morenci in the playoffs. With quarterback Dino Morales (6-2, 190), halfback Jose Espinoza (5-9, 165), receiver Jeff Stalnaker (5-10, 160) and giant tackle Mark Johnson (6-4, 290), it's easy to see why the Warriors are an early season pick. Morales threw for 1,839 yards and 17 touchdowns. Espinoza galloped for 1,092 yards and 22 TDs. He scored six TDs in one game against Antelope. Fullback Ernie Palmer (6-0, 200) plays a mean linebacker. So does Terrence Palmer (5-11, 225), along with juniors Duro Johnson (5-11, 225) and Shawntel Lewis (6-0, 180). San Pasqual easily has the best linebackers in the region, and possible the best overall defense. Linemen Juan Celis and Brandon McGuire, 200-pounds each, join Johnson on the line. "We've come a long way," says Klostreich, who years ago built Tucson

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'93, '94, '96, '97, '98 Girls
Track; '94, '95, '96, '97
Girls Volleyball;
'97 Soccer

STATE RUNNERUP:
'90, '93, '94, '95 '96
BoysTrack;
'89 & 91 Girls Track
'96 Football
'98 Soccer

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Sunnyside into a national wrestling power. "We need to pick up where we left off."

At midseason **Antelope** changed its offense to the run-and-shoot and landed in the playoffs. Coach Tracy Hunter's crew then lost out to Willcox, 28-7. With 18 returning players, the Rams should give San Pasqual a run for it. "If we can find a running game and a quarterback we'll be tough," claims Hunter. Junior G.W. Wagers (6-1, 200) will get a shot at quarterback. He also starts at defensive end. The receiving corps is set, with wide-out Ryan Ferris (6-2, 165, 650 yds.) and tight end Steve Evans (6-4, 210, 456 yds.). The line is stout with center Kevin Skousen (6-0, 175), Steve Quinonez (5-11, 195), Danny Gutierrez (6-2, 217), Weston Woodhouse (6-0, 185), and sophomore defensive tackle Scott Marlatt (6-2, 215) in the lineup. Skill players Stanley Martin, Brad Hettle and Mike Wheathersby earned honorable mention all-region votes.

Gila Bend played 10 games and won half of them. The last out was against Superior, in the first round of the playoffs. "It was a mismatch," says Terry Nodlinski. "Injuries at a critical time ended a fairly good season." The Gila Monsters look solid at quarterback, running back and offensive line. Dallas Jacobson (6-3, 190) is the Bend's field general. His team is three deep at tailback: Eddie Leon (5-8, 175), Eddie Miller (5-8, 170) and Josh Gonzalez (5-9, 175). All three are good two-way players. Center James Turner (5-11, 200), tackle Richard Villegas (5-10, 240) and tight end Matt Hipp (6-1, 175) give the offense punch. It's the defense that's been a real monster. That needs to improve.

At **Maricopa**, John Nelson returns several key players and a lot of team speed. Junior cornerback Tommy May (5-8, 160), a first team all-region pick, might be the Rams' best player. In fact, only one senior, tight end Tim Campbell, stands out. The rest are underclassmen, including quarterback/safety K.C. Heun (6-2, 170), the key guy at preseason. Back Rick Gardner, tackle Matt Moe, receiver Jason Nelson and center Joe Benitez have a good outlook. The Rams look improved.

Ajo hopes to regroup after a bizarre finale in which the Red Raiders lost to Tombstone 66-38 in an 8-man game, played because of injuries and ineligibility to Ajo's squad. "When we had all our players we could play with anybody," claims Marc Alop. "That only happened during three games." Three returning

Shipley has Williams and the Vikings on top



Rick Shipley

The football history in **Williams** runs 75 years to the date. It was back in 1923 that L.B. Britt barely found enough boys in school to field an 11-man squad. They won only one game. Today that is no problem.

A lot has changed in 75 years in this town, including the school's mascot. Originally the Tigers, today the Orange & Black take the field as the Vikings. Britt is long gone. The coach is Rick Shipley, who in nine years has won 78% of his games, including an undisputed state championship in 8-man ball in 1993.

The town, labeled the "Gateway to the Grand Canyon," is better known for its tourism, where thousands each summer board the train for the Grand Canyon tours. But foes in the 2A North know all too well about the Vikings. Remember, this is the same town which produced baseball stars Johnny and Billy Hatcher. Both played football real well, too. Back in 1970, an Art Sharpe-coached team went 10-1 and lost to Round Valley in the 2A finals. That team had a running back named Dillard Nelson, who happened to score 33 touchdowns on the season - second most in state history to Eloy's Art Malone.

This year the Vikings will miss tailback James Faultner, who graduated. He set a Williams school record by scoring 61 career touchdowns. "We had a great year," says Shipley, who returns 15 lettermen from a 9-1 club. "We had a disappointing playoff loss (to Pima) at home, but that happens." Still, the future looks bright, with several good underclassmen, plus one of the best seniors in the region, 6-3, 240-pound defensive end Lawrence Rodriguez. Williams has a possible college prospect here. Rodriguez also plays fullback. Quarterback Fred Garcia (6-2, 185) and tackle Daniel Green (6-4, 240), both juniors, show promise.

The biggest challenge to the Vikings will come from the region's newest school, up-and-coming **Sedona Red Rock**. The Scorpions, like Williams, bowed out in the playoff's first round. Lots of young players played. One of the team's co-captains, halfback/linebacker Justin Jackson, was a junior. Skill players like Jake Knapp, Jordan Newton and Mike Eye look good. Center Rene Felix (6-1, 225) and tackle Josh Linaman (6-4, 245) have two more years with the Purple & Silver.

seniors and two transfers give the Raiders a jump start. Louie Munoz (6-0, 260), Sean Manuel (6-0, 275) and Stuart Orr (5-9, 200) anchor the line. Two brothers from Animas, N.M., Barry (6-5, 210) and Rustin Keime (5-11, 240) will help. Junior Jesus Carrillo is set at quarterback. Sophomores Nelson Lewis and Jim Cherry are two-way players who should contribute.

2A EAST REGION

1. Thatcher (10-2)
2. Willcox (8-3)
3. Pima (5-6)
4. Morenci (7-4)
5. Elfrida Valley Union (2-6)
6. Duncan (2-7)
7. Tombstone (1-7)

Thatcher, a consistent playoff visitor,

has posted back-to-back 10-2 campaigns. In fact, since 1988, the Eagles have won 76% of their games. Nine of those teams were playoff clubs. Twenty-four players return, including two all-region vote getters: Nathan Estes and Clay Romero. Estes, a 5-10, 155-pound senior, is the Eagles' quarterback, but also a good defensive back. The 210-pound Romero won post season honors at defensive line, but also plays guard. In fact, at least five returning players tip the scales at 200-plus pounds, including Mike Espinoza (245), Dan Whitmer (235) and Doug Davis (250). Thatcher lasted three weeks into the playoffs, where Seton Catholic beat them 17-7.

It was a good run at **Willcox**, where the Cowboys jumped from 2-7 to 8-3. They lost 37-26 to Superior in the playoff's second round. Several underclass-

men played key roles, including guard Nathan Eskue (6-0, 185), split end Anselmo Torres (5-9, 150) and tackle Dan Spindle (5-10, 195). Like all small schools, these three are good two-way players. Jared Holland and Ryno Bethel can play quarterback. Bethel was the lone freshman on the varsity. Twenty letter-men return.

Pima, a playoff team last year, has a new coach. Jeff Crothers steps up from Joseph City and the 8-man ranks. Over 90% of the varsity returns, including two players who played key roles in a first round playoff upset of unbeaten Williams: safety Danny Corbin (6-0, 160) and linebacker Steve Alder (5-11, 177). Both can play quarterback. Alder is also the Roughriders' kicker. Twelve freshmen actually logged playing time. But the biggest 'Rider in camp is a senior, 6-1, 270-pound two-way tackle Dave Lofgreen. The future looks bright.

Four teams from the East reached the playoffs and one was **Morenci**. The Wildcats outshot San Pasqual 35-28 in the first round, but bowed to Phoenix Christian one week later. Graduation and the loss of head coach Reynaldo Peru leaves big gaps to fill. Tim Armbrust (6-0, 166), a running back/defensive end, is one of the Cats' best players. Two-way tackle Billy Curtis (6-4, 220) is definitely the biggest. At 5-4, 115-pounds, mini-back Chris Roybal is the smallest. Back Adam Cochran, end Derek Smith and linebacker Trevor Nelson showed promise. Four freshmen, Robert Sotelo, Justin Sanderlin, Steve Tucker and Erik Garcia, saw playing time.

Duncan won only two games, but several Wildcats fared well with post-season honors, including running back Steve Rodriguez (6-2, 210) and defensive guard Andrew Schnebly (5-9, 170), second team all-region picks. Quarterback Jason Lunt, end Breton Lunt, lineman Tyrel Lemons, linebacker Chris Lovett and guard Tony Montoya earned honorable mention. Very few seniors played, so Duncan should improve. Size and speed are weaknesses.

Tombstone's lone victory was bizarre. The Yellowjackets finished the season with a 66-38 romp over Ajo in an 8-man game. Halfback Mike Martin (5-8, 160) ran for 341 yards and five touchdowns. The game was switched to 8-man due to injuries and ineligibility problems with Ajo's squad. Versatile Mike Goodnough (5-9, 166) and lineman James Ball (5-10, 190) need more support. Goodnough plays at wideout and

8-Man State Poll

1. Orme School
2. St. David
3. Joseph City
4. Heber Mogollon
5. Ft. Thomas
6. Mayer
7. Fredonia
8. Arizona Lutheran
9. Clifton
10. Patagonia

linebacker, and returns both kickoffs and punts for Tombstone.

1A NORTH REGION

1. Orme School (8-2)
2. Joseph City (6-4)
3. Heber Mogollon (9-2)
4. Fredonia (5-5)
5. Mayer (3-5)

One of these days the championship door will open for the **Orme School**. It's bound to. They've been so close, for so long. Coach Bob Miller has another outstanding team, with speed and good size. "We could have won it all had we not lost linebacker Silas Hite with a broken hand," claims Miller, who's won 156 games in the profession. "We had an outstanding team." The Warriors gave state champ St. David a good run for it in the semifinals, losing 42-33. Orme, a college prep boarding school located north of Mayer, returns six starters. All-state tight end Travis Carter (6-1, 205) is the main man. He also starts at linebacker and was the state shot put and discus champ. His discus throw of 157-feet, 6-inches is a school record. Sophomore Jabari Felton-Smith (5-10, 170), the state 100-meter and long jump champion, starts at tailback and safety. Quarterback Calvin Anderson (5-9, 160) is also a safety. Big Dave Stickel (6-0, 210) doubles at fullback/linebacker. The line is solid, with center Andrew Johnson (6-3, 220) and tackle Matt Swickard (6-5, 255) sure starters. Johnson is a junior.

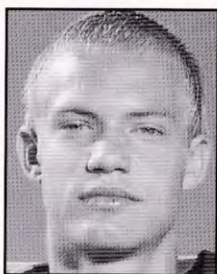
Joseph City has a strong state championship caliber team also. In fact, they might have the region's best junior class.

But missing in June was a head coach. Jeff Crothers, who took the Wildcats into the playoffs for the first time in nine years, moved to Pima. However, junior Brandon Larson, a first team all-state running back, returns. The 1A/2A state 215-pound wrestling champion rushed for 1,565 yards and scored 26 touchdowns. During a 48-14 win over Maricopa, Larson gained 317 yards on 34 carries and scored four touchdowns. Junior quarterback Joey Richards (5-10, 160) completed 68 passes in 103 attempts (66%) for 711 yards and 12 TDs. Tight end T.C. Fish (6-0, 170) caught 18 passes for 277 yards and five scores. Thomas Rogers, a 6-2, 250-pound tackle, joins classmates Earl Roberson and Dan Bushman on the line. Senior Shawn Van Hemert is a speedy little receiver.

If **Mogollon** rebuilds its offensive line, its back to the playoffs for the Mustangs. Last year's forward wall enabled running back Eric Gaylord to rush for 2,039 yards. But he picked up his diploma. Quarterback Ben Tenney (5-9, 160) returns. He completed 51 of 109 passes for 926 yards and 10 touchdowns. The defensive line is set with Levi Duncan (6-1, 215) and junior Ross Hunt (6-3, 225) ready to go. Chad Squire and junior Jared Owens start at defensive ends. Little Jick Despain (5-9, 160) is the center. Thomas Kelley starts at guard. Last year's state finalist totaled 4,101 yards, 3,077 rushing. "We felt fortunate to be back in the championship game," says Ron Tenney, whose club fell to St. David. "The kids worked hard."

If **Fredonia** can get production out of its junior class, the Lynx might be back in the playoff race. First, they need to replace veteran coach Mont Griffiths, who stepped down. Griffiths, with 153 wins, coached the Lynx since 1961. Only three seniors might start. Halfbacks Jody Wheatley and Mike Haskie, along with end Linc Bundy are veteran players. It's the junior class which looks strong. Quarterback Tyrell Sanders, running back Clint McCormick, linebacker Zachery Tait and end Jerry Johnson played a lot. Size is a weakness. Not one starter tips the scales at 200-pounds.

Most of Vince Cahill's lineup at **Mayer** returns. Like Fredonia, the strength is in the junior class. Two-way end Cody Kuehl (6-0, 190) is the senior leader. Underclassmen start at nearly every position. Quarterback Steve Vega, along with Cesar Leyva, Chayne Probst, Kevin Martin, Nick Vigilanes and Billy Peterson man the skill positions. Cody Probst, a 6-



Rick Huisman
Phx. Christian



Robert Harris
Boys Ranch

2, 230-pound sophomore, anchors the line. Still, the Wildcats are two years away.

1A SOUTH REGION

1. St. David (11-0)
2. Fort Thomas (7-3)
3. Arizona Lutheran Academy (4-5)
4. Clifton (4-4)
5. Patagonia (1-6)

It was a great championship run at **St. David**, and it might not be over. The Tigers, coached by John Bryant, blitzed Mogollon 58-26 in the 8-man finals for the school's first state football crown since 1979. In fact, during the 1997-98 school year, they won state titles in three major

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State title runs

By defeating Boys Ranch in the 1997 Class 3A finals, Blue Ridge has now won four consecutive state championships. The state mark is nine, set by Phoenix Union. Below are the leaders and the schools which dethroned them:

Streak	School	Years	Dethroned by
9	Phoenix Union	1920-28	Tucson
5	Phoenix Union	1913-17	Bisbee
4	Phoenix Union	1939-42	Tucson
4	Tucson	1942-45	Mesa
4	Flagstaff	1981-84	Gilbert
4	Blue Ridge	1994-97	(Active)
3	Phoenix Union	1930-32	Mesa
3	Wickenburg	1939-41	Tucson Amphitheater
3	*Coolidge	1943-45	Douglas
3	Wickenburg	1949-51	Pima
3	*Phoenix Carver	1951-53	Bisbee
3	McNary	1964-66	Fredonia
3	Eloy Santa Cruz	1978-80	San Manuel
3	Snowflake	1991-93	Blue Ridge
3	St. Johns	1992-94	Kearny Ray

*Includes ties.

sports: football, basketball and track. They missed winning baseball by one run. Bryant returns several good athletes, including all-state quarterback Greg Mortensen (6-1, 195), who rushed for 528 yards and passed for 621. He scored 12 touchdowns. Halfback Austin Judd, end A.J. Jacquez, safety Scott Dever and defensive back Aaron Weimer form a solid senior class. Adam Kartchner, the Tigers' best returning lineman, was hurt during the playoffs. He looks healthy. Junior guard Jarrod Hunt and sophomores Scott Moore and Gerrin Hunt could start. Moore can also play quarterback. "We have good athletes," admits Bryant. "We lost our line but we should still be one of the top teams."

Fort Thomas had a good run too. The Apaches were runnerup to St. David in the 1A South (lost 20-16), but beat Fredonia 36-30 at state. Mogollon ended their season in the semifinals. Coach Wil Hinton has some big shoes to fill. But not at running back or linebacker. Junior Danny McEuen (6-0, 184) gained 1,402 yards on 174 carries and scored 24 touchdowns. In the secondary he made 90 tackles. Senior Frank Cheney (5-10, 170) recorded 122 tackles, nine sacks and deflected seven passes. Quarterback Kenny McCabe passed for just 324 yards, but hit for a good percentage (75%). Junior Terold Robertson was honorable mention all-area as a defensive lineman. Robert Oliver, Andy Mitchell, Dan Colombo and Wesley Rhodes give the

Apaches senior leadership. Matt Herbert, Justin Fallers, Dennis Titla and Josh Wesley are young players who will start on the line. "If we can rebuild our line we should be competitive again," claims Hinton.

It looks like a rebuilding year at **Arizona Lutheran Academy**, located in southwest Phoenix. Coach Doug Meyer returns only six players, but one is a good one, fullback/linebacker John Halvarson (6-2, 190). He's one of the best in the region. Two-way back Mike Joling (5-11, 170) and junior wideout Kai Candler (5-8, 140) were starters. Junior Zach Stam (6-0, 170) gets the call at quarterback. Senior Nate Beals starts at tight end. Underclassmen like Joel Wagner and Kelly Huet will compete on the line. Several newcomers could fit in, including receiver Cody Johnson and tackles Steve Dignan and Steve Berg, a 6-5, 270-pound freshman.

Clifton, absent from the playoffs for three years, slipped in the back door but was bombed by Orme, 62-0. Coach Ron Aguallo played nine underclassmen - more than half the roster. Two, sophomore linebacker Joshua Aguilar (5-9, 159) and junior nose guard John Mann (5-10, 175) were honorable mention all-area picks. Aguilar also plays tailback. There's very little size in the program. Guards John Medina (5-9, 180) and Jacob Vigil (5-10, 185) are the biggest Trojans in camp. Sophomore Luis Montoya might get a start at quarterback.

Scottsdale Quarterback Club

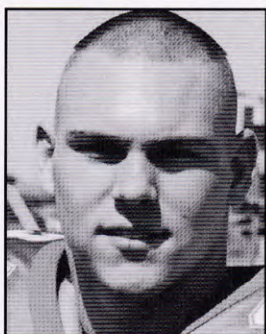
SALUTING OUR CITY PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

1997 ... Jerry Schwartzberg, Chaparral, RB
 1996 ... Mike Mantle, Coronado, RB/DB
 1995 ... Mike Brown, Saguaro, RB/DB
 1994 ... John Clayton, Horizon, RB
 1993 ... Randy Hakes, Arcadia, TE/LB
 1992 ... Rod Bair, Coronado, FB
 1991 ... Paul Fichera, Coronado, RB
 1990 ... Justin Olson, Horizon, RB
 .. Paul Fichiera, Coronado, RB (jr)
 1989 ... Kevin McLemore, Coronado, RB/LB
 1988 ... Andy Davis, Saguaro, RB
 1987 ... Tony Werstler, Sagar, QB
 .. Neil Begalman, Saguaro, LB
 1986 ... John Boyer, Coronado, FB/LB
 1985 ... Charles Sanfilippo, Chaparral, RB
 1984 ... Steve Rosholt, Arcadia, RB
 1983 ... Dave Schilling, Coronado, RB
 1982 ... Lee Bishop, Chaparral, RB
 .. Tim McInnis, Coronado, TE
 1981 ... Frank Rudolph, Coronado, DE
 1980 ... Randy Hayes, Scottsdale, WR
 1979 ... Jeff Harper, Chaparral, RB
 1978 ... Kevin Smith, Saguaro, QB (jr)
 1977 ... Joey Lumpkin, Scottsdale, FB/LB
 1976 ... Greg Brady, Coronado, QB
 1975 ... Bob Pitre, Arcadia, QB
 1974 ... Rick McClelland, Saguaro, FB/LB
 1973 ... Rob Wilson, Coronado, QB/DB
 1972 ... Keith Sobraski, Coronado, DT



Coronado running back Paul Fichera.

1971 ... Gil Gillenwater, Arcadia, RB
 1970 ... Jim Cedarstrom, Saguaro, DE
 1969 ... Wayne Mattingly, Saguaro, FB
 1968 ... Marty Stajduhar, Coronado, WR
 1967 ... Marty Shuford, Saguaro, RB/P
 1966 ... Bill Diple, Arcadia, DB
 1965 ... Bill Diple, Arcadia, WR (jr)
 1964 ... Don Burger, Scottsdale, HB
 1963 ... Dana Woudenberg, Arcadia, FB/LB
 1962 ... Everett "Moose" Rollins, Arcadia, HB



**J. Schwartzberg
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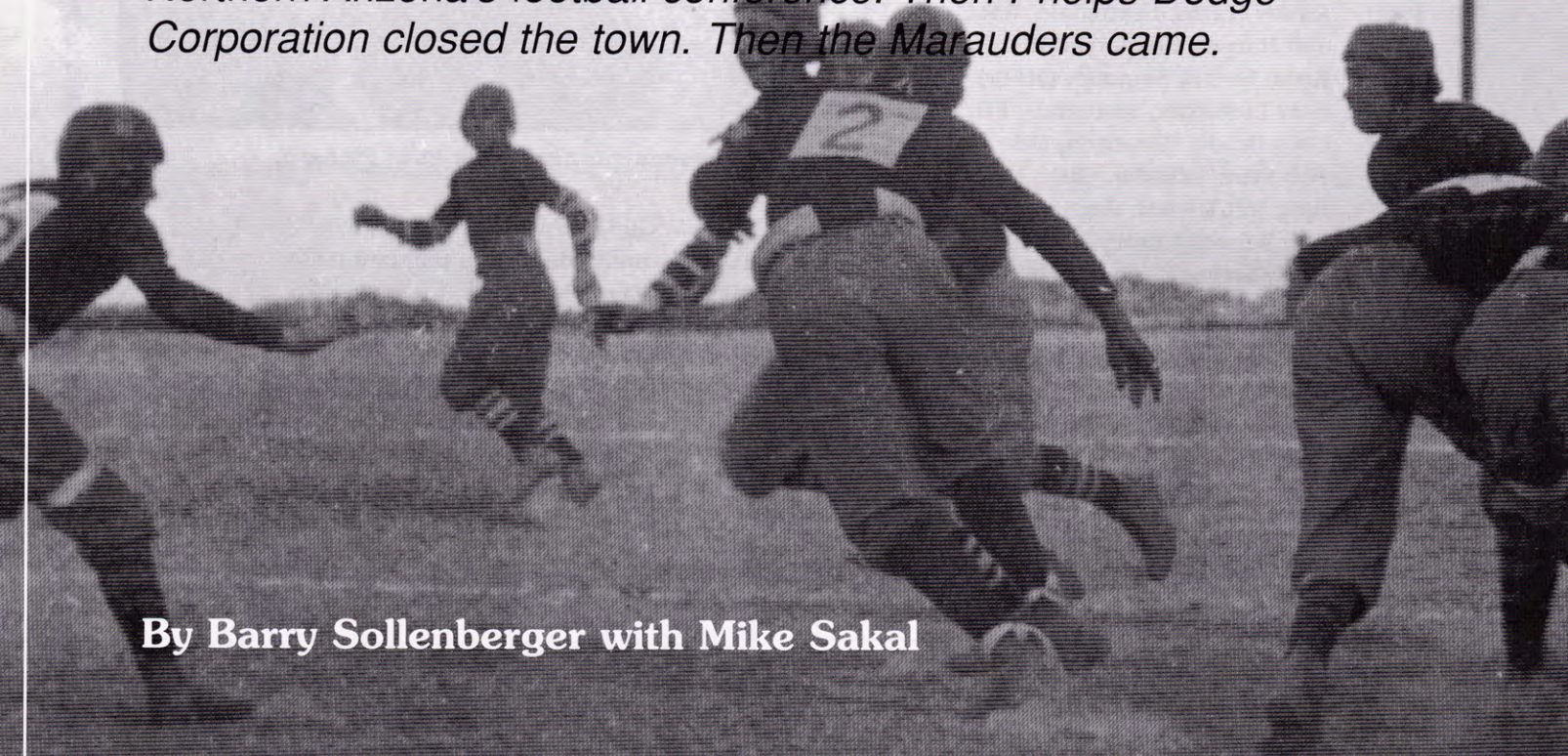
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JEROME'S LOST FOOTBALL LEGIONS

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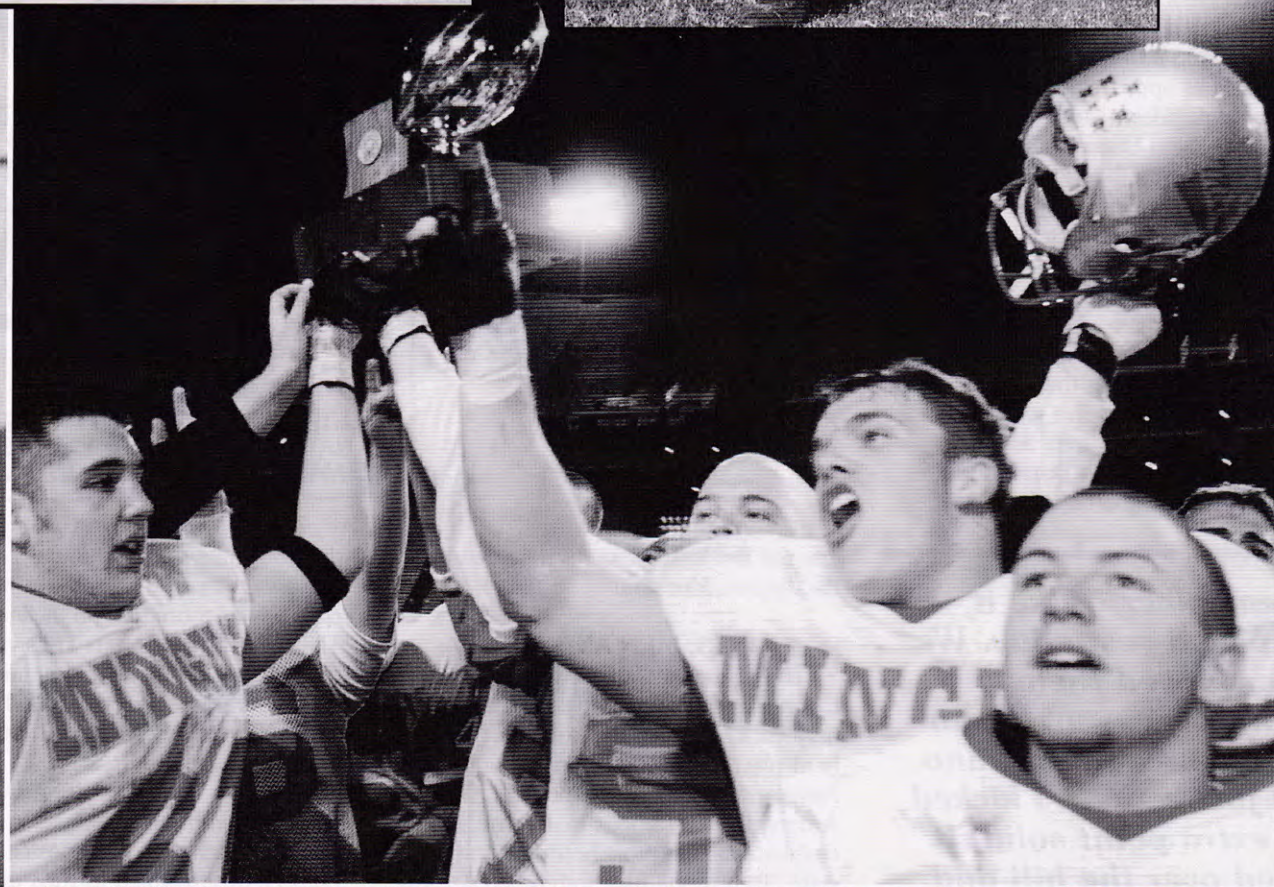


In 1950, Coach Don Snyder's football machine marched undefeated and almost untested through Northern Arizona's football conference. Then Phelps Dodge Corporation closed the town. Then the Marauders came.



By Barry Sollenberger with Mike Sakal

(Jerome Historical Society photo)



(Sedona Red Rock News)

It was the worst kept secret in town. With the closing of mining operations in Jerome, rumors were flying thick and fast that Jerome High School had a short future. If the Muckers were to leave a final mark in athletic history it would have to be this year.

They had two games remaining. A tough one with Round Valley and an easy foe in Holbrook.

One week earlier Jerome High, with a dwindling enrollment of 100 students, pulled the surprise of the 1950 northern Arizona gridiron season, upsetting highly favored Flagstaff 18-6. The top-rated Eagles, along with Casa Grande to the south, were the late-season favorites to annex the state's mythical Class B football crown.

The Muckers, greatly outweighed by the heavy-scoring Eagles, maintained their undefeated pace by scoring three times in the first half and held on. An overflow crowd of nearly 2,000 at tiny Clarkdale Field roared its approval. Pete Munoz threw two touchdown strikes to Jerome Diaz, and Richard Quesada hit Efen Fernandez for the other. Flagstaff's Garland Neal scored the Eagles' lone tally. One week later, on October 27, Jerome rallied in the second half to defeat Round Valley 13-7, and protect its unbeaten record. It set the stage for the season finale, a long trip to Holbrook.

Diaz was the man of the hour. He scored a school record five touchdowns - one a 64-yard punt return - as the Muckers prevailed 50-6. Don Manriques scored the final tally on a short run. It

"I remember it like it happened yesterday. We never played them before. It was up at our place, and Tom Serrano had just scored. I kicked the extra point solid. It sailed over the hill and landed down by the railroad tracks. Then it showed up in Ripley's Believe It or Not. How could I forget it. It's been on my wall for 60 years."

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JEROME H.S.
IN ARIZONA,
PLACEKICKED
A FOOTBALL
300 YARDS

Oct. 1936

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12-10

NATURE'S CEMETERY
WESTERN AUSTRALIA, NEAR PERTH,
NATURAL STONE PINNACLES,
SHAPED LIKE TOMBSTONES

was the last touchdown ever scored by the Jerome Muckers.

MINES, MEN AND MONEY

The history of Jerome is a story of tough men against a rough mountain. Of hard rock, hard work, hard liquor and hard play. A melting pot of Italians, Austrians, Croats, Serbs, you name it. Among the 20 saloons in Jerome, the Fashion was the most notorious in the state. Tombstone had nothing on Jerome. Jerome was a mine town propped on a thirty-degree mountainside two thousand feet above the Verde Valley, south of Sedona.

At one time Jerome boasted 15,000 people. Mining operations allegedly took out 600-million dollars in copper, gold and silver. Beneath Jerome was more

than 85 miles of mine tunnels.

Few towns in the West are more precariously anchored on an inclined plane. The town's main streets are switchbacks that snake over Mingus Mountain. Fifteen hundred vertical feet separate the upper-level houses from the lowest dwellings in the Gulch.

Jerome's modern history began in 1876, when three prospectors staked claims on rich copper deposits. They sold out to a group which formed the United States Verde Copper Company. The early camp of board and canvas shacks was named in honor of Eugene Jerome, the principal backer. But the cost of operating, especially for transportation, outstripped profits, and the company folded in less than two years.

The vision of William A. Clark, who

brought in a narrow gauge railroad, helped reduce freighting costs. By the early 20th century, the United Verde was the largest producing copper mine in Arizona Territory. Jerome soon became a frame and brick town, with churches, an opera house, a school, civic building and a town newspaper. While the oar was mined high on Mingus Mountain, the smelter operated near the bottom, in nearby Clarkdale.

In 1912, James Douglas purchased and began development of the Little Daisy Mine. By 1916, Jerome had two bonanza mines. Copper production peaked in 1929, but the Depression and low grade ore deposits reversed the town's fortunes. Phelps Dodge Corporation took over in 1935, but the Little Daisy soon shut down. The loss of profits spelled doom. The area newspaper, *The Verde Copper News*, ceased publication.

During World War II the great demand for copper for shells, ships, power and communication equipment rapidly depleted the known ore deposits. Fortunes were spent in explorations for more ore-bearing bodies. The tremendous war production tonnage signaled the beginning of the end. In 1950, smelter fires were shut off. Hundreds of miners were transferred to other Phelps Dodge operations at Ajo or Bisbee. Usable parts of the smelter were dismantled and moved.

IF THE HILLS COULD TALK

Lost in Arizona sports history is the amazing saga on Mingus Mountain. The high school rivalry between the Jerome Muckers and the Clarkdale Wolves took a backseat to none. The Armistice Day clashes and Turkey Day bloodbaths. If only the hills could talk.

It took a special kind of person to work in the mines. It took a special kid to play four years of football at historic Clark Field. "In those days, nobody was too excited to play Jerome on the hill," claims Rusty Winslow, a 1947 graduate who today lives in nearby Cornville. "We didn't have the beautiful grass fields like they did in Phoenix. It was mostly dirt. But we had a better view."

In 1936, legendary Phoenix Union coach R.R. "Robby" Robinson took his mighty Coyotes north for a clash with Jerome. Before the game he was more concerned about the playing field than the Muckers.

"It'll be our first northern Arizona game in 10 years," said Robinson, the 1930 national coach of the year. "We



Frank Sancet
1937-41



Homer Brown
1942-49

expect to be hampered by the high altitude and playing on a cinder field."

The game turned into a classic. The Muckers did themselves proud, battling a school with 3,000-plus students to the wire. The Coyotes prevailed 20-7, but not before Jerome's all-state halfback Bob Svob made history.

Before the largest crowd ever in Jerome, Bob Dixon scored first for Phoenix. In the third period halfback Harold Whiteman, a 9.8 sprinter, scored on a four-yard run. Then little Willie Fie dashed 48 yards for a 20-0 lead.

Jerome answered. Svob, one of the school's all-time great players, fired a 30-yard bullet to Bobby Pejovich, who lateraled to Tom Serano, who scored untouched. It was Svob's kick for the extra point that made history - like the longest kick on record. The ball sailed through the uprights, bounced over a hill and rolled a quarter-mile to the railroad tracks near Little Italy.

So bizarre was the kick it reached the desk of Ripley's *Believe It or Not*. Before Svob and his Jerome teammates knew it they were the talk of the high school football world. At least for one week.

"I remember it like it happened yesterday," says Svob from his home in Tucson. "We never played them before. It was up at our place, and Tom Serano had just scored. I kicked the extra point solid. It sailed over the hill and landed down by the railroad tracks. Then it showed up in Ripley's *Believe It or Not*. How could I forget it. It's been on my wall for 60 years."

Svob played both football and basketball, and very well. He later won varsity letters at the University of Arizona, playing three different backfield positions. During the war he served as a Navy lieutenant. He later served as both an assistant coach and assistant athletic director at Arizona.

"Jerome was a great place to live and grow up," adds Svob. "I try and get back

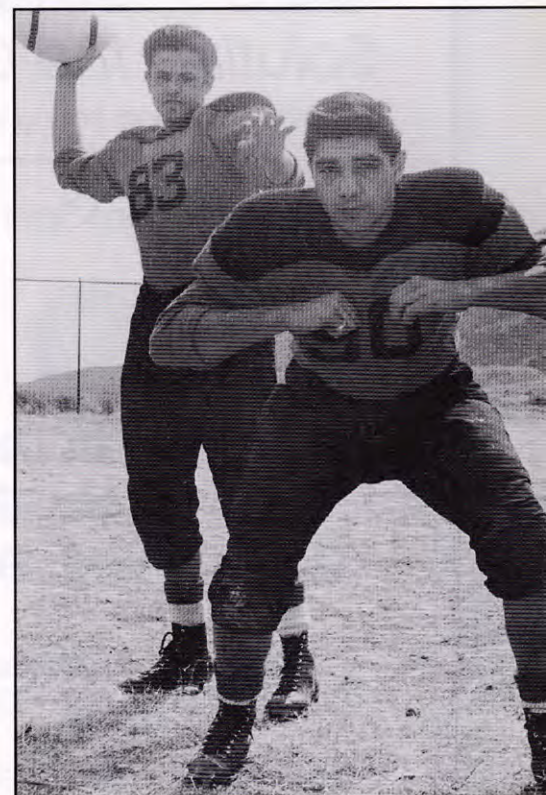
at least once a year, if possible. You look at it today and it's hard to imagine what it looked like when I was young. It was a different world. Playing sports, we had good teams and good coaches."

Svob was just one of a long list of legendary athletes who wore the Orange & Black. All-state players like Dick Peila, Toby Verdugo, Bid Parker, Rudy Svob, John Mullen, Johnny Lozano, Nello Pozzobon, Ralph Moran, Bob Sanchez and Rudy Larisch. Rival Clarkdale had its share, too, like Clarence Wombacher, Lloyd Wilhite and Buster Bentley. They were the true pioneers of schoolboy football in northern Arizona's wild and rough league.

Then there was the coaches. Fred McDonald, Frank Kerr, Hoppy Hopkins, Waldo Dicus, Frank Sancet, Maynard Davenport, Homer Brown and Don Snyder. Some of the most famous names in Arizona's historic coaching circles.

Dicus, born in Jerome in 1906, was the local hero who went off to college, became a star and returned home to coach. He played both football and basketball at the University of Arizona, then returned to Jerome and coached both sports.

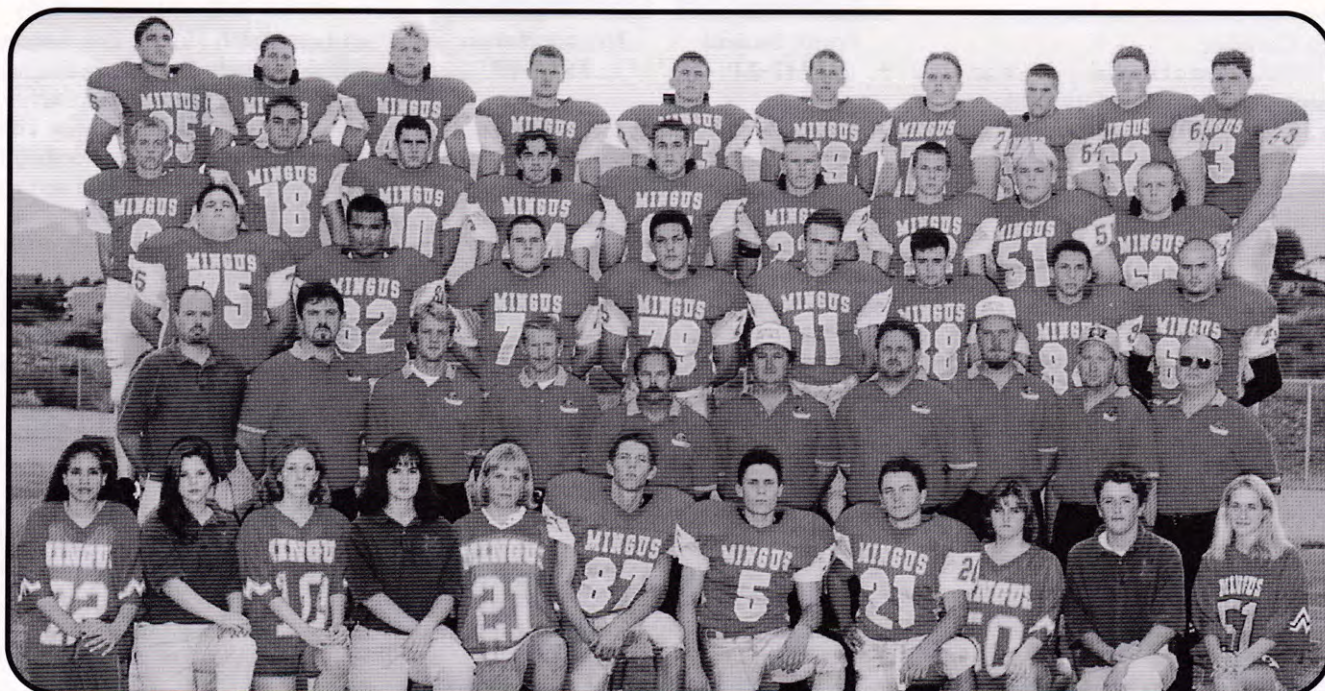
His teams were tough. In both sports. If Flagstaff or Winslow didn't annex the



Jerome's 1950 co-captains, quarter-back Peter Munoz and guard Jimmy Casillas.



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'97 CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

Marauders 28Phoenix Washington 14
Marauders 28Scottsdale Coronado 20
Marauders 57Agua Fria 20
Marauders 19Tempe Union 19
Marauders 42Prescott 10
Marauders 62Page 0
Marauders 31Flagstaff 21
Marauders 61Chinle 0
Marauders 51Flagstaff Coconino 0
Marauders 36Flagstaff Sinagua 35

PLAYOFFS:

Marauders 78Peoria Centennial 44
Marauders 38Glendale Apollo 26
Marauders 39Scottsdale Chaparral 24
Marauders 23Tucson Sabino 14

league crown, you can bet Dicus and the Muckers were in the hunt. It was in 1936 that Dicus, led by Svob, coached his last championship team on "The Hill". On Armistice Day his well-oiled Muckers crushed Clarkdale 32-0.

Sancet, running the famed single-wing offense, produced the Muckers' first undefeated season in 1941, when the heroics of Bobby Sanchez led Jerome to its sixth conference crown. Sancet left Jerome in 1942, and later coached in Douglas. For 22 years he was the head baseball coach at the University of Arizona, where he built the Wildcats into a national power. He won 831 games, took 17 teams to tournaments, and reached the finals of the College World Series three times.

THE CLARKDALE RAID

Like every state, Arizona has its famous high school rivalries. Jerome vs Clarkdale took a backseat to none. Including Bisbee vs Douglas, Globe vs Miami or the historic Phoenix Union-North battles. The schools sometimes faced each other twice, first on Armistice Day (today Veterans Day), then on Thanksgiving.

In 1921, Fred McDonald led a green, inexperienced squad of Muckers down the hill to engage the Wolves in the first organized football game played by the school. Earlier contests with Prescott were played without benefit of coaching. The Orange & Black made a valiant showing, but were snowed under, 41-0.

"When McDonald talked us into going out for football, none of us had ever seen a football game before, much less played in one," recalls 92-year-old George McMillan, one of the school's first players. "In fact, my brother John was one of the school's first all-state players."

The American Legion Post, in charge of the first ever Armistice Day events, encouraged every citizen on Mingus Mountain to attend the game. "The Billion Dollar Copper Camp did itself proud," wrote *The Verde Copper News*.

By 1924, under the guidance of Frank

"When McDonald talked us into going out for football, none of us had ever seen a football game before, much less played in one. In fact, my brother John was one of the school's first all-state players."

Big games

Eight of the most historical football games played by high schools from Mingus Mountain, between 1921 and 1997:

Jerome 25, Clarkdale 7 (Nov. 27, 1924): This Thanksgiving Day clash clinched the Muckers' first ever conference championship, played before a standing room crowd at historic Clark Field. Tom Daly threw two touchdown passes, one 65 yards to Waldo Dicus. Francis Vihel scored on a 75-yard punt return. In a losing effort, the Wolves' Billy Haskins intercepted four passes.

Clarkdale 7, Jerome 0 (Nov. 26, 1925): This bizarre game matched Clarkdale's best-ever team against a Mucker squad rated a three touchdown underdog. Earlier, G.G. Goodsell's unbeaten Smelterites trashed Kingman 101-0. But Jerome's fired-up defense, led by tackle Walter Cain, harassed the Northern Arizona champs all day. The only score came in the second period, when Lloyd Wilhite, the Wolves' all-state quarterback, sprinted 82-yards untouched.

Phoenix Union 20, Jerome 7 (Oct. 3, 1936): This game, played at Clark Field, was the first-ever meeting between two of the state's most historic schools. A bizarre kick put Jerome on the national map. After Tom Serrano scored the Muckers' only tally, halfback Bob Svob's extra point kick became the longest on record. It bounced off the field and rolled over 300 yards to the railroad tracks below. The kick landed in the national syndicated feature *Ripley's Believe It or Not*.

Jerome 6, Clarkdale 0 (Nov. 8, 1941): This titanic defensive clash on Armistice Day won both the Northern Arizona crown for JHS, plus its first undefeated season. It was Frank Sancet's last game as the Muckers' coach. The Wolves were coached by Russell "Runt" Goddard. Back Bobby Sanchez was Jerome's high-profile player.

Jerome 18, Flagstaff 6 (Oct. 20, 1950): Outweighed Jerome handed favored Flagstaff its only loss in this stunner, paving the way to another Northern Arizona championship. Pete Munoz threw two touchdown passes to Jerome Diaz. It was the key win in Jerome's undefeated - and last - season.

Mingus Union 27, Peoria 6 (Sept. 27, 1996): One week after Peoria's Kyran Jones rushed for 388 yards and five touchdowns in a 43-43 tie with Paradise Valley, the Marauders' defense stuffed the visiting Panthers at "The Cave". Juniors Mike Rhorer and Ryan Stokes scored for the winners. It marked the first time in modern history that Mingus Union beat a legitimate state football power from south of Yavapai County.

Mingus Union 78, Peoria Centennial 44 (Nov. 15, 1997): In the highest scoring high school game in Arizona history, Mingus back Mike Rhorer scored four touchdowns and Mike Wilcox kicked six extra points and a 47-yard field goal. In a losing effort, Centennial quarterback Mike Strack passed for a state record 482 yards in this 4A playoff game. One month later the Marauders won it all.

Mingus Union 23, Tucson Sabino 14 (Dec. 12, 1997): The Marauders, playing in the state finals for the first time, upset the state's highest scoring 4A squad at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe. Mingus sealed the victory when Mike Wilcox picked off a pass in the end zone with 3:51 left. Ryan Stokes threw two touchdown passes. Sabino tailback Nathan Wize gained 223 yards and scored two touchdowns.

W. Kerr, Jerome so improved it won its first Northern Arizona Conference crown. The Muckers two losses were to Mesa High and Flagstaff Normal, a college squad. Fullback Dick Peila, a guard the year before, became the school's initial first team all-state player, selected by *The Arizona Republican*. Waldo Dicus, Fred Carrera, Francis Vihel and Tim Connolly were additional stars. Besides two wins over Clarkdale, the highlight of the season was a 62-12 rout of Prescott.

Following the Turkey Day clash with Clarkdale, R.L. Beveridge presented the Muckers with the George C. Ruffner Cup (also called the Yavapai Cup), emblematic of the high school football championship

of the five northern counties. Earlier, the Jerome freshman class, following tradition, climbed up the mountain and painted the "J" orange.

It was truly the "Roaring '20s". In more ways than one. Transportation to games in Flagstaff, Prescott, Kingman, Williams, Winslow, Gilbert, Mesa or Phoenix became three-day trips. Cold hands and wet footballs were a nightmare to teams in the season's second half. By today's standards, equipment was inferior and rules were different. When a team scored, they then received the kickoff. Today that rule is reversed. Under the old guidelines, scores like Clarkdale 101, Kingman 0 hit the sports pages far too

Jerome log

Key facts & figures about football at Jerome High School, from its first game in 1921, to its last in 1950. The high school opened in 1906, closed in 1951.

Mascot: Muckers

First Organized Football Game: 1921

First Head Coach: Fred McDonald

First All-State Player: Guard Dick Peila and halfback John McMillan, 1923.

Last All-State Player: Guard Jim Casillas, 1950.

Enrollment Peak: 350 students in 1930.

Head Coaches: (8) Fred McDonald, Frank Kerr, Hoppy Hopkins, Waldo Dicus, Frank Sancet, Maynard Davenport, Homer Brown, Don Snyder.

Winning Percentage: (.562) 100-78-20

Northern Arizona Conference Titles: (8) 1924, 1932, 1933, 1936, 1938, 1941, 1946, 1950.

Undefeated Seasons: (2) 1941 (7-0-1), 1950 (7-0)

Largest Crowd: 6,000 vs Phoenix Union, 1937

First Win: 13-0 vs Williams, 1923

Last Win: 50-6 vs Holbrook, 1950

often.

In 1927, coaches and principals in Jerome, Prescott, Clemenceau and Clarkdale schools met to reach a decision on the future of football in the lower levels. Should soccer be played instead of football? Most felt soccer was more adaptable to physical development than football. But in the long run, football won out.

One year later, Clarkdale's 19-7 win over JHS was characterized by many observers as the roughest exhibition of football ever witnessed in the Verde district. Each team's quarterback, the winner's Jim Spooner (broken collarbone) and Jerome's Bob Riordan (concussion) were knocked out of the game.

THE SANCET ERA

Frank Sancet, an outstanding athlete himself, got off to a rocky start. The Muckers new coach hit rock bottom in 1937, when they failed to register a victory in eight games. Ironically, his team recorded three consecutive 6-6 tie games with Flagstaff, Winslow and Glendale. Low point of the season was a 65-0 loss to Phoenix Union, played before 6,000 fans in Phoenix.

But overnight, Jerome became a major force in the north. With a 40-man squad, Sancet's '38 club won five league games and beat Clarkdale 14-0 for the conference championship. Center Bob Davenport, captain of the all-conference team, guard Nello Pozzobon and end Ralph Moran led the way. One year later a 13-0 loss in Kingman kept the Sancetmen out of the throne room. Highlight of that season was a 38-0

Armistice Day win over Clarkdale. Moran, the club's all-state end, went out in style, scoring the Muckers' first three touchdowns. Moran continued his playing days in college in Flagstaff, and later became a successful head coach at Wickenburg High, winning 200 games with the Wranglers.

NIGHT FOOTBALL

Before the opening game of the 1940 season, played under the lights at the new 300-level field, the school paid tribute to the memory of teammate Albert Arias, the Muckers' captain-elect who suffered a fatal spinal cord injury in a swimming accident at the Verde River near Clarkdale.

Old Clark Field was no longer used by the school. The new field, closer to town and right next to the city pool, was a welcome sight. The season ended on a high note, a 6-0 win over Clarkdale. But a loss to Kingman and a tie with Flagstaff's Eagles kept Sancet's club out of the conference throne room.

It was all Jerome in 1941, arguably the school's best season ever. Halfback Bob Sanchez, end Paul Rodriguez and tackle Julian Agredano stood tall above the field. The first big step came in October, at the Prescott Fairgrounds, against the bitter Badgers. After Jerome prevailed, *Prescott Courier* writer Joe Love wrote, "This game, always action-filled and ferociously contested, was a slam-bang, rough and thrilling contest, with eight clipping and unnecessary roughness penalties."

Two weeks later, sparked by Sanchez's

75-yard kickoff return for a score, the high flying Muckers continued their march toward the Northern title by downing Flagstaff 20-6. Back-to-back wins over Winslow (30-7) and Williams (30-0) set the stage for an early November date with Clarkdale. The Muckers' prevailed 6-0 and closed out the Sancet era.

One month later Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and America was at war.

THE WAR YEARS

It's ironic, but World War II was the beginning of the end for Jerome. The great demand for copper ore picked up the work pace. The product disappeared quicker.

First-year coach Homer Brown, who later spent one year in the military, faced a three-game schedule. Because of the war effort, games with Flagstaff, Winslow and Kingman were cancelled.

Five years later, riding the arm of 132-pound quarterback Rusty Winslow, JHS recorded a 5-1-1 post-war record. They were declared conference champions when Prescott was disqualified for using ineligible players. Winslow, halfback Rudy Larisch and guard Cruz Hernandez were honorable mention picks on the *Arizona Daily Star's* all-state team.

"It was a crazy time for a lot of us," recalls Winslow. "Some of us left school early for the war, then came back. But Jerome was a great place to live and go to school."

"Coach Brown had some unique ways of getting us in shape. We didn't have a blocking sled, so he had us push the bus around the practice field. That was tough."

"Sometimes, if we wanted to practice by ourselves at night, play catch or whatever in the off-season, we'd go over to the 300-level field, and a Phelps Dodge employee would turn the lights on."

Winslow, who sometimes worked as a life guard at the city pool, later coached in Peoria, Sierra Vista and at two newer schools on Mingus Mountain, Mingus and Mingus Union.



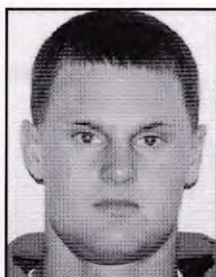
Bob Svob
Jerome



Rusty Winslow
Jerome



Hamilton Mee
Mingus Union



Mike Rhorer
Mingus Union

THE LUCKLESS MUCKERS

For four more years, Homer Brown's T-Formation wrecked havoc in northern Arizona, winning 80% of its games. But it was a struggle. He faced major health problems. In early 1948, while Brown recuperated in a California hospital, assistants Maynard Davenport and Don Snyder took over. Four games were cancelled due to a polio epidemic in the Verde Valley.

The luckless Muckers, plagued by polio bans and injuries all season, played rival Cottonwood without seven starters, two out with injuries and five who were dismissed for violating training rules. Jerome still won, 14-0. The annual clash with Clarkdale was cancelled because of the polio threat.

Tragically, Brown died on January 18, 1950, in Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Cottonwood. He was 43. The football and basketball coach died from cerebral meningitis, caused by an injury received during the war. He was a sergeant in the infantry and was injured at Fort Benning, Georgia.

The Muckers lived only one year longer.

Although he didn't know it at the time, Snyder, a former Kansas high school star, became the school's eighth and last head coach. His 1950 team was perfect. Only Round Valley and Phoenix Carver played the Muckers close. In September, after a season-opening win over St. Johns, Jerome edged all-black Carver High 12-7. Pete Munoz scored first and Richard

"Coach Brown had some unique ways of getting us in shape. We didn't have a blocking sled, so he had us push the bus around the practice field. That was tough"

Quesada returned the second half kickoff 90 yards for a score. The Monarchs Robert Taylor went 98 yards with a mid-air fumble for Carver's lone tally.

The Muckers' annual football banquet, sponsored by the Jerome Elks Lodge, was held at the school cafeteria. College coaches from Flagstaff, Tempe and Tucson spoke. Snyder praised the work of late coach Brown, and assistant Maynard Davenport. Cheerleaders Sally Ferrel, Beebe Rae Davenport and Marilyn Thornton served the last dinner.

One week later school trustees at both Jerome and Clarkdale - because of the closing of mining operations and the declining enrollment in the schools - recommended that it would be best to combine the two high school districts. It went to the vote of the public. On Tuesday, December 12, 1950, consolidation of the two districts was overwhelmingly approved by the voters.

Historic Jerome High and its legendary mascot became a thing of the past. The known deposits of ore at Jerome were exhausted. The Muckers were history.

CONSOLIDATION

Nearby Cottonwood High stayed out of the fry. The Red Devils first fielded a football team in 1947, but stayed out of the political mix for 10 years. Head coaches Tom Hyde, Everett Wright and Marlin Spaw kept the athletic program alive as long as possible.

When the new consolidated Mingus High team took the field against St. Johns on September 21, 1951, it was the first test of the season for both teams. The student body chose to call its new school the Rams. This replaced the former well-known names of the Muckers and Wolves. Green and white was chosen as the school colors.

Snyder took over as head coach. He lasted one year and got one big break early. Star back Jerome Diaz, who scored five touchdowns in his last game at Jerome, returned. He picked up where he left off, scoring all 25 points in the Rams' 25-20 opening win. Mingus finished 5-2-1, losing to Carver, Flagstaff and tying Kingman. Diaz, Gilbert Morales, Richard Sanchez and Albert Rodriguez earned post-season honors.

That was it.

So depleted was the regions population, within two years the Rams were playing 6-man football. On January 30, 1953, headlines in both Phoenix newspapers told the story:

END COMES TO FAMED JEROME MINING CAMP

"Jerome, one of Arizona's great mining camps, will die as a mining town in about two months."

THEN THE MARAUDERS CAME

For five years coaches Bob DeVault and Rusty Winslow paid the price. Then, in 1958, Cottonwood joined the mold, merging with the Rams to form the Mingus Union Marauders.

Winslow was at the team's helm when assistant coach Tom Cantrell came up with the idea to have a Marauder as the school's mascot. "Coming up with the Marauder was kind of a compromise," claims Winslow. "We kept the school colors of Cottonwood High (scarlet & gray), and decided to get rid of the old mascots of the Mingus Rams and Cottonwood Red Devils."

Every bit as good as Jerome was on the gridiron, Mingus Union was bad. For the next 25 years, under seven different head coaches, the Marauders posted 21 losing seasons. They won less than 40% of the time. Sixteen teams won three or less games. Two didn't win a game. One didn't score. Only two coaches, Hank Barbarick and Steve Wombacher, won seven games in a single season.

"When Jerome closed, everybody eventually left," adds Winslow. "There wasn't much left to stay for. Especially if you had a family and needed work. The people who worked in the mines went off to other mining towns, or moved and changed jobs. It affected Cottonwood, Camp Verde and so forth. It was tough on the schools for a while."

But times change. Arizona's population growth effected the whole state, from the White Mountains to the Colorado River to the Verde Valley. Prescott, located just over the hill from Mingus Mountain, witnessed such a boom that two additional high schools - Bradshaw Mountain and Chino Valley - popped up nearby. Camp Verde to the east started to grow. West Sedona outgrew old Sedona.

In 1986, Bill Rudolph was hired as the Marauders' ninth head coach. One year later - because of an enrollment increase - the school moved up to the more competitive 4A ranks. They finished 10-2, advancing two games into the playoffs. "Hopefully, it's the beginning of a new era of respectability for Mingus football," said Rudolph after the school's first-ever 10-win season. He was right. Overnight the Marauders became a force in what today is the 4A Grand Canyon Region.



Historic Clark Field, shown here in the 1920s, was home for Jerome High's football and baseball teams, as well as semi-pro and local town teams (Jerome Historical Society).

Seven of Rudolph's teams reached the playoffs, joining Flagstaff as the most consistent 4A program in the North. Along the way, players like James Merrill, Jake Barnes, Justin Whittaker, Chris Welly, Stacy Bland, Mike Godwin, Josh Freegard, Hamilton Mee, Jon Sexton and Joe Zender were selected to various all-state teams.

Mee, a defensive lineman, was the most notable. He later became a JC All-American at Phoenix College, and soon found his way into Arizona State's lineup. Last year it was Mee's 69-yard return of a Ryan Leaf fumble that led to A-State's 44-31 win over eventual Pac-10 champion Washington State.

"We faced an identity problem earlier," said Rudolph several years ago. "When the all-state teams came out, you couldn't tell we existed. The established programs got all the ink. But as we got better that got better."

FAIRYTALE ENDING

Bob Young, a long-time Marauder assistant, replaced Rudolph three years ago. In 1996, his 4A Grand Canyon Region champs made an early-round playoff exit, losing 30-17 to Agua Fria. "We started slow (0-3) then won seven-straight with a lot of juniors," said Young afterwards. "We had two huge wins over Peoria and Flagstaff. We weren't far away."

Young and his staff felt it coming. "We are highly optimistic," he predicted before

the 1997 season. "With a little luck, this could be one of our best teams ever."

Indeed it was. Three-year starters like Mike Rhorer, Ryan Stokes and Nick Travers, plus 6-foot, 8-inch, 280-pound transfer Nick Johnson, were reasons for optimism. By mid-November they were the real deal.

The regular season ended with a Pulitzer Prize fairytale win over undefeated Flagstaff Sinagua. Before an estimated 5,000 fans at Bright Field, nicknamed "The Cave", the Marauders came back to score 29 points in the fourth quarter for a 36-35 win. It capped a 9-0-1 season and the school's eighth consecutive 4A Grand Canyon crown. (The tie was a non-league game with Tempe.)

Fans feared an anti-climactic first round playoff game with Centennial High from Peoria. They were wrong. What they saw on Nov. 15 was the highest scoring football game in Arizona history. Rhorer tied Heath Melton's school touchdown record in a season when he scored four times in an incredible 78-44 win. In a losing cause, Centennial junior Mike Strack passed for a state record 482 yards and three touchdowns.

One month later the Marauders upset favored Tucson Sabino 23-14 in the biggest win in the history of high school football in the Verde region (see chart). Mingus sealed the victory when Mike Wilcox picked off a pass in the end zone with 3:51 left on the clock. Ryan Stokes threw two touchdown passes. The game,

played at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, was the first of a double-header, followed by the 5A finals between Mountain View and Tucson Amphitheater. The events drew 14,081 paid fans.

"It was unbelievable," said Young afterwards. "It was a storybook season. The march through the playoffs brought the whole community together. We had a parade through town. There's a great deal of excitement still remaining."

Nancy Smith has lived in Jerome for 26 years, 13 across the street from the old Jerome High on 89-A. For eight years she worked for the Jerome Historical Society, and today works the night shift at the front desk of the Jerome Grand Hotel.

"This is a great place to live," claims Smith, glancing north towards Sedona, then down the hill towards Cottonwood. "I can't imagine what it was like to grow up and live here before the mines closed. Well, maybe I can. After you're here, you get a feel for what it must have been like. Is there a better view anywhere else than here? If so, I haven't seen it."

Today, football in Cottonwood is a common denominator, linking generations of players and families together, and helping bond a community that has long changed from an historic mining valley to one of Arizona's popular tourist regions.

It all started in Jerome.

One last cheer for the Muckers.



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'97 PLAYOFF SEASON:

MUSTANGS 54Independence 0
MUSTANGS 54.....Bradshaw Mountain 6
MUSTANGS 40Sunnyslope 6
MUSTANGS 35Buckeye 0
MUSTANGS 56Mohave 6
MUSTANGS 32Apache Junction 14
MUSTANGS 28Coconino 13
MUSTANGS 52Page 6
MUSTANGS 28Flagstaff 21
MUSTANGS 62Chinle 0
MUSTANGS 35Mingus Union 36

PLAYOFFS:

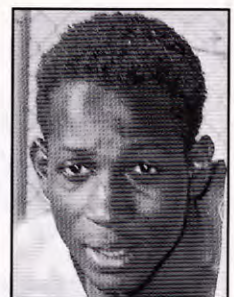
MUSTANGS 36Nogales 52



Mario Bates
Tucson Amphi

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Casa Grande

TOUCHDOWNS (GAME)

- 8.....Trent Thompson, Chinle, 1986 (jr)
- 7.....Ted Bland, Tucson, 1931
- 7.....Alvin Leon, Baboquivari, 1977
- 7.....Corry Hankins, South Mountain, 1994
- 7.....Mike Brown, Saguaro, 1995
- 7.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1996 (jr)
- 7.....Antrel Bates, Tucson Amphi, 1997

TOUCHDOWNS (SEASON)

- 51.....Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino, 1997
- 39.....Kevin Schmidtke, Mountain View, 1993
- 38.....Brian Drew, McClintock, 1989
- 38.....Scooter Sprotte, Blue Ridge, 1994
- 37.....Art Malone, Santa Cruz, 1965
- 37.....Tavon Cooper, Peoria, 1994
- 36.....Alvin Moore, Coolidge, 1977
- 35.....Stan Gill, Flagstaff, 1981
- 35.....Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, 1989 (jr)
- 35.....Mike Brown, Saguaro, 1995
- 35.....Richard Zuniga, Boys Ranch, 1997
- 34.....Derrick Ray, Cactus, 1988
- 34.....Mario Bates, Tucson Amphi, 1990
- 34.....Paul Shields, Paradise Valley, 1993
- 34.....Jeremiah Navarro, Blue Ridge, 1995
- 34.....Micah Barton, Phoenix Christian, 1996
- 34.....Antrel Bates, Tucson Amphi, 1997

TOUCHDOWNS (CAREER)

- 85.....Kevin Schmidtke, Mtn. View, 1991-93
- 76.....Derrick Ray, Cactus, 1986-88
- 76.....Mike Mitchell, Brophy Prep, 1990-92
- 72.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1995-97
- 71.....Paul Shields, Paradise Valley, 1991-93
- 70.....Travis Palmer, Camp Verde, 1988-91
- 63.....George Greathouse, Carver/
.....Phoenix Union, 1952-55
- 63.....Sean Reeder, Cactus Shad., 1985-88
- 62.....David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1983-85
- 62.....Scooter Sprotte, Blue Ridge, 1992-94
- 61.....Jerry Bridgman, Buckeye, 1955-58
- 61.....Mario Bates, Tucson Amphi, 1988-90
- 60.....Tim Smith, St. Mary's, 1964-67
- 61.....James Faultner, Williams, 1996-98
- 60.....Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, 1988-90
- 60.....Ernie Montez, Thatcher, 1988-91
- 60.....Nathan Wize, Saguaro/Sabino, '95-'97

POINTS (GAME)

- 48.....Trent Thompson, Chinle, 1986 (jr)

- 48.....Richard Zuniga, Boys Ranch, 1997
- 44.....Alvin Leon, Baboquivari, 1977
- 42.....Ted Bland, Tucson, 1931
- 42.....Corry Hankins, South Mountain, 1994
- 42.....Mike Brown, Saguaro, 1995
- 42.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1996 (jr)
- 42.....Antrel Bates, Tucson Amphi, 1997
- 40.....Mike Swick, Miami, 1924
- 40.....Robert Johnson, Miami, 1985
- 40.....Kit Landry, Williams, 1971

POINTS (SEASON)

- 306.....Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino, 1997
- 258.....Richard Zuniga, Boys Ranch, 1997
- 246.....Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, 1989 (jr)
- 246.....Kevin Schmidtke, Mountain View, 1993
- 234.....Alvin Moore, Coolidge, 1977
- 234.....Cory Lizarraga, Blue Ridge, 1997
- 229.....Stan Gill, Flagstaff, 1981
- 228.....Brian Drew, McClintock, 1989
- 228.....Scooter Sprotte, Blue Ridge, 1994
- 222.....Art Malone, Santa Cruz, 1965
- 222.....Tavon Cooper, Peoria, 1994
- 216.....Paul Shields, Paradise Valley, 1993

POINTS (CAREER)

- 524.....Kevin Schmidtke, Mtn. View, 1991-93
- 460.....Derrick Ray, Glendale Cactus, 1986-88
- 456.....Mike Mitchell, Brophy Prep, 1990-92
- 440.....Paul Shields, Paradise Valley, 1991-93
- 434.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1995-97
- 420.....Travis Palmer, Camp Verde, 1988-91
- 404.....Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, 1988-90
- 386.....Sean Reeder, Cave Creek, 1985-88
- 384.....Ernie Montez, Thatcher, 1988-91
- 383.....George Greathouse, Carver/
.....Phoenix Union, 1952-55
- 378.....Jerry Bridgman, Buckeye, 1955-58
- 377.....Stan Gill, Flagstaff, 1979-81
- 376.....Ronnie Bonner, Westwood, 1972-74
- 372.....David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1983-85
- 372.....Mario Bates, Tucson Amphi, 1988-90
- 372.....Scooter Sprotte, Blue Ridge, 1992-94

RUSHING YARDS (GAME)

- 469.....Stanley Jackson, Chinle, 1976
- 426.....Aaron Craig, Window Rock, 1993
- 403.....Joey Capps, Mohave, 1993
- 402.....Burton Belton, Winslow, 1958
- 388.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1996 (jr)

- 383.....Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino, 1997
- 381.....Alvin Leon, Baboquivari, 1977
- 376.....Cippy Correa, Antelope, 1973
- 358.....Glenn Rogers, Agua Fria, 1982
- 353.....Brian Galbreath, Cortez, 1991
- 352.....Joel Huerta, Coronado, 1995 (so)
- 347.....Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino, 1997
- 344.....Brian Pringle, Sunnyslope, 1970
- 343.....Russell Trejo, Casa Grande, 1994
- 342.....Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino, 1997

RUSHING YARDS (SEASON)

- 3,101.....Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino, 1997
- 2,961.....Scooter Sprotte, Blue Ridge, 1994
- 2,740.....Mario Bates, Tucson Amphi, 1990
- 2,601.....Keith Brown, Mountain Pointe, 1995
- 2,515.....Kevin Schmidtke, Mountain View, 1993
- 2,349.....Russell Trejo, Casa Grande, 1994
- 2,273.....Mutt Hall, Show Low, 1996
- 2,253.....Mike Cade, Santa Cruz, 1978
- 2,240.....Antrel Bates, Tucson Amphi, 1997
- 2,230.....Tim Vining, Cactus, 1994
- 2,224.....Micah Barton, Phoenix Christian, 1996
- 2,201.....Mike Mitchell, Brophy Prep, 1992
- 2,200.....Glenn King, Casa Grande, 1950

RUSHING YARDS (CAREER)

- 5,711.....Ernie Montez, Thatcher, 1988-91
- 5,669.....Mike Mitchell, Brophy Prep, 1990-92
- 5,440.....Kevin Schmidtke, Mtn. View, 1991-93
- 5,204.....Sean Reeder, Cactus Shad., 1985-88
- 5,069.....Scooter Sprotte, Blue Ridge, 1992-94
- 4,985.....Travis Palmer, Camp Verde, 1988-91
- 4,880.....David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1983-85
- 4,836.....Mario Bates, Tucson Amphi, 1988-90
- 4,551.....George Greathouse, Carver/
.....Phoenix Union, 1952-55
- 4,490.....Russell Trejo, Casa Grande, 1991-94
- 4,480.....Hadley Hicks, Bisbee, 1948-51
- 4,461.....Stan Gill, Flagstaff, 1979-81
- 4,458.....Mike Cade, Santa Cruz, 1976-78
- 4,417.....Jerry Bridgman, Buckeye, 1955-58
- 4,307.....Whizzer White, Mesa, 1944-46

CARRIES (GAME)

- 48.....Joey Capps, Mohave, 1993
- 45.....Jose Valenzuela, Apache Jct., 1989
- 44.....Mike Wolfe, Salpointe, 1965
- 44.....Forrest Valora, Trevor Browne, 1975
- 44.....Carlos Cochrane, Ironwood, 1991 (jr)



what if?

What if something happens on vacation?



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In 1990, the best backfield in Arizona was at Eloy Santa Cruz, with halfback Kevin Butler: 30 touchdowns, 1,892 yards rushing, 13.4 yards per carry.

43.....Steve Corson, Mingus Union, 1974
43.....Forrest Valora, Trevor Browne, 1975
42.....Mike Wolfe, Tucson Salpointe, 1965

AVERAGE YARDS PER CARRY (SEASON)

20.3.....Junior Tate, Casa Grande, 1953 (so)
13.9.....Max Hancock, Safford, 1946
13.6.....Ramon Ruiz, Clifton, 1967
13.6.....Marcus Bell, St. Johns, 1994
13.4.....Sid Udall, Round Valley, 1973
13.4.....Mike Gonzalez, Flagstaff, 1984
13.4.....Kevin Butler, Santa Cruz, 1990
13.3.....Joe Batiste, Tucson, 1938 (jr)
13.0.....Bruce Reed, Florence, 1983
13.0.....David Moran, Bradshaw Mtn., 1984

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN RUN

99.....Frank Estavillo, Safford, 1930
99.....Sammy Johnson, Mesa, 1952
99.....Manuel Chacon, Santa Cruz, 1954
99.....Oscar Nogales, Ajo, 1962
99.....Bob Bledsoe, Flagstaff, 1963
99.....Craig Ponczak, Phoenix Gerard, 1964
99.....Wayne Jones, Dysart, 1972
99.....Pete Finau, Kearny Ray, 1977
99.....Jerry Harper, Scottsdale Chaparral, '80
99.....Steve Moncibaez, Mingus, 1985 (so)
99.....Greg Johnson, Tuc. Palo Verde, 1985
99.....Tom Collins, Glendale Apollo, 1985
99.....Randy Carr, Phoenix Central, 1986
99.....Phil Hayward, Deer Valley, 1993 (jr)
99.....Trung Canidate, Phoenix Central, 1994
99.....Phil Hayward, Deer Valley, 1994
99.....Jason Kislingbury, Winslow, 1994 (so)
99.....Juan Huerta, San Manuel, 1996 (jr)
99.....Daniel Durnez, Camp Verde, 1997

PASSING YARDS (GAME)

482.....Mike Strack, Peoria Centennial, '97 (jr)
479.....Marty Rincon, Westview, 1993
452.....Mike Bitsue, Ganado, 1995 (jr)
449.....Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)
440.....Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)
435.....Gentry Gillespie, Round Valley, 1991
426.....Brad Chilcote, Tucson Sahuaro, 1985
425.....Dennis Bene, Tucson Salpointe, 1983
424.....Rodney Peete, Tucson Sahuaro, '82 (jr)
404.....Mike Makings, Scottsdale, 1971
403.....Rick Johnson, Paradise Valley, 1983
402.....Richard Lucero, South Mountain, 1997

PASSING YARDS (SEASON)

3,462.....Marty Rincon, Westview, 1993
3,103.....Frank Jimenez, Florence, 1995
3,009.....Chris Snyder, Sunnyslope, 1994
2,923.....Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)
2,906.....Michael Bitsue, Ganado, 1996
2,768.....Mark Brooks, Greenway, 1995
2,736.....Brad Chilcote, Tucson Sahuaro, 1985
2,721.....Brandon Tomerlin, Superior, 1997 (jr)
2,719.....Gary McEwen, Snowflake, 1982
2,709.....Ruger Fontes, Nogales, 1997
2,686.....Bobby Valdez, Tucson Sunnyside, 1986
2,683.....Ryan Kealy, St. Mary's, 1995
2,646.....Tim Rattay, Phoenix Christian, 1994
2,598.....Jason Lunsford, Phoenix Cortez, 1997
2,566.....Jonathan Beasley, Cactus, 1994 (jr)
2,539.....Kent Kiefer, McClintock, 1985
2,539.....Olen Valdez, Tucson Sunnyside, '94 (jr)
2,507.....Kevin Stephens, Cactus, 1991

PASSING YARDS (CAREER)

6,441.....Mark Brooks, Greenway, 1993-95

6,350.....Ryan Kealy, St. Mary's, 1993-95
6,346.....Kent Kiefer, McClintock, 1983-85
6,137.....Olen Valdez, Sunnyside, 1993-95
6,064.....Marty Rincon, Westview, 1991-93
5,984.....Isaac Panana, Hopi, 1994-96
5,774.....Adam Rodriguez, Desert View, '85-'88
5,731.....Bobby Valdez, Sunnyside, 1984-86
5,454.....David Moran, Bradshaw Mtn., 1992-95
5,291.....Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988-90
5,281.....Tony Cortez Rose, Douglas, 1973-76
5,139.....Jonathan Beasley, Cactus, 1993-95
5,002.....Frank Jimenez, Florence, 1993-95

TOUCHDOWN PASSES (GAME)

7.....Tommy Scott, Gilbert, 1926
7.....Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)
7.....Tim Rattay, Phoenix Christian, 1994
6.....Duncan Brown, Mesa, 1924 (jr)
6.....Charlie Beal, Mesa, 1943
6.....Ray Guana, Safford, 1957
6.....Gary Carpenter, North, 1968
6.....Audie McKee, Flag, Coconino, 1983
6.....Richard Acosta, Nogales, 1985
6.....Ricky Garcia, Florence, 1985
6.....Willy Nikolaus, Show Low, 1990
6.....Chris Snyder, Sunnyslope, 1994
6.....David Moran, Bradshaw Mtn., 1994 (jr)
6.....Malin Lewis, Ajo, 1997
6.....Marco Burrue, Maryvale, 1997

TOUCHDOWN PASSES (SEASON)

41.....Ryan Kealy, Phoenix St. Mary's, 1995
40.....Tim Rattay, Phoenix Christian, 1994
37.....Marty Rincon, Westview, 1993
33.....Jason Lunsford, Phoenix Cortez, 1997
32.....Todd Mortensen, Tempe, 1996
31.....Mark Brooks, Phoenix Greenway, 1995
30.....Chris Snyder, Sunnyslope, 1994
30.....Marco Burrue, Maryvale, 1997

TOUCHDOWN PASSES (CAREER)

83.....Ryan Kealy, St. Mary's, 1993-95
74.....David Moran, Bradshaw Mtn., 1992-95
66.....Tony Cortez Rose, Douglas, 1973-76
60.....Todd Mortensen, Tempe, 1994-96
60.....Isaac Panana, Hopi, 1994-96
58.....Marty Rincon, Westview, 1991-93
58.....Mark Brooks, Greenway, 1993-95
56.....Jonathan Beasley, Cactus, 1993-95
56.....Mike Bitsue, Ganado, 1994-96

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN PASS

99.....Frank Zellner to Gloyes Lemons,
.....Buckeye, 1955
99.....Tony Cortez Rose to Bill Salzbrenner,
.....Douglas, 1975
99.....Doug Stitler to Curt Reiman,
.....Brophy Prep, 1978
99.....Dave Lytle to Todd Schulz,
.....Tombstone, 1979
99.....Keola Bandman to Matt Hanners,
.....Page, 1986

RECEPTIONS (GAME)

21.....John Mistler, Tucson Sahuaro, 1975 (jr)
19.....Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)
19.....Clifton Jones, Florence, 1995 (jr)



what if?

What if my kid's in college in Connecticut?



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arizona football '98

- 18.....Randy Nikolaus, Show Low, 1982 (jr)
 18.....Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
 18.....Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 17.....Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
 17.....Marcus Erkel, Tucson Rincon, 1997
 16.....Mickey Hatcher, Mesa, 1973

RECEPTIONS (SEASON)

- 101.....Clifton Jones, Florence, 1995 (jr)
 89.....Randy Nikolaus, Show Low, 1982 (jr)
 84.....George Ochoa, Douglas, 1979
 84.....Travis Brun, Deer Valley, 1996
 83.....Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
 81.....John Mistler, Tucson Sahuaro, 1975 (jr)
 81.....Marcus Erkel, Tucson Rincon, 1997
 78.....Rod Denetso, Ganado, 1995
 77.....Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 77.....Mike Johnson, Parker, 1989
 76.....Jason Birdsong, Glen. Cactus, 1989 (jr)
 76.....Damian Segovia, Phx. Greenway, 1995
 75.....Justin Taplin, Tempe, 1996
 74.....Tariq McDonald, Phx. St. Mary's, 1995

RECEPTIONS (CAREER)

- 166.....Justin Taplin, Tempe, 1993-96
 163.....Clifton Jones, Florence, 1994-96
 158.....Glenn Posey, Sunnyside, 1984-86
 152.....Mike Effing, Flowing Wells, 1980-82
 149.....John Mistler, Tucson Sahuaro, 1974-76
 149.....Bryan Marshall, Hopi/
Gila Bend, 1988-90
 149.....Rod Denetso, Ganado, 1994-95
 148.....Jason Birdsong, Cactus, 1988-90
 142.....Caine Palone, San Pasqual, 1994-97
 140.....George Ochoa, Douglas, 1978-79

RECEIVING YARDS (GAME)

- 325.....Clifton Jones, Florence, 1995 (jr)
 321.....Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
 318.....Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)
 315.....Mark Marcos, Peoria Centennial, 1997
 313.....Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
 304.....Dennis Tate, Tucson, 1972
 302.....Pete Klaass, Paradise Valley, 1983 (jr)
 299.....Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
 296.....Larry Bandura, Scottsdale, 1971
 292.....John Mistler, Tucson Sahuaro, 1975 (jr)
 289.....Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)

RECEIVING YARDS (SEASON)

- 1,760.....Damian Segovia, Greenway, 1995
 1,601.....Clifton Jones, Florence, 1995 (jr)
 1,492.....Eric Drage, Tucson Santa Rita, 1988
 1,471.....Rod Denetso, Ganado, 1995
 1,357.....Rod Denetso, Ganado, 1994 (jr)
 1,342.....Mark Marcos, Peoria Centennial, 1997
 1,298.....Justin Taplin, Tempe, 1996
 1,276.....Mike Johnson, Parker, 1989
 1,226.....Mickey Hatcher, Mesa, 1973
 1,222.....John Mistler, Tucson Sahuaro, 1975 (jr)
 1,220.....Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
 1,201.....Jason Birdsong, Glendale Cactus, 1989
 1,190.....Tariq McDonald, Phx. St. Mary's, 1995

RECEIVING YARDS (CAREER)

- 3,333.....Damian Segovia, Greenway, 1993-95
 2,724.....Justin Taplin, Tempe, 1993-96



**Gib Dawson
Douglas**



**Billy Burris
Florence**

- 2,560.....Clifton Jones, Florence, 1994-96
 2,508.....Jason Birdsong, Cactus, 1988-90

TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS (GAME)

- 5.....Dwight Bennett, Glendale, 1966
 5.....George Krekelberg, Camp Verde, 1987

TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS (SEASON)

- 21.....Damian Segovia, Greenway, 1995
 20.....Tariq McDonald, St. Mary's, 1995
 18.....Bill Salzbrenner, Douglas, 1975
 18.....Eric Drage, Tucson Santa Rita, 1988
 18.....Clifton Jones, Florence, 1995 (jr)
 17.....Tim Kohner, Phoenix Christian, 1994
 17.....Rod Denetso, Ganado, 1994 (jr)
 17.....Brian Poli-Dixon, Tucson Sabino, 1996

TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS (CAREER)

- 35.....Damian Segovia, Greenway, 1993-95
 33.....Caine Palone, San Pasqual, 1994-97
 32.....David Tefteller, Phx. Christian, 1993-95
 31.....Justin Taplin, Tempe, 1993-96
 31.....Rod Denetso, Ganado, 1994-95
 31.....Clifton Jones, Florence, 1994-96

INTERCEPTIONS (GAME)

- 5.....Dick Gwinn, Scottsdale Judson, 1964
 5.....Mike Koza, Tucson Santa Rita, 1974
 5.....Aaron Smith, Tucson Sabino, 1996

INTERCEPTIONS (SEASON)

- 18.....Rudy Quihuis, Tucson Pueblo, 1967
 16.....Brandon Tomerlin, Superior, 1996 (so)
 15.....Mike Vere, Phoenix Bourgade, 1972
 14.....Mickey Bell, Glendale Cactus, 1979
 14.....Andy Zwingle, Tucson Peoria, 1979
 14.....Aaron Smith, Tucson Sabino, 1996
 14.....Cory Lizarraga, Blue Ridge, 1997
 13.....Shawn Benson, Mesa, 1981
 13.....Scotty Malm, Phoenix Christian, 1986

INTERCEPTIONS (CAREER)

- 30.....Harold Smith, Florence, 1972-74
 29.....Billy Burris, Florence, 1987-89
 26.....Philip Echeverria, Buckeye, '85-87
 25.....Rudy Quihuis, Tucson Pueblo, 1966-67
 25.....David Moran, Bradshaw Mtn., 1992-95
 24.....Jay Jones, Douglas, 1977-79
 24.....Troy Gilliland, Parker, 1983-85
 24.....Carlos Artis, Washington, 1988-90

BARRY SOLLENBERGER'S

FIELD GOALS (GAME)

- 5.....Jeremy Kelley, Mountain View, 1996

FIELD GOALS (SEASON)

- 19.....Mike Cortright, St. Mary's, 1985
 16.....Kyle Pooler, Cactus, 1989
 15.....Jeremy Kelley, Mt. View, 1995 (jr)
 15.....Jeremy Kelley, Mountain View, 1996
 13.....Phil Insalaco, Phoenix Christian, 1984
 13.....Cameron Mark, Arcadia, 1993 (jr)
 12.....Randy Weiskittle, Brophy Prep, 1987
 12.....Kyle Bell, McClintock, 1989
 12.....Mario Silva, St. Mary's, 1990
 12.....Marcus Williams, McClintock, 1992
 12.....Jim Sanson, St. Mary's, 1994 (jr)

FIELD GOALS (CAREER)

- 36.....Mike Cortright, St. Mary's, 1983-85
 30.....Jeremy Kelley, Mtn. View, 1994-96
 29.....Jeff Black, Tucson Sahuaro, 1986-88
 26.....Quin Rodriguez, Dobson, 1984-86
 24.....Kyle Pooler, Glendale Cactus, 1987-89

LONGEST FIELD GOAL

- 62.....Kyle Pooler, Cactus, 1989
 58.....Jim Sanson, St. Mary's, 1994 (jr)
 57.....Bill Zivic, Tucson Palo Verde, 1977
 57.....Jeff Black, Tucson Sahuaro, 1988
 57.....Mike Johnson, Centennial, 1995
 57.....Todd Purdin, Saguaro, 1995
 57.....Todd Purdin, Scottsdale Saguaro, 1995
 56.....Lucas Coelho, Dobson, 1996

PATS (GAME)

- 12.....Alex Shores, Page, 1974 (jr)
 11.....Ed Brooks, Phoenix Union, 1914
 11.....Joey Mariscal, Florence, 1987

PATS (SEASON)

- 81.....Alan Bayze, Tucson Sabino, 1997
 70.....Cleveland Colter, Marana, 1968
 70.....Don Gallardo, Cactus, 1994 (jr)
 69.....Tony Camino, Peoria, 1987
 66.....Cleveland Colter, Marana, 1967 (jr)
 66.....Kyle Bell, McClintock, 1989
 63.....Frank Coen, McClintock, 1980

PATS (CAREER)

- 169.....Josh Lane, Phoenix Christian, 1994-97
 142.....Kyle Pooler, Cactus, 1987-89
 142.....Jim Sanson, St. Mary's, 1993-95
 136.....Cleveland Colter, Marana, 1967-68
 135.....Derek Lay, Maryvale, 1991-93
 134.....Rich Groppenbacher, McC., 1982-84
 128.....Don Gallardo, Cactus, 1993-95

PUNTING AVERAGE (SEASON)

- 70.0.....Art Bruce, St. Johns Indians, 1955
 60.6.....Mark Kalastro, Bisbee, 1935 (jr)
 52.0.....J.T. Ellsworth, Snowflake, 1985
 50.2.....Eddie Pottorff, Tucson, 1938
 49.3.....Trent Thompson, Chinle, 1987
 48.2.....Quin Davis, Tucson Rincon, 1996
 47.8.....Domonic DeMark, Prescott, 1991
 47.6.....Matt Belden, Glendale, 1992 (jr)
 47.5.....Jess Skousen, Mesa, 1922
 47.5.....Axel Trainer, Cactus Shadows, 1997

what if?

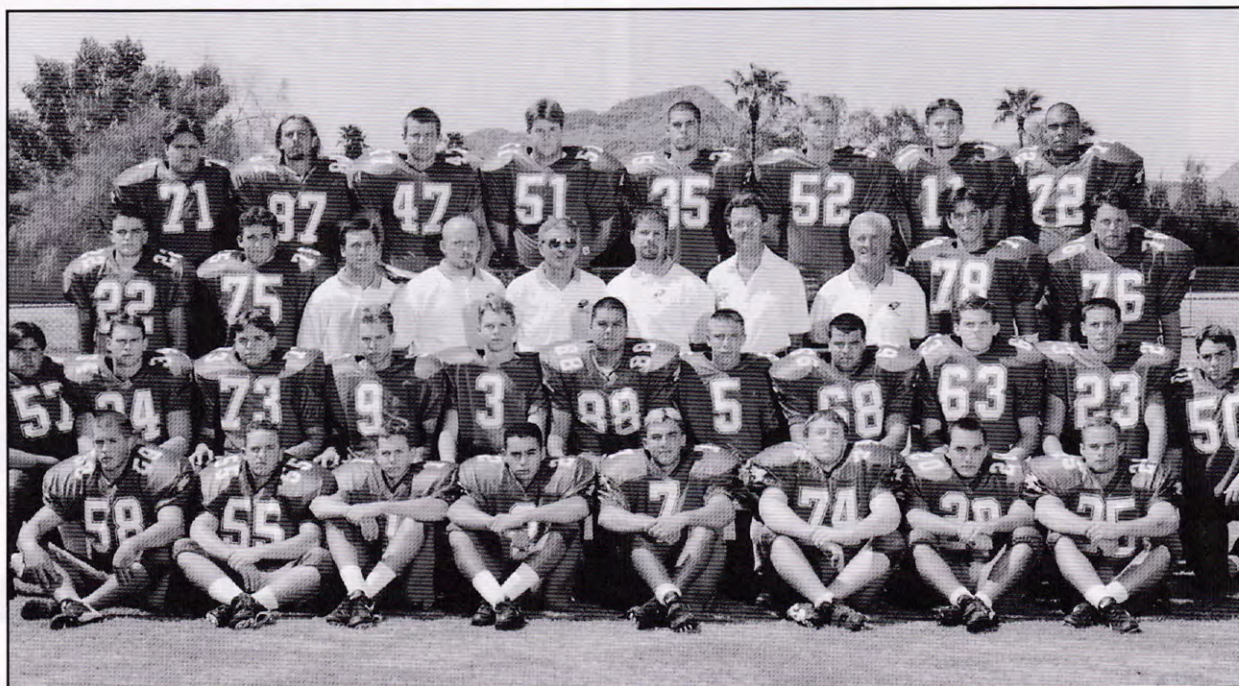
What if you didn't have to worry about health care?



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Congratulations East Sky Region Champs!

1997 Chaparral FIREBIRDS



Coach Ron Estabrook's 1997 Firebirds finished with an school-record 12-1 ledger, winning the 4A East Sky Region title and advancing to the state semifinals in the process.

Chaparral High School Athletic and Academic Excellence

4A Award of Excellence 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 & 1997-98

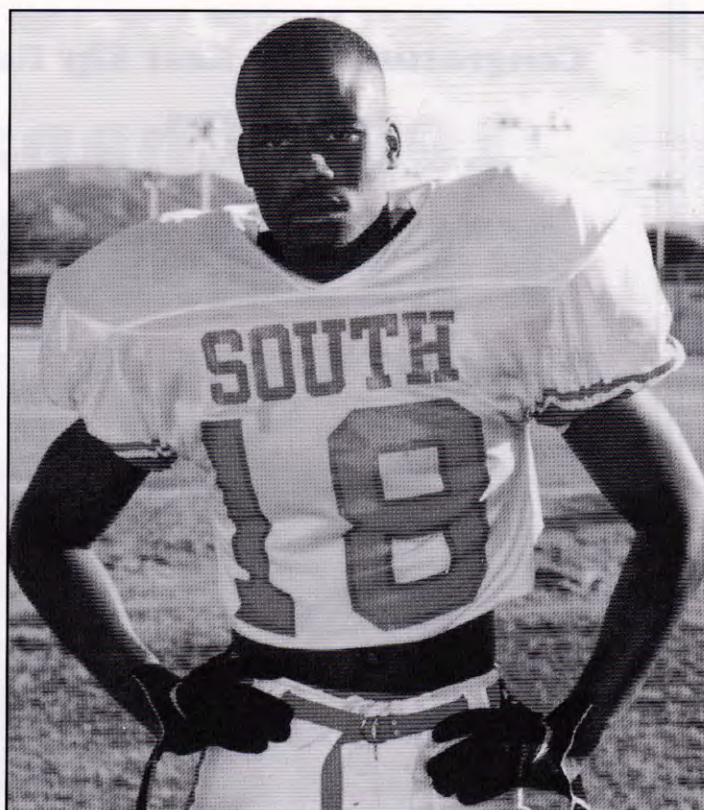
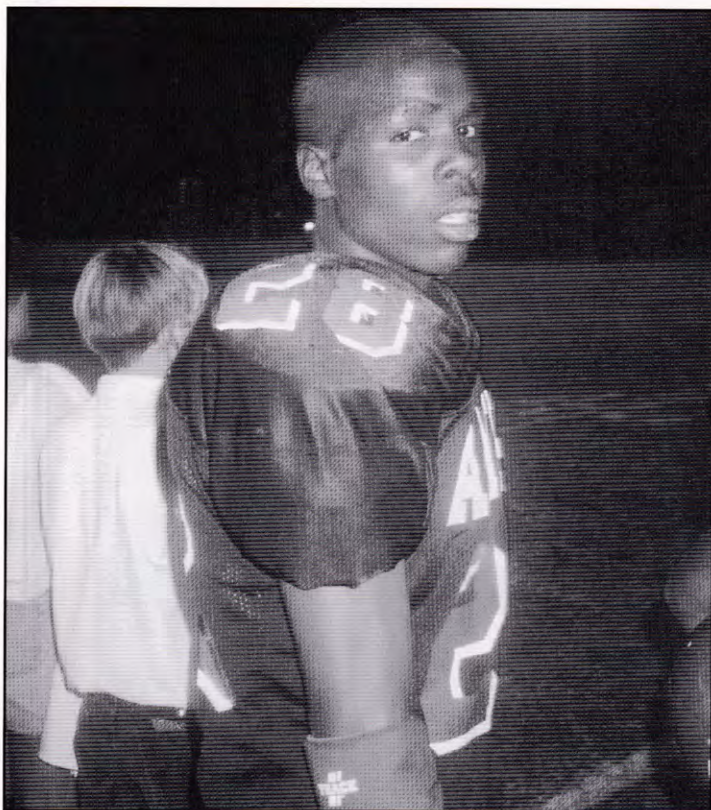
Seven 1997-98 State Championship Teams – Boys & Girls Swimming

Boys & Girls Soccer ● Girls Softball ● Girls Tennis ● Boys Golf

State Runnerup in Boys Baseball

Final Four in Boys Football

**SPONSORED BY CHAPARRAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION
dba CHAPARRAL FOOTBALL BOOSTER CLUB**



Tucson Amphi's Antrel Bates (left) and South Mountain's Jason Jenkins were two of the talented stars from last year's senior class. Bates signed with Arizona, Jenkins with Oregon (Arizona Informant photos).

'97 SUPER ALL-STATE ANOTHER DANDY

By BARRY SOLLENBERGER

Since 1955, no Arizona high school has sent more players to a higher level of competition (junior college, NAIA, NCAA, NFL, CFL, etc.) than Phoenix South Mountain. It's no surprise that two of 1997's best players, South quarterback **Richard Lucero** and two-way standout **Jason Jenkins**, dot our '97 Super All-State Team, the 29th such squad picked since 1969.

Lucero completed 124 of 179 passes (69%) for 2,405 yards and 24 touchdowns in 10 games. Both performances are school records at the talent-rich Phoenix campus. A one-time backup to former all-state quarterback Todd Mortensen, Lucero hit for 3,884 yards and 38 scores in his short two-year stint with the Jaguars. His top game: 402 yards and four touchdowns during a 35-32 loss to Phoenix Trevor Browne.

Jenkins, a member of South's '97 state leading 1,600 meter relay team, is the school's best receiver since former all-stater Kenny Cheatham (Nebraska) and best cornerback since Rashad Bauman

(Oregon), the 1996 Arizona 5A Player of the Year. "He's the best two-way player we've had here since Terry Fair," says Jenkins' coach, Cleveland Dansby, referring to the recent University of Tennessee star who was a first-round draft pick of the Detroit Lions. On offense, Jenkins caught 56 passes for 1,134 yards and 12 touchdowns - all school records - averaging 20.3 yards per catch.

In Tucson, **Nathan Wize** not only

rewrote the state rushing and scoring records, but his 3,101 rushing yards, 51 touchdowns and 306 points were among the nation's best. In the state 4A finals, Wize's 233 yards and two touchdowns earned him MVP honors - only the third time since 1972 the honor went to a player on the losing team. Wize and his top ranked Sabercats were beaten 23-14 by Mingus Union.

At Class 2A Phoenix Christian, the Cougars recently graduated the most productive place kicker in the history of Arizona schoolboy football. In four years at the private school - kicking off the ground without aid of a tee - **Josh Lane** booted 20 field goals and a record-breaking 169 extra points. One of the city's best soccer players, Lane's 229 kicking points is an all-time state record.

At Mountain Pointe, two-way star **Marcus Jones**, one of four finalist for the Larry Gordon Award (given annually to the state's best linebacker), is the son of former Phoenix Union great Manuel Jones, the 1971 recipient of the Whizzer White Award, honoring the state's best running back.

The truth of the matter is track & field in the Grand Canyon State is not only a major sport, but Arizona's premier spring sport, especially athletically. And at the gate. In Arizona most strong football schools are powers in track ...

In Class 3A, **Blue Ridge** of Lakeside won its fourth straight championship, a 27-21 win over Arizona Boys Ranch, increasing the Yellowjackets active win streak to 52-straight; third best in the nation behind Concord De LaSalle of California (76) and Paulsboro, N.J. (62). Blue Ridge's win over Boys Ranch, played before 5,112 paid fans in Mesa, earned the school its ninth state 11-man crown, fifth best on the all-time state list. Phoenix Union, with 25 state championships, is the all-time leader.

Mesa High, with a 5-5 finish, fattens its all-time victory mark with 562 wins, with Tucson High (498) on the bubble. Gilbert, 7-5 in '97, became the eighth school in Arizona history to reach the 400-win plateau.

In 5A, **Mountain View's** come-from-behind win over Tucson Amphi earned the Mesa school its sixth state crown, fifth best in the "large school" ranks, trailing Phoenix Union (25), Tucson (13), Mesa (11) and Phoenix St. Mary's (8).

Mingus Union's win over Sabino in the 4A finals was the first undefeated football campaign recorded by a school on Mingus Mountain since 1950, when the late Don Snyder guided Jerome High through an unbeaten season six months before the school closed. The Marauders' win over Sabino was part of a double-header played at Sun Devil Stadium with the 5A finals. The overall paid attendance was 14,081.

In the coaching ranks, **Karl Kiefer** of Mountain Pointe watched his club finish 4-6 on the season, giving the long-time

'97 Super All-State

OFFENSE

Pos.	Player/High School/Size	College Choice
QB.....	Richard Lucero, South Mountain, 6-2, 185	Phoenix College
RB.....	Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino, 5-8, 180	Cincinnati
RB.....	Kyran Jones, Peoria, 6-1, 172	Arizona State
RB.....	Antrel Bates, Tucson Amphitheater, 6-0, 180	Arizona
RB.....	Chasda Martin, Phoenix Moon Valley, 6-0, 180	Northwestern
WR.....	Jason Jenkins, South Mountain, 6-0, 180	Oregon
WR.....	Joey Graves, Casa Grande, 6-1, 175	Arizona State
TE.....	Todd Heap, Mesa Mountain View, 6-5, 220	Arizona State
OL.....	Tim Raban, Cottonwood Mingus Union, 6-4, 240	Nevada Reno
OL.....	Mike Saffer, Tucson Sabino, 6-5, 295	UCLA
OL.....	Josh Jones, Peoria, 6-4, 280	Oregon
OL.....	Brad Selby, Scottsdale Saguario, 6-5, 270	Stanford
OL.....	Damien Niko, Mesa Mountain View, 6-5, 295	Arizona State
PK.....	Josh Lane, Phoenix Christian, 5-10, 195	Union University (Tenn.)
P.....	Axel Trainer, Cave Creek Cactus Shadows, 6-2, 205	Arizona

DEFENSE

LB.....	Mike Miller, Arizona Boys Ranch, 6-2, 220	Scottsdale CC
LB.....	Marcos Jones, Tempe Mountain Pointe, 6-2, 205	Utah
LB.....	Scott Fuller, Mesa, 6-1, 230	Wyoming
LB.....	Todd Heap, Mesa Mountain View, 6-5, 220	Arizona State
DE.....	Andrew Brigham, Scottsdale Saguario, 6-4, 220	Mesa College
DL.....	Anthony Stannard, Phoenix Christian, 6-3, 260	Wyoming
DL.....	Jon Clanton, Peoria Centennial, 6-2, 262	Nebraska
DL.....	Jared Wolfgramm, Tempe Union, 6-5, 210 (so)	THS
DB.....	Jason Jenkins, South Mountain, 6-0, 180	Oregon
DB.....	Brandon Falkner, Peoria, 6-0, 180	Arizona State
DB.....	Tim Patrick, Phoenix North Canyon, 6-1, 190	Glendale College
DB.....	Cory Lizarraga, Blue Ridge, 5-10, 165	Arizona State
AP.....	Mike Rhorer, Mingus Union, 5-11, 190	Glendale College
RS.....	Brandon Tomerlin, Superior, 6-1, 182 (jr)	SHS

'97 STATE-WIDE AWARDS

5A Player of the Year
Todd Heap, Mountain View

4A Player of the Year
Nathan Wize, Sabino

3A Player of the Year
Cory Lizarraga, Blue Ridge

2A Player of the Year
Brandon Tomerlin, Superior

1A Player of the Year
Hyrum Cottrell, St. David

Tempe coach 260 career wins - best ever in the Grand Canyon State. However, Tucson Amphitheater coach **Vern Friedli**, with 250 wins, is close behind.

Superior will someday miss quarterback/defensive back/kick returner **Brandon Tomerlin** when he graduates. To say the least. One of the school's all-time best athletes not only passed for 2,721 yards and 28 touchdowns, but returned three kicks for scores and intercepted six passes, giving him 23 for his career. The state record is 30, set by Florence High's Harold Smith between 1972-74.

For the fourth time since 1965-66, a 5A school won consecutive state crowns. **Mountain View's** last second win over Tucson Amphi put the Toros in the record book with Tucson and Phoenix St. Mary's during that span. The Mountain didn't stop with football. They won both basketball and baseball, and finished run-

nerup in track. It marked the first time in 42 years that a school from the state's large classification won state crowns in three major sports. **Phoenix Union** last turned the trick, winning football, basketball and track honors in 1955-56. All three of those legendary Union teams were nationally ranked.

Ironically, most of the state media covering the preps refuses to honor track as a major sport, when the truth of the matter is track & field in the Grand Canyon State is not only a major sport, but Arizona's premier spring sport, especially athletically.

And at the gate. In fact, twice during the Decade of the '90s, the total paid attendance - all classes combined - at the state track & field championships succeeded 10,000. In Arizona (and the rest of the country) most strong football schools are powers in track & field. It's a happy marriage.

1997 All-State Teams

CLASS 5A

OFFENSE

QB.....Richard Lucero, Phoenix South Mountain, 6-2, 185
 RB.....Antrel Bates, Tucson Amphitheater, 6-0, 180
 RB.....Johaann Campbell, Tempe McClintock, 5-7, 177
 RB.....Bobby Wade, Tempe Desert Vista, 6-0, 185 (jr)
 TE.....Todd Heap, Mesa Mountain View, 6-5, 220
 WR....Jason Jenkins, Phoenix South Mountain, 6-0, 180
 WR....Joey Graves, Casa Grande, 6-1, 175
 OL.....Damien Niko, Mesa Mountain View, 6-5, 295
 OL.....Scott Huff, Scottsdale Horizon, 6-2, 250
 OL.....Travis Scott, Mesa Westwood, 6-6, 270
 OL.....Justin Fulton, Mesa Mountain View, 6-3, 220
 OL.....Marcus Venturo, Corona del Sol, 6-2, 275 (jr)
 PK.....Jayton Jadlot, Mesa Mountain View, 6-0, 190
 P.....Dallas Haught, Chandler, 6-2, 190

DEFENSE

DB.....Jason Jenkins, Phoenix South Mountain, 6-0, 180
 DB.....Tim Patrick, Phoenix North Canyon, 6-1, 190
 DB.....Andrae Thurman, Tolleson Westview, 5-11, 155 (jr)
 DB.....Landon Benson, Phoenix Goldwater, 5-11, 175
 LB.....Marcos Jones, Tempe Mountain Pointe, 6-2, 205
 LB.....Todd Heap, Mesa Mountain View, 6-5, 220
 LB.....Scott Fuller, Mesa, 6-1, 230
 DL.....Matt Laningham, Gilbert Highland, 5-11, 222
 DL.....Justin Giles, Scottsdale Horizon, 6-3, 240
 DL.....Brad Payne, Gilbert, 6-3, 220
 DL.....Brian Cleveland, Tucson Amphitheater, 6-3, 245
 RS.....Shaun McDonald, Shadow Mountain, 5-8, 160 (jr)

CLASS 4A

OFFENSE

QB.....Zack Threadgill, Glendale Apollo, 6-3, 195
 RB.....Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino, 5-8, 180
 RB.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 6-1, 172
 RB.....Chasda Martin, Phoenix Moon Valley, 6-0, 180
 TE.....Matt Nixon, Phoenix Sunnyslope, 6-1, 195
 WR....Mark Marcos, Peoria Centennial, 6-0, 165
 WR....Jermaine Brown, Phoenix Cortez, 5-11, 160
 OL.....Tim Raban, Cottonwood Mingus Union, 6-4, 240
 OL.....Mike Saffer, Tucson Sabino, 6-5, 295
 OL.....Josh Jones, Peoria, 6-4, 280
 OL.....Brad Selby, Scottsdale Saguario, 6-5, 270
 OL.....Clay Muschinski, Scottsdale Chaparral, 6-2, 260
 PK.....Mike Wilcox, Cottonwood Mingus Union, 5-11, 185
 P.....Eddie Pena, Prescott, 6-2, 180

DEFENSE

LB.....Frank Perez, Flagstaff Sinagua, 6-3, 220
 LB.....Bryan Quintero, Tucson Sahuaro, 6-0, 245
 LB.....Josh McBurney, Tempe Union, 5-10, 205
 DL.....Andrew Brigham, Scottsdale Saguario, 6-4, 220
 DL.....Jon Clanton, Peoria Centennial, 6-2, 262
 DL.....Jared Wolfgramm, Tempe Union, 6-5, 210 (so)
 DL.....Nick Mangosing, Glendale Apollo, 6-5, 250 (jr)
 DB.....Brandon Falkner, Peoria, 6-0, 180
 DB.....John Denny, Tucson Cholla, 6-3, 200
 DB.....Randy Pryor, Flagstaff Coconino, 5-9, 175
 DB.....Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino, 5-8, 180
 AP.....Mike Rhorer, Cottonwood Mingus Union, 5-11, 190

CLASS 3A

OFFENSE

QB.....Nate Jackson, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 5-10, 160 (jr)
 RB.....Richard Zuniga, Arizona Boys Ranch, 5-8, 160
 RB.....Robert David, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 5-8, 170 (jr)
 RB.....Tom Raugh, Payson, 6-0, 170
 TE.....Bristol Olomua, Ganado, 6-4, 210 (jr)
 WR....Alby Bryant, Snowflake, 6-1, 180
 WR....Corey Lizarraga, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 5-10, 165
 OC.....Billy Burton, Arizona Boys Ranch, 6-3, 265
 OL.....Gabe Bowman, Safford, 6-2, 210
 OL.....Faolina Pule, Arizona Boys Ranch, 6-0, 225 (jr)
 OL.....Chris Foster, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 6-3, 238
 OL.....Tremayne Cade, Eloy Santa Cruz, 6-0, 245
 PK.....Corey Lizarraga, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 5-10, 165
 P.....Axel Trainer, Cave Creek Cactus Shadows, 6-2, 205

DEFENSE

LB.....Mike Miller, Arizona Boys Ranch, 6-2, 220
 LB.....Chris Cutler, Sahuarita, 6-1, 210
 LB.....Joe Bierer, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 6-0, 185
 DL.....Mike Ashford, Coolidge, 6-2, 245
 DL.....Carl Vance, Show Low, 6-2, 200
 DL.....Foalima Pule, Arizona Boys Ranch, 6-0, 225 (jr)
 DL.....Kevin Phillips, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 6-1, 207
 DB.....Cory Lizarraga, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 5-10, 165
 DB.....Anthony Gutierrez, San Manuel, 6-2, 185
 DB.....Khalid Meals, Arizona Boys Ranch, 6-1, 180 (jr)
 DB.....Derrick Neal, Coolidge, 5-11, 190
 RS.....Cory Lizarraga, Blue Ridge

CLASS 2A

OFFENSE

QB.....Brandon Tomerlin, Superior, 6-1, 182 (jr)
 RB.....Mike Ballinger, Chandler Seton Catholic, 5-11, 185
 RB.....Cole Bryce, Thatcher, 5-10, 185
 TE.....Anthony Aguilar, Superior, 6-5, 295 (jr)
 WR....Caine Palone, Winterhaven San Pasqual, 5-8, 156
 WR....Matthew Allen, Superior, 6-3, 200
 OL.....Nathan Hansen, Willcox, 6-2, 275
 OL.....Chad Bryce, Pima, 6-0, 250
 OL.....Jesse McDonald, Chandler Seton Catholic, 6-2, 250 (jr)
 OL.....Gregg Hogenes, Chandler Valley Christian, 6-0, 190
 OL.....B.J. Richardson, Scottsdale Christian Academy, 6-2, 190
 PK.....Josh Lane, Phoenix Christian, 5-10, 195

DEFENSE

LB.....Sunny Bert, Tucson Palo Verde Christian, 6-0, 205
 LB.....Matt Mayo, Chandler Seton Catholic, 5-9, 200
 LB.....Hobie Dufort, Sedona Red Rock, 5-10, 220
 DL.....Aaron Huisman, Phoenix Christian, 6-3, 220
 DL.....Anthony Stannard, Phoenix Christian, 6-3, 260
 DL.....Anthony Aguilar, Superior, 6-5, 295 (jr)
 DL.....Jesse McDonald, Chandler Seton Catholic, 6-2, 260 (jr)
 DB.....Brandon Tomerlin, Superior, 6-1, 182 (jr)
 DB.....James Faultner, Williams, 6-0, 170
 DB.....Bobby Lorona, Winkelman Hayden, 6-0, 150 (jr)
 DB.....Carlos Mendoza, Willcox, 5-10, 165
 RS.....Brandon Tomerlin, Superior

Selected annually by the editors and staff of Arizona Football Magazine, Barry Sollenberger, Publisher.

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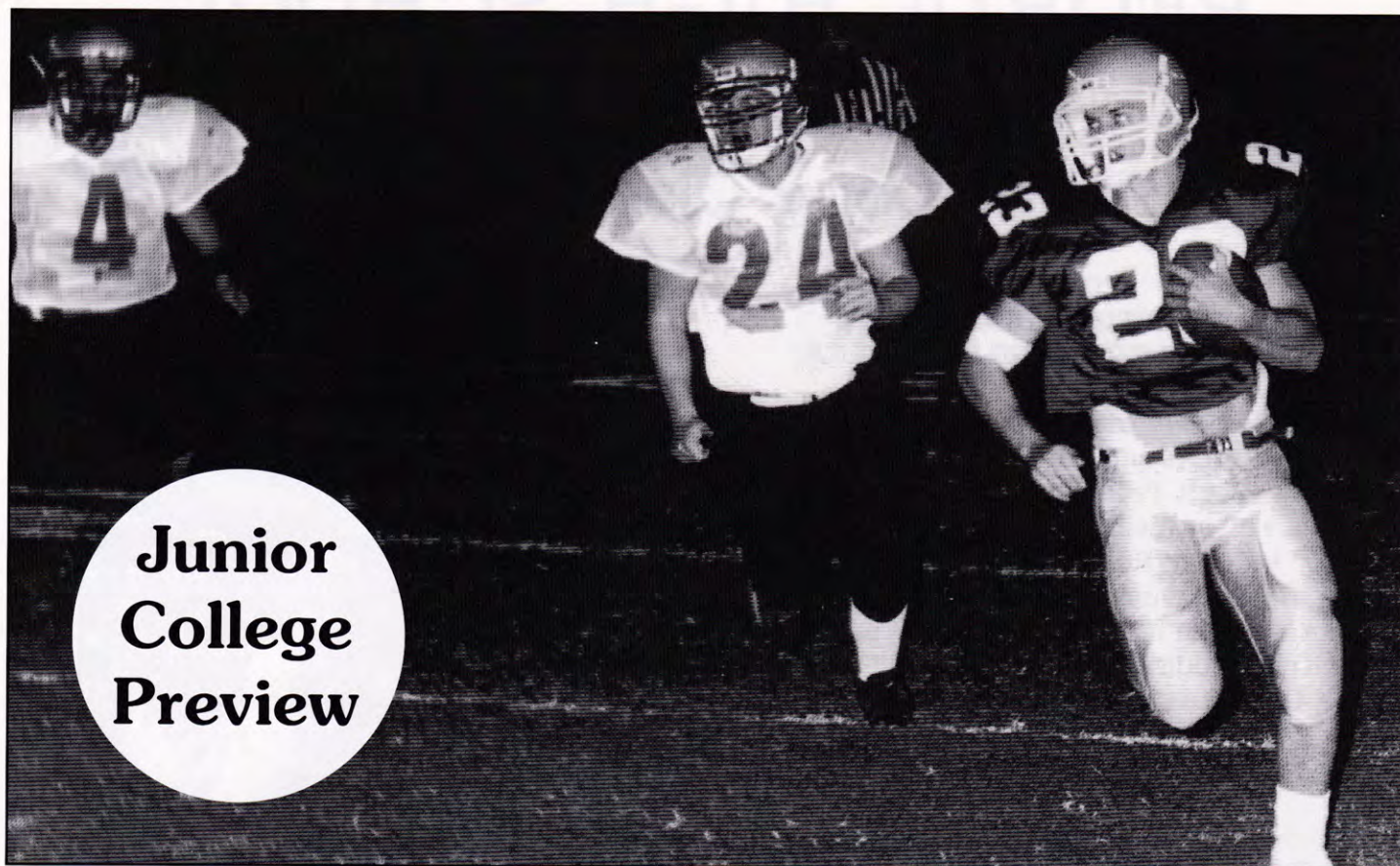
- Eric Guliford, Arizona State (WR)
 - Dusty Weiland, Iowa (LB)
- Scott Peterson, Nebraska (OL)
- Eric Ipock, Arizona State (OL)
- Robby Rodriguez, Arizona (DL)
- Nathan Ducharme, Adams State (DL)
- Aaron Franklin, Arizona State (LB)
- Kris Heddings, Western Illinois (QB/WR)
- Chris Laskos, Central University (OL)
 - Ryan Battin, Hawaii (LB)
- Marlon Manning, California (WR/DB)
 - T. Ford, UCLA (RB)
 - Ian Murton, Arizona (OL)
- Brian Guliford, Northern Arizona (WR)
- Devedrick Stanton, Northern Ariz. (RB)
 - Andre Holland, Oregon State (DB)
- Mantel Thomas, New Mexico State (DB)
- Nathan Sanders, Northern Arizona (QB)
 - Jeff Johnson, Washington (LB)
- Kenny Mitchell, Arizona State (WR)
 - Tavon Cooper, Colorado (RB)
 - Dominic Brunetti, Stanford (LB)
 - Paul Xourafas, Wyoming (RB)
- Tony Walker, Northern Arizona (DB)
- Neil Walker, Northern Arizona (WR)
 - Jess Schuck, Utah State (OL)
 - Josh Jones, Oregon (OL)
- Kyran Jones, Arizona State (RB)
- Brandon Falkner, Arizona State (DB)



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Junior College Preview

Eastern's speedy little Chad Shipley averaged 16.0 yards per punt return, and 20.3 yards per kickoff return. (Eastern Arizona Courier)

Gila Monsters Swept Arizona Foes

By BART CONLEY

Annually, the Valley of the Sun Bowl pits Maricopa County's best junior college team against a strong out-of-state opponent. Last year was no exception. Metro power Glendale, which struggled early in the season, finished a four game win streak and beat Independence, Kansas, in post season play. The Gauchos, coached by Mike Grossner, finished 13th in the final NJCAA poll.

But in the Arizona JC race the year belonged to **Eastern Arizona**, located in Thatcher. On October 18, the nationally ranked Gila Monsters beat Glendale 31-15, and for the first time in decades dominated all ACC football teams in the same year. Coach Scott Giles' up-and-coming squad finished 6-4 overall, and return more than enough experienced players to match that again. Returning quarterback Griffen Goodman completed 148 passes in 241 attempts for 1,999 and 14 touchdowns. He threw only seven intercep-

tions, and was the third rated field general in the entire Western States League. Against Glendale, Goodman was 19 for 32 for 278 yards. Wide receiver Artie Baxter, another returning player, caught four passes for 89 yards and a score. "We're getting there," said Giles in an understatement. "The challenge now is to be consistent, and beat out-of-state teams like Ricks, Dixie and Snow."

Eastern's kicking game is solid. Especially with Chad Shipley on the field. The speedy little back (5-7, 175) led the league in punt returns, returning 15 for 240 yards (a 16.0 average) and one touchdown. He averaged 20.3 yards on 23 kickoff returns, 6th best in the region. Other Monsters to watch include safety Eric Hjalmarson (6-2, 179), plus linemen Lon Dimbatt (6-3, 277), Mike Faulkner (6-1, 239), Ralph Frias (6-5, 310), Shawn Gifford (6-4, 268) and Paul Schmidt. Yes, a bowl game would be nice. In that department, this could be the Monsters' break-through year.

At **Mesa**, head coach David Rice wasn't too happy about the Thunderbirds' 5-5 finish. This campaign could make him forget. It could be the T'birds' year. Twelve starters are back. The frosh class looks super. The big question is the defensive line. That group is new. Look for running back Justin Frisk (5-10, 200) to come into his own. With 4.5 speed he might be the long ball hitter. Wideout Richard Williams (6-0, 175), with 4.3 speed, is one of the fastest in the league. Fabian Robles (6-2, 185) takes over at quarterback. He's another key. If he clicks the T'birds are hot. Rick Prigge (6-3, 235) moves in at tight end, replacing All-American Randy Hakes (UCLA). Tackle Chris VanGorder (6-4, 295) is a dandy. Mesa's secondary looks strong, with Isaac Johnson (5-11, 205) and Jeff Brunson (6-0, 190) in the lineup. Defensively, linebacker Verrick Gray (5-11, 227) is the leader. Five key freshmen, all from nearby high schools, could start. Westwood's Travis Scott (6-6, 280) is a big time offen-

"It doesn't hurt to have twelve starters back. But we are young on the defensive line and at wide receiver. We signed a great group of defensive linemen, so if they develop so will we."

sive tackle. Ends Brad Payne (6-3, 230) and Zach Cresap (6-4, 240) from Gilbert look tough. Wide receivers Jamal Gaines (6-0, 170) and Micah Harris (6-3, 175), both from Corona del Sol, are dangerous. Last spring Harris was one of the state's best hurdlers. Rice was really pleased to acquire a pair of out-of-state linemen, Josh Lyles (6-7, 300) from Lawrence, Kansas, and Ken Keith (6-3, 270) from Temple, Texas; two schools which are powers in their respective states.

"It doesn't hurt to have twelve starters back," admits Rice. "But we are young on the defensive line and at wide receiver. We signed a great group of defensive linemen, so if they develop so will we."

Glendale returns 46 players from a nationally ranked team, so it's easy to see why expectations are high. Mike Grossner's offense starts at quarterback, where Mark Brooks returns for one more year. Last fall he hit 52% of his passes for 1,380 yards. Damian Seqovia (6-3, 185), a former high school teammate and a transfer from Mesa, could be his ace target. But the line is the key and the Gauchos are set. Especially with center Deryck Miller (6-1, 285), guards Marquise Muldrow (6-3, 210) and Eli Schwartz (6-3, 305), and tackle Troy Crawford (6-4, 260) penciled in as starters. Fullback James Moua (6-1, 210) gained 820 yards on 160 carries. Defensively, linebacker

'98 Junior College Blue-Chippers

QB...Griffen Goodman.....	6-1, 208.....	Eastern Arizona
QB...Mark Brooks.....	6-3, 210.....	Glendale
RB...Justin Frisk.....	5-10, 200.....	Mesa
WR...Artie Baxter.....	6-2, 193.....	Eastern Arizona
WR...Richard Williams.....	6-0, 175.....	Mesa
WR...Damian Segovia.....	6-3, 185.....	Glendale
OG...Marquise Muldrow.....	6-3, 310.....	Glendale
OT...Chris VanGorder.....	6-4, 295.....	Mesa
LB...Jeremy Wood.....	6-0, 225.....	Glendale
LB...Richard Cooper.....	6-3, 255.....	Glendale
LB...Dan Lopez.....	5-10, 225.....	Phoenix College
DT...Anthony Bates.....	6-1, 275.....	Phoenix College
DT...Matt Howard.....	6-3, 265.....	Phoenix College
DB...Jeff Brunson.....	6-0, 190.....	Mesa
DB...Theodore Hicks.....	5-10, 190.....	Eastern Arizona
RS...Chad Shipley.....	5-7, 175.....	Eastern Arizona

Jeremy Wood (6-0, 225) was an all-conference pick with 87 tackles. Speedy corner Clarence Moniba (5-11, 185) is a great cover guy. Big Pete Pallagi (6-7, 245) is an impressive looking defensive end. Last year's bowl squad averaged 38 points per game. Ten players - half the sophomore class - signed Division I scholarships.

Although **Phoenix College** won only one game, the Bears had a very aggressive defense. They struggled offensively due to shifting around and injuries at quarterback. Twenty-five players, including seven defensive starters, are back. Linebackers Dan Lopez (5-10, 225) and Dennis Gregory (6-1, 225), tackles Anthony Bates (6-1, 275) and Matt Howard (6-3, 265), end Gary Ensminger (6-4, 215), and defensive backs Javon Kirkendoll (5-11, 175) and Robert Gray (5-11, 180) are starters. Gregory, Bates and Ensminger all prepped at Mountain

Pointe High. On specialty teams, Kirkendoll averaged 20.9 yards per kickoff return, 5th best in the league. In the secondary he plays on the corner.

The quarterback position is up for grabs. Last year's roster featured three freshmen: Chris Pickering, Zachary Brannon and Pat Robinson, all former local high school players. Speed burners Chris Gaeta (5-11, 175) and Jeff Tipton (6-1, 185) start at wide receiver. Big Joe Maese (6-1, 250) is the Bears' center, with Jason Padget (6-4, 285) a sure bet at one tackle. Running back Eric Guyton (5-11, 205) has transferred from Glendale.

"The key to our season will be the offense," says head coach John Allen. "The quarterback position should be stable, and the offensive line should be solid. Our defense could be exceptional with the addition of several key freshmen."

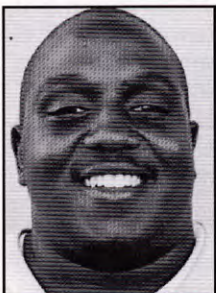
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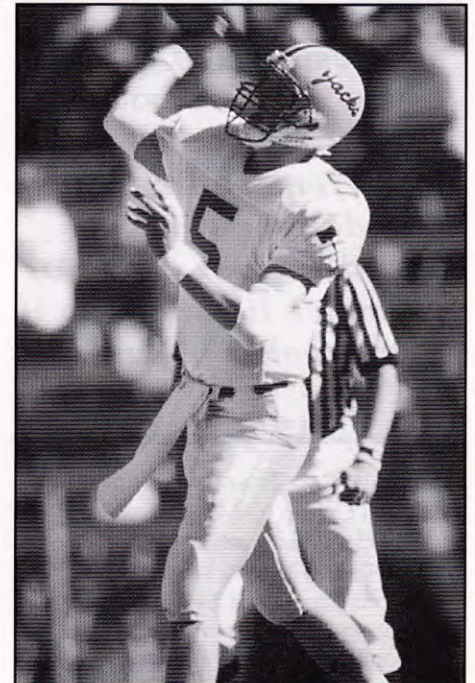
*Safford Bulldogs *Clifton Trojans *Duncan Wildcats
*Ft. Thomas Apaches *Morenci Wildcats
*Thatcher Eagles *Pima Roughriders
*Eastern Arizona College



Deryck Miller
Glendale



Jamal Gaines
Mesa



ASU's Ricky Boyer (left) is one of many talented Sun Devil receivers. Arizona's Trung Canidate (center) averaged over 100 yards rushing per game in 1997. NAU's Travis Brown (right) had thrown for 6,793 yards in two seasons.

ASU, UofA, NAU Anxious for '98 Campaign!

By **DAVID KUKULSKI**

Okay, Mr. Athletic Director, how do you build an outstanding football program? One that represents your university positively, while competing for conference – and hopefully national – honors year after year.

Administrators at both Arizona State University and the University of Arizona have been tackling that issue for decades. Competing in the always-tough Pac-10 Conference can make you grow old before your time.

Clearly, ASU's Athletic Director Kevin White has a keeper in Head Coach Bruce Snyder. The Sun Devils are on a roll – a sparkling 20-4 record over the past two years with trips to the Rose Bowl and Sun Bowl, respectively. After Jake Plummer guided his 1996 mates to the Pac-10 title and came within seconds of an undefeated, national championship season, the Sun Devils were supposed to return to the middle of the conference in 1997. Instead, ASU finished 9-3 and toppled Iowa in the Sun Bowl. In fact, only a disappointing loss to their rival Arizona Wildcats in the regular-season finale prevented the Devils from claiming a portion of the Pac-10 title last year.

So what happened? On offense, red-shirt freshman quarterback Ryan Kealy – despite his youth and inexperience –

demonstrated poise and talent, throwing for 2,137 yards and 15 scores. Running backs Michael Martin, J.R. Redmond, Marlon Farlow and Jeff Paulk scampered for 2,257 yards and 17 touchdowns. Receivers Lenzie Jackson, Kenny Mitchell, Ricky Boyer, Creig Spann, Tariq McDonald, Kendrick Bates and Matt Cercone totaled 150 catches for 2,067 yards and 16 TDs. The offensive line featured stalwarts Kyle Murphy, Glen Gable, Grey Ruegamer, Victor Leyva and Marvel Smith.

And they're almost all back! Only Martin, Murphy and Gable have used up their eligibility. Kealy (6-2, 190) is now healthy again after offseason surgery, back for what could be a memorable sophomore season. Redmond (6-0, 205) is a Heisman Trophy candidate and may even see some action in the secondary, especially if Farlow (5-10, 203) lives up to expectations at tailback this year. During spring practice McDonald (6-1, 185), a high school teammate of Kealy's at Phoenix St. Mary's High School, may have won a starting wideout position opposite Jackson. Heralded redshirt freshman Scott Peters (6-3, 321) is slated to take Murphy's left guard position. Meanwhile, either junior Thomas Schmidt (6-6, 290) or senior Troy Davis (6-5, 285) is expected to step in for Gable at right tackle. Ruegamer (6-5, 304) is a presea-

son All-American at center. Both Leyva (6-4, 289) and Smith (6-6, 311) have unbelievable futures, if last year was any indication.

Defensively, the Devils must rebuild. True, DT Albrecht Battle (6-3, 289), LB Larry Johnson (6-1, 228), CB Courtney Jackson (6-0, 180) and FS Mitchell Freeman (6-0, 207) are returning starters. But the Devils lost Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year Pat Tillman, dominating DT Jeremy Staat, DE Vince Amey, DE Hamilton Mee, LB Paul Reynolds, CB Jason Simmons and SS Damien Richardson.

Snyder is counting on DE Quincy Yancy (6-8, 242), DE Derrick Ford (6-1, 234), DT Ryan Reilly (6-2, 287), LB Stephen Trejo (6-3, 234), LB Joe Cesta (6-1, 224), LB Eric Fields (6-3, 225), LB Adam Archuleta (6-0, 202), CB J'Juan Cherry (6-0, 204), FS Phillip Brown (6-0, 185) and SS Criston Rance (6-2, 198) to perform. Defensive linemen Erik Flowers (6-4, 240) and Junior Ioane (6-5, 295), both JC transfers, could aid the cause.

The prediction. ASU is the overwhelming choice of "the experts" to win the Pac-10 title.

But don't count out the University of Arizona. First and foremost, the Wildcats should have plenty of firepower themselves in 1998. And, when the two schools meet in Tucson on November

27th, you'd be hard pressed to pick against the Wildcats. After all, they've won 12, lost three and tied one in recent years versus the Sun Devils.

Coach Dick Tomey's club is expected to finish in the upper division of the Pac-10 Conference. A whopping nine starters are back on offense, although the defense suffered some heavy losses. Either sophomore Ortege Jenkins (6-2, 214) or junior Kevin Smith (5-11, 202) will set up shop at quarterback. Smith enjoyed a remarkable 1996 frosh season, but Jenkins was just as good as a freshman in 1997 (1,669 yards passing and a Pac-10 freshman record 19 TDs).

The running game features the likes of junior Trung Canidate (5-11, 188), soph Leon Callan (5-9, 185) and senior Kelvin Eafon (5-11, 218). Canidate is among the best in the conference; he gained 804 yards rushing in just eight games in 1997. Callan was forced to redshirt last year due to injury. Eafon, a power runner, chipped in with over 400 yards last fall.

The Cats have several standout receivers, namely junior Dennis Northcutt (5-11, 170), senior Jeremy McDaniel (6-1, 194) and junior Brad Brennan (5-11, 167). Northcutt grabbed 58 balls for 767 yards and nine scores. McDaniel is a talented wideout who started two years ago but redshirted last year. Brennan contributed 32 receptions for 548 yards and six scores in '97.

Up front, TE Mike Lucky (6-4, 270), LT Edwin Mulitalo (6-4, 346) and Yusuf Scott (6-3, 320) are returning starters. Tomey is hoping youngsters like LG Steven Grace (6-2, 275), C Bruce Wiggins (6-3, 278) and RT Manuia Savea (6-3, 280) can adapt to major college warfare quickly.

Defensively, heavy hitters such as all-conference tackle Joe Salave'a, DE Mike Szlauko, LB Jimmy Sprotte, LB Chester Burnett, DB Kelly Malveaux and DB Rashee Johnson must be replaced. That won't be easy.

But the cupboard certainly is bare. Leading the way will be DT Daniel Greer (6-2, 265), DE Joe Tafoya (6-4, 250), LB Marcus Bell (6-2, 230), LB DaShon Polk (6-2, 220) and all-everything CB Chris McAlister (6-2, 185).

Inexperienced players like DT Idris Haroon (6-1, 250), DT Dolphin Tillman (6-2, 265), DT Anthony Thomas (6-3, 265), DE Eli Wnek (6-3, 255), DE Ash Burrows (6-4, 255), LB Stadford Glover (6-0, 233), LB Scooter Sprotte (5-11, 200), CB Kelvin Hunter (5-9, 160), SS LaChaux Rich (5-10, 192), FS Rafell Jones (5-10, 185) and FS A.J. Brown (6-0, 185) must perform like veterans if the

Cats are to challenge for the Pac-10 title.

Or course, Northern Arizona University competes at a different level, but the Big Sky crown is highly coveted too.

First-year coach Jerome Souers is a defensive-minded coach with a highly-skilled offensive star at his disposal. That would be junior QB Travis Brown, a 6-4, 210-pound graduate of Moon Valley High. Brown has passed for 6,793 yards and 43 TDs in his 22-game NAU career.

Fortunately for the Lumberjacks, wide receivers Dion Black, Mike Lemos and Gibbons St. Paul return. This trio combined for 98 catches, 1,400 yards and 13 scores in '97.

Horacio Camacho (6-6, 260) is the lone returning starter in the offensive line and NAU will definitely miss RB Kino Carson and his 1,100 yards rushing. The running game will have to be totally rebuilt.

Defensively, the Jacks are strong at linebacker, thanks to junior Jake Crussup (5-10, 215) and senior Terrance Petty (6-3, 235). Keying the defensive front will be a local product, DE Nick Petrucci (6-3, 245), a senior who prepped at Flagstaff High.

Three of NAU's first four games are at home in the Walkup Skydome, so the young Lumberjacks will have a chance to find themselves before hitting the meat of their schedule.

1998 ASU SUN DEVIL RECRUITS

Player	Position	Ht., Wt.	Hometown
Matt Cooper	Quarterback	6-4, 210	Pleasanton, CA
Jake Each	Running Back	6-1, 240	Muscataine, IA
Kyran Jones	Running Back	6-1, 175	Peoria, AZ
J.R. Peroulis	Running Back	6-1, 200	Grand Junction, CO
Darrel Turner	Running Back	6-1, 240	Bellflower, CA
Joey Graves	Wide Receiver	6-1, 175	Casa Grande, AZ
Todd Heap	Tight End	6-5, 220	Mesa, AZ
Aaron Winterswyk	Tight End	6-4, 235	La Habra, CA
Damien Niko	Off. Lineman	6-5, 295	Mesa, AZ
Adam Williams	Off. Lineman	6-6, 295	Garland, TX
Ralph Zarate	Off. Lineman	6-5, 290	Tucson, AZ
James Beal	Def. Lineman	6-3, 260	DeSoto, TX
Erik Flowers	Def. Lineman	6-4, 240	San Antonio, TX
Junior Ioane	Def. Lineman	6-5, 285	Ephraim, UT
Mike Pinkard	Def. Lineman	6-5, 220	Thornton, CO
R. Ransom-Pittinger	Def. Lineman	6-6, 235	Long Beach, CA
Jawell Samilton	Def. Lineman	6-2, 290	Los Angeles, CA
Mason Unck	Linebacker	6-3, 210	Ogden, UT
Willie Daniel	Def. Back	6-0, 195	Phoenix, AZ
Brandon Falkner	Def. Back	6-0, 185	Peoria, AZ
Kyion Grayes	Def. Back	6-0, 185	Fullerton, CA
Alfred Williams	Def. Back	6-2, 200	Irvine, CA

1998 ARIZONA WILDCAT RECRUITS

Player	Position	Ht., Wt.	Hometown
Jason Johnson	Quarterback	6-2, 195	Puyallup, WA
Antrel Bates	Running Back	6-0, 180	Tucson, AZ
Darryl Conyer	Running Back	5-10, 180	San Diego, CA
Leo Mills	Running Back	6-2, 215	Humble, TX
Andre Gayles	Wide Receiver	6-1, 175	Kent, WA
Michael Hairgrove	Wide Receiver	6-2, 185	Tucson, AZ
Gary Love	Wide Receiver	5-10, 180	Los Angeles, CA
James Hugo	Tight End	6-6, 235	The Woodlands, TX
Ryan Zylus	Tight End	6-5, 250	San Marcos, CA
Makoa Freitas	Off. Lineman	6-4, 280	Honolulu, HI
Aaron Higgenbotham	Off. Lineman	6-6, 280	Yucaipa, CA
Chris Redding	Off. Lineman	6-4, 319	Houston, TX
Darren Safraneck	Off. Lineman	6-7, 247	Tucson, AZ
Manuia Savea	Off. Lineman	6-3, 285	Auasi, Amer. Samoa
Ben Alualu	Def. Lineman	6-1, 240	Honolulu, HI
Keoni Fraser	Def. Lineman	6-2, 250	Kailua, HI
Terrell Jurineack	Def. Lineman	6-4, 250	Orlando, FL
Mike Robertson	Def. End	6-4, 235	Buena Park, CA
Young Thompson	Def. End	6-2, 278	Aloa, Amer. Samoa
John Denny	Linebacker	6-3, 200	Tucson, AZ
Aaron Huisman	Linebacker	6-3, 215	Phoenix, AZ
Antonio Pierce	Linebacker	6-2, 210	Ontario, CA
David Hinton	Def. Back	5-11, 170	San Diego, CA
David Laudermilk	Def. Back	6-2, 185	Moreno Valley, CA
Greg Payne, Jr.	Def. Back	6-0, 180	Los Osos, CA
Jarvie Worcester	Def. Back	6-2, 195	La Jolla, CA
Michael Johnson	Kicker	6-0, 210	Sun City, AZ

1998 NAU LUMBERJACK RECRUITS

Player	Position	Ht., Wt.	Hometown
Bryant Berge	Quarterback	6-3, 205	Mesa, AZ
Marcus King	Running Back	5-9, 185	Athens, GA
Ryan Winn	Running Back	5-10, 185	Colo Springs, CO
Ronnie Polk	Wide Receiver	6-0, 170	Studio City, CA
Richard Velasco	Wide Receiver	6-4, 190	Tucson, AZ
Stuart Crandall	Tight End	6-3, 230	Sebastopol, CA
Drew Wilson	Tight End	6-5, 250	Tucson, AZ
Ryan Cunningham	Off. Lineman	6-3, 270	Burlingame, CA
Robert Haws	Off. Lineman	6-8, 315	Eagar, AZ
Aaron Ramirez	Off. Lineman	6-3, 295	San Antonio, TX
Angelo Ramirez	Off. Lineman	6-3, 295	San Antonio, TX
Christopher Adams	Def. Tackle	6-3, 255	Quantico, VA
Kyle Lawson	Def. End	6-4, 230	Santa Rosa, CA
Wardan Mkhitarian	Def. Lineman	6-3, 250	Burbank, CA
John Schmidt	Def. Tackle	6-5, 240	Tucson, AZ
Lynne Ray Smith	Def. End	6-2, 230	San Diego, CA
Shonta Chaloux	Linebacker	6-2, 230	Escondido, CA
Louis Winder III	Linebacker	6-1, 205	Moreno Valley, CA
Dewayne Hawkins	Def. Back	5-10, 190	Oakland, CA
Michael Hicks	Def. Back	6-0, 190	Yucaipa, CA
Keala Loo	Safety	6-0, 190	Honolulu, HI
Geste Ornellas	Safety	5-10, 190	Honolulu, HI
James Rosier	Def. Back	5-9, 180	Chula Vista, CA

WESTWOOD'S WINNING WAYS

By JEFF KRIDER

Danny White should be proud. So should Pete Mandley, Ronnie Bonner and Bob Soza, or the late Edgar "Mutt" Ford and Chris Emerson. Westwood finally won it all.

Was it really 24 years - 1964 to be exact - since the Warriors last won the state championship? Was it more than two decades since David Cumard and mini-backs Ric Watson and Bill Bailey beat Phoenix Camelback at Sun Devil Stadium? When Rudy Santa Cruz booted that 23-yard field goal to give the Orange & White its first state title in only its second year of varsity ball.

Yes on all counts.

How about all those great Westwood teams, with White, Soza, Bonner and the like? They never won a state championship?

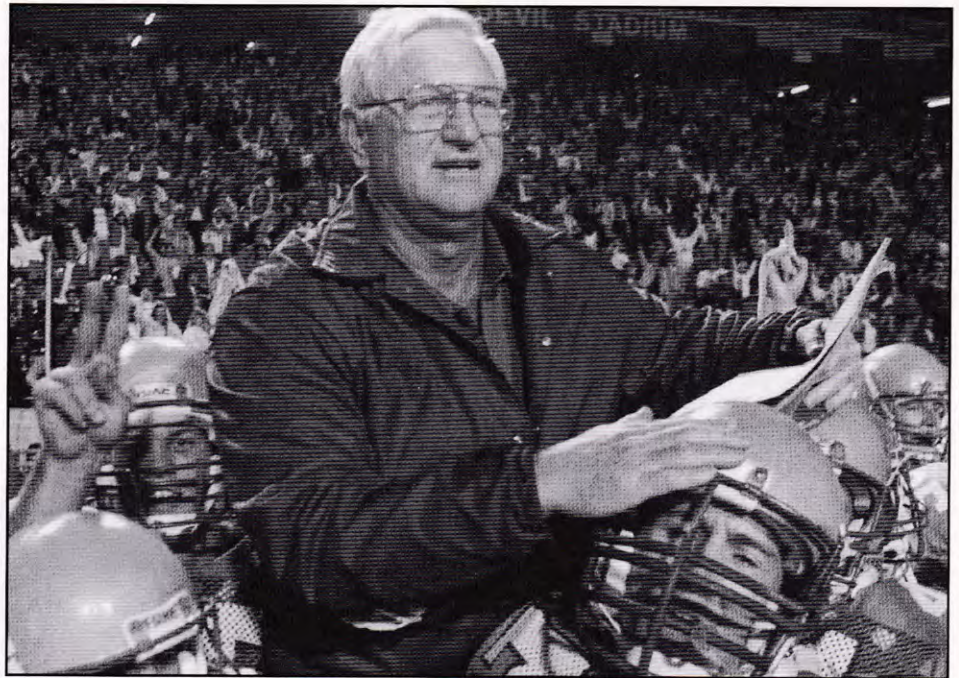
Nope. Not even with Jay Ray Rokey, Dick Harris or Allen Glasenapp. Or Pete Mandley and the late Chris Emerson. So good was Westwood in 1969; the Warriors scored 100 points against Yuma Kofa. Honest. They played everybody but the water boy.

"The criticism we received after that game was unfair to the kids and the school," said head coach Dave Gates years later. "We even got bad mail for a while. It was probably our best team ever. But we seemed to peak after that. We went down-hill from there. We lost our last game to McClintock and made more mistakes in one quarter than we made all season."

One year later Tucson High held off a last minute Westwood rally in the state semifinals at the University of Arizona, winning a 39-34 shootout in one of the greatest high school games in Arizona history - if not the greatest. Tucson's crushing running game rolled up 420 yards against a Warrior defense which blanked half its opponents.

"We just ran out of steam," Gates explained. "They had too many horses. They were one of the biggest and best I've seen in Arizona. Remember all those California schools we used to play at Mesa? They never had anything like that."

By the late '80s, consistency was still the name of the game. Now coached by Jerry Loper, a former Bisbee High and Northern Arizona University star, the



Before 23,487 paid fans, Westwood players hoist coach Jerry Loper to their shoulders after a 28-7 win over Mountain View (Arizona Republic photo).

Warriors recorded three consecutive 9-3 seasons. Three playoff games per year. But the bus had stopped at the quarterfinals.

But on December 9, 1988, before the largest high school crowd in Arizona history, the Warriors were vintage Westwood. Exactly 23,487 spectators, mostly from nearby Mesa, came through the gates to see them play. On the turf at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe they turned rival Mountain View black & blue, 28-7.

Westwood (13-1) finished the season with 11 straight wins while Mountain View, which had won eight straight before the loss, closed out the '88 campaign at 12-2, with only the Warriors to blame for the blemishes.

Quarterback Ruben Sanchez scored twice in the third period and fullback Zane Dickey scored the third touchdown of the period as the ground game chewed up the Toros' defense.

"The third period was our quarter for

"The third period was our quarter for some reason. We really put some points on the board."

some reason," said Loper after the game. "We really put some points on the board."

Westwood led 7-0 at halftime after marching 87 yards in 13 plays late in the second period. Halfback Chris Gump, who would later star in baseball at the University of Arizona, scored on a one-yard run. In the second half the Warriors, who in size and color resembled cans of Orange Crush, proved to be the best of the East Valley League and the whole state. In the third stanza alone they rushed for 151 yards.

It marked the second time in two months that the Warriors scalped the Toros. In week five of the season it was a 31-7 Westwood win. "We didn't stop the option and they played better than last time," said Toro coach Jesse Parker after the finals, who accepted the runnerup trophy and headed to the locker room.

It was Loper's second state crown in the Arizona prep ranks, having won it all in 1975 at Tucson Amphitheater. He was quick to give assistants Curt Palmer, Mark Hilliker, Larry Mattix and George De LaTorre credit.

Loper coached four more years at Westwood before moving to Chandler. Sadley, he died in a tragic automobile wreck in October of 1996, having compiled a 224-106-1 career record.



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'88 CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON:

WARRIORS 32Glendale Apollo 6
 WARRIORS 35.....Gilbert 0
 WARRIORS 6.....Mesa Dobson 7 (L)
 WARRIORS 28.....Mesa 12
 WARRIORS 31Mountain View 7
 WARRIORS 28Tempe McClintock 21
 WARRIORS 43Tempe Union 6
 WARRIORS 39.....Chandler 0
 WARRIORS 45Corona del Sol 23
 WARRIORS 8.....Marcos de Niza 7

PLAYOFFS:

WARRIORS 28Phoenix Brophy Prep 21
 WARRIORS 33.....South Mountain 7
 WARRIORS 35Mesa Dobson 0
 WARRIORS 28Mountain View 7

Scouts called Cade "One of Nation's Best"

By DEAN MILLER

On a chilly night in Tucson, 20 years ago this fall, Santa Cruz of Eloy finished a near-perfect season with a 40-36 win over Willcox in the Class 3A championship game. It was one of the most thrilling finishes to a state title game in Arizona history.

The Dust Devils, one of the most famous names in Arizona schoolboy football, couldn't have done it without Mike Cade. Blessed with exceptional athletic ability, Cade rushed for a championship game record 299 yards and scored six touchdowns. One came on a 75-yard kickoff return. The Cowboys' Steve George, in a losing cause, scored four touchdowns. The lead changed hands 11 times.

Coming from a town that has produced some of the finest backs in Arizona history, Cade culminated a terrific career by breaking every rushing record in the book. He reeled off more yards (2,253) in one season than any prepster before him.

University of Arizona assistant Bob Valesente labeled Cade "the No. 1 running back prospect in the country." Arizona State head coach Frank Kush was only slightly less flattering. "He is one of the top backs in the nation," said Kush. "Comparisons between high school and college is difficult, but he is as good as any who ever came out of that area, and I mean the Malones and all of them."

"Oklahoma viewed all of Cade's game films as a junior," claimed Verne Boatner of *The Arizona Republic*. "They scouted two of his senior games and Sooner assistant Gerald O'Dell called him one of the two top running backs in the nation."

His three-year career total of 4,458 yards made him the state's second most productive rusher, behind legendary Phoenix star George Greathouse, who gained 4,551 yards at two different schools, Carner High and Phoenix Union.

Santa Cruz coach Jay Denton, who still coaches the Dust Devils, said, "I think he's the best high school player I've ever seen. He does so many things well. He has made so many great runs with people right on top of him."

Cade's college career was not as glorious, plagued by as many off the field problems as anything. He originally signed with Michigan, starred on the Wolverines' frosh team, then transferred to Arizona State.



Cade, who scored six touchdowns in the 3A state championship game, scored three in this game against Coolidge (Arizona Republic photo).

Still, one man does not a season make. The Dust Devils of 1978, like all six of their state championship teams, had plenty of horses. This year, one happened to be Mike's younger brother, Mossy. The younger Cade, later an All-American defensive back at the University of Texas, ran the Devils' wishbone. If there was a better option quarterback in Arizona, he never stepped forward.

During a 32-14 win over Sahuarita, Mossy scored on an 88-yard kickoff return, tossed a 60-yard TD strike to Eddie Chase, then returned a punt 84 yards for a score. He later scored the Devils only touchdown in its only loss, a 19-7 defeat to Mohave in Bullhead City. It was the last regular season game of the year.

"Comparisons between high school and college is difficult, but he is as good as any who ever came out of that area, and I mean the Malones and all of them."

One week later, in the playoff's first round, Mossy threw two scoring passes and Mike scored four times in a 45-6 rematch with Sahuarita. Ironically, Eloy faced Mohave in the semifinals. This time it was all Dust Devils. Mike scored three times in a 20-7 triumph. Then came the classic matchup with Willcox in the finals.

"It's real hard to compare teams," said Denton years later. "We had a lot of good teams back then. But that one (1978) was tough. It's not too often that a coach in a small town has two of the best backs in the country in the same backfield."

Five Devils landed a spot on *The Arizona Republic* 3A all-state team. Both Cades, guard Terry Beasley, guard Steve Pretzer and punter Jose Lopez were first team selections. Lopez averaged a school record 45.5 yards per punt. Mossy made the team as a defensive back. Lopez was a second team tackle. Chase and James Malone were honorable mention.

On the prestigious *Super All-State* squad, Mike was the Player of the Year. Mossy landed in the secondary, as the quarterback was Tempe McClintock ace Rick Neuheisel, later an MVP of the Rose Bowl. Today, Neuheisel is the head coach at the University of Colorado.



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THE NEAR-PERFECT SEASON:

Dust Devils 21	Marana 6
Dust Devils 32	Sahuarita 14
Dust Devils 7	Nogales 7
Dust Devils 26	Parker 14
Dust Devils 27	Ajo 0
Dust Devils 26	Willcox 14
Dust Devils 25	Buckeye 0
Dust Devils 42	Coolidge 28
Dust Devils 22	Apache Junction 14
Dust Devils 7	Mohave 19

PLAYOFFS:

Dust Devils 45	Sahuarita 6
Dust Devils 20	Mohave 7
Dust Devils 40	Willcox 36

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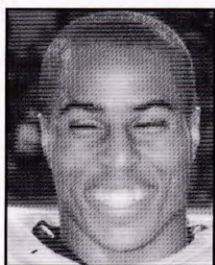
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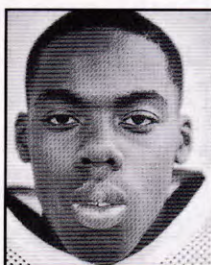
1997 Marcus Jones, Mountain Pointe, RB/LB
1996 Justin Taplin, Tempe, WR
1995 Keith Brown, Mountain Pointe, RB
1994 Skeeter Brown, Mountain Pointe, RB
1993 Darnell Autry, Tempe, RB/DB
1992 Kenny Wheaton, McClintock, DB
1991 Armon Williams, Valley Christian, QB/DB
1990 Andrew McCormick, McClintock, RB/DB
1989 Brian Drew, McClintock, RB/RS
1988 Dan-iel Taplin, Tempe, TE/DE (jr.)
1987 Bart James, McClintock, DB/K
1986 Willy Lira, Marcos de Niza, QB
1985 Cleveland Colter, McClintock, WR/DB
1984 Rich Groppenbacher, McClintock, WR
1983 John Walker, Marcos de Niza, QB
1982 Shawn Patterson, McClintock, T
1981 Glenn Dennard, Corona del Sol, WR
1980 Jimmy Williams, Tempe, LB
1979 Arthur Reeves, Marcos de Niza, RB
1978 Matt Palacio, McClintock, LB
1977 David Hinds, McClintock, RB
1976 Andy Arrendondo, McClintock, RB
1975 Ronnie Washington, McClintock, WR
1974 Jimmy Moore, Marcos de Niza, TE
1973 Preston Dennard, Marcos de Niza, WR
1972 Herbie Ramirez, McClintock, WR
1971 Fred Mortensen, Tempe, QB



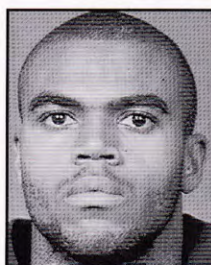
In 1993, Darnell Autry rushed for 1,812 yards and scored 20 touchdowns.



***Marcus Jones
Mountain Pointe***



***Kenny Wheaton
McClintock***



***Armon Williams
Valley Christian***



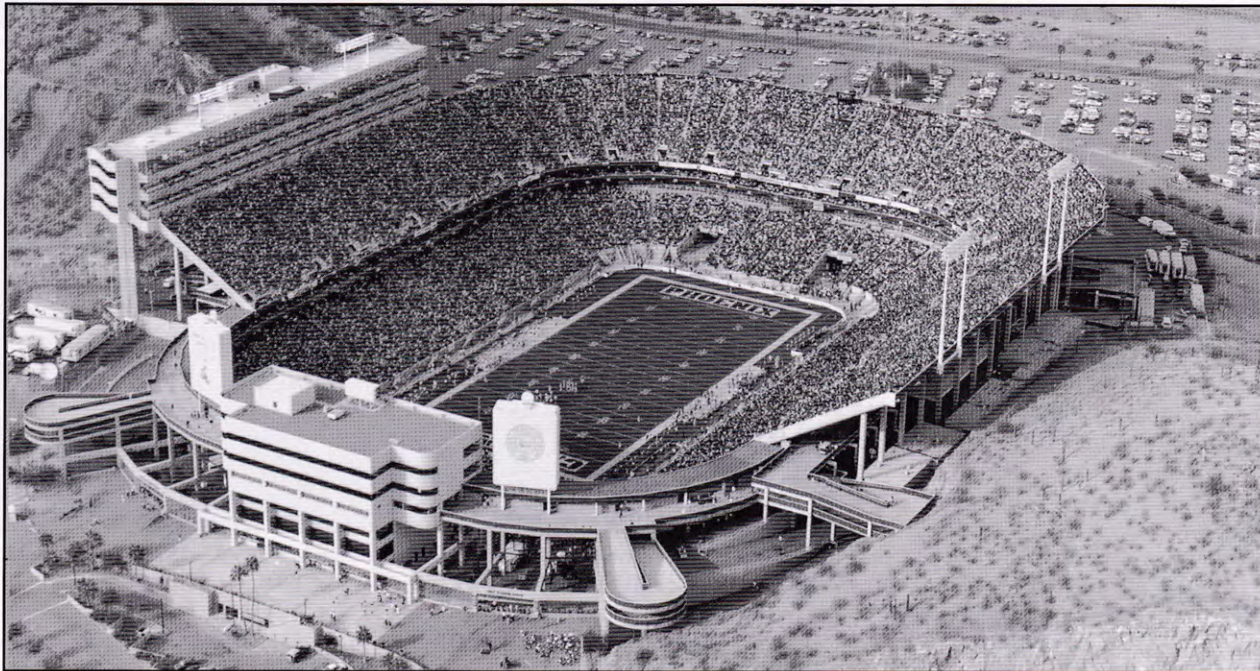
***Preston Dennard
Marcos de Niza***

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Sept. 19.....Devils vs North Texas
Sept. 20.....Cards vs Philadelphia
Sept. 26.....Devils vs Oregon State
Oct. 4Cards vs Oakland
Oct. 10Devils vs Notre Dame
Oct. 11Cards vs Chicago

Oct. 22Devils vs Stanford
Nov. 7.....Devils vs California
Nov. 8.....Cards vs Washington
Nov. 15.....Cards vs Dallas
Dec. 6.....Cards vs New York Giants
Dec. 114A/5A High School Finals
Dec. 20.....Cards vs New Orleans
Dec. 27.....Cards vs San Diego



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The Best Team You Never Saw

Some things improve with age. In the Arizona high school ranks, the playoff format for football is a perfect example. Today, if you're good, you're in.

It didn't used to be that way. Some of Arizona's all-time best teams never saw the turf at Sun Devil Stadium or the University of Arizona.

The best example ever was 1968, when two of the state's top-rated clubs, Class AAA Tucson and AA Winslow, stayed home for the holidays. They watched the playoffs from the stands.

At Tucson High, coaches knew they had a special player from the first day Joe Petroskus showed up on campus, arriving as a freshman from Chicago.

"Joe was a great kid and an outstanding athlete," said Ollie Mayfield years later. Mayfield became the Badgers head coach in 1967, Joe's junior year. Petroskus played varsity ball as a sophomore, as a member of the Badgers' state championship club of 1966.

Two years later the state player of the year, wooed by the likes of Oklahoma, Michigan State, Houston, Colorado, Arizona and Arizona State, played on the best team you never saw.

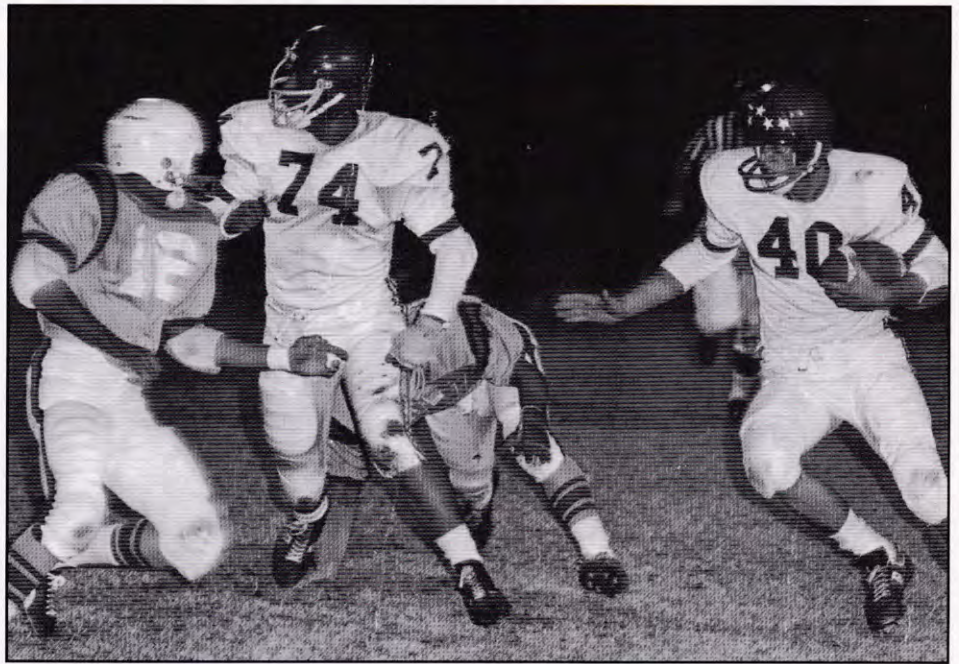
"In those days only one team from each league went to the playoffs," said Mayfield. "We screwed up in the Douglas game. They just outplayed us and deserved to win that night. But we had a great club. Maybe one of our best."

At the end of regular season play, so good was Tucson, both the *Associated Press* and *UPI* polls picked the Badgers No. 1. Surprisingly, it was the same case in AA (now 4A), where top-ranked Winslow stayed home, no thanks to a 6-0 mid-season loss to Flagstaff Coconino in the rain.

In the Badgers' opener, the 6-foot-2, 190-pound Petroskus staged a one-man show, leading Tucson past visiting Palo Verde 39-14 before 8,000 fans. "I like football, but I miss ice hockey," said Joe after the game, recalling a sports he played well in Chicago.

After a 38-14 win over Catalina, Trojan coach John Griste dished out the compliments. "A very tough team ... powerful offense ... tight-line defense," said Griste of the top-rated Badgers.

Junior quarterback Willie Morales ran the Badgers' famed T-formation to near perfection. The backfield featured Petroskus, Vernon Davis, Curtis Flannigan and Bobby Morris. Richard



Petroskus (40) follows teammate Gilbert Fimbres (74), then cuts for the open field during a 28-14 win over Pueblo (Tucson Citizen photo).

Dodson and Gilbert Fimbres were the tackles. Eric Watson was a game-breaking receiver.

Tucson's much talked about defense, scattered by three key injuries, ran into unheralded Phoenix North in early October. The result was a 33-point, 480-yard, 23-first down night by the Mustangs. But the Badger offense, as potent as ever, racked up 53 points and propelled THS to a 53-33 victory. In the first quarter, Petroskus scored on a 74-yard run and a 90-yard kickoff return.

"Tucson has what I consider the best team in the state," said North coach Tom Casteel. "They have a real explosive team, with plenty of speed. We were ready, but they just ran away from us."

But one week later Douglas, coached by Ike Sharp, pulled the "upset of the year" with a surprising 21-13 win in Tucson. Two pass interceptions, both set-

ting up touchdowns, and a pair of fumble recoveries was the difference.

The "Big Red" bounced back and waxed Salpointe, 37-14 before 8,000 fans on the road. Then, in a bizarre game with Rincon, the Badgers trailed 26-20 at the half, but won 52-26. "The Badgers' blitzkrieg offense rambled like the German panzer division through Poland," wrote the *Tucson Citizen*.

One week later, Mayfield's club edged El Paso Burges 26-7 in sub-freezing temperatures in El Paso. Then, 800 fans braved the cold and rain during a 39-14 win over long-time rival Amphitheater.

After a season-ending win over Pueblo, Petroskus finished with a city rushing record of 1,418 yards, an impressive stat since Tucson spread the ball around in their T-formation. "He certainly ranks with the best backs at Tucson since I've been here," said Mayfield of his prize recruit, who would later play at Arizona. "We lost one game we shouldn't have, and that made the difference. That's life, I guess."

"Tucson is the best club we've faced this year," added Pueblo assistant Ed Brown. "In fact, I think Tucson is as good, if not better, than their state championship team of 1965. I don't think there's any comparison between Tucson and Douglas, however. Tucson is the best we've played against."

"In those days only one team from each league went to the playoffs. We screwed up in the Douglas game. They just outplayed us and deserved to win ..."

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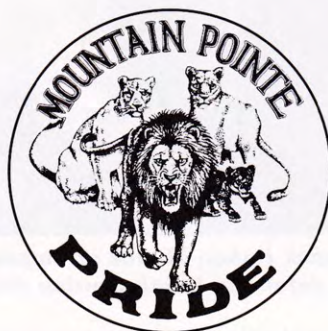
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Mesa: Last of the Poll Champs

By LONNIE COLLINS

Today, only two states in the country, California and New York, do not crown an official state champion in football.

Not too long ago, the Grand Canyon State was in the same boat. For years it wasn't necessary, especially in the large classification, called the AA Conference. All the state's powerhouse teams played each other, and the league winner wore Arizona's unofficial "large school" crown.

But after the Korean War, Arizona's population mounted. There became too many AA schools to fit each school's schedule. The problem became more apparent in the late '50s, and reached a peak in 1958.

After the '58 campaign, no less than three schools declared themselves state champions: Tucson Pueblo (9-1), coached by Lou Farber; South Mountain (8-1-1), coached by "Shanty" Hogan; and Mesa (7-1-2), coached by Edgar "Mutt" Ford. The media polls were split between Mesa and Pueblo, which lost to South 19-13. Mesa did not face Pueblo. South and the Jackrabbits battled to a 7-7 deadlock in November.

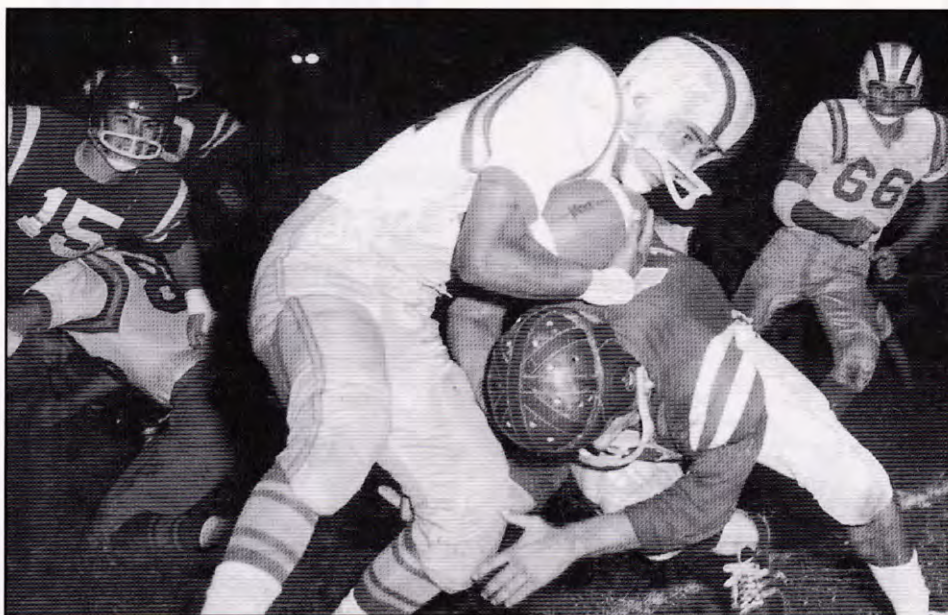
Sound confusing? It often was.

Prior to the season opener in Las Vegas, Mesa had gone unbeaten in the decade against out-of-state foes, all from California. It was the best record ever accomplished by an Arizona school against West Coast teams. And those teams were no patsies. Pasadena Muir, Covina, Los Angeles Jefferson, San Diego St. Augustine, Compton Centennial, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles Garfield and Porterville fell victim to the Purple & Gold. (The real shocker came in 1954, when Mesa upset Compton Centennial, the Southern CIF champion, 40-13).

Along the way Mesa annexed two state championships and four runnerups. More often than not, their toughest test was at home.

The only game the '58 Hares lost all season was the first one, 16-6 to Las Vegas High in Las Vegas. Reuben Munoz, on a short run, scored the only Rabbits touchdown. "That was a wasted trip," said assistant coach Dave Gates years later. "All we learned from that game was we had a long way to go to be a contender. We had a lot of work to do."

Except for a 31-18 win over Phoenix



Halfback Ruben Munoz attempts to break away from an unidentified North High defender. Elijah Cardon (66) closes in from behind.

West, and a 35-12 stomping of Tucson Amphi, Mesa's defensive unit held every opponent to a touchdown or less. "When it was all said and done, that was our strength," added Gates.

Against the defending state champion West Thunderbirds, Mesa played perhaps its best game of the season. In Ford's legendary Wing-T offense, Munoz carried the ball 27 times and scored three times.

In a see-saw battle with Tucson High, Munoz was again the workhorse. But the game ended in a 7-7 deadlock with Mesa on the Badgers' one yard line. One week later, during the win over Amphitheater, Don Holly's 44-yard pass interception sealed the Panthers' fate.

Munoz, who weighed only 140-pounds, toted the ball 33 times for 173 yards during a brutal 13-7 struggle with Phoenix Union. Another defensive contest, this time with Phoenix Camelback, was won on Munoz's 90-yard kickoff return.

In late November, before a record

crowd of 5,500 at South Mountain, billed as the "unofficial state championship", Larry Eaves hit Eddie Giles for the Hares' only score. Ron Peterson booted the important extra point. Rod Pitts passed to all-state end George Heard for South's lone tally. Again, Mesa's defense was the key, stopping South's sensational back, Dornel Nelson, at almost every turn. But the game ended 7-7 and the AA championship was still undecided.

One week later West cooked South's goose by stunning the top rated Rebels 21-20. Meanwhile, Mesa's defense was keeping Scottsdale's all-state back Lewis Albright (who would later play at SMU) in check during another 13-6 win. Munoz missed the game with a broken bone in his foot.

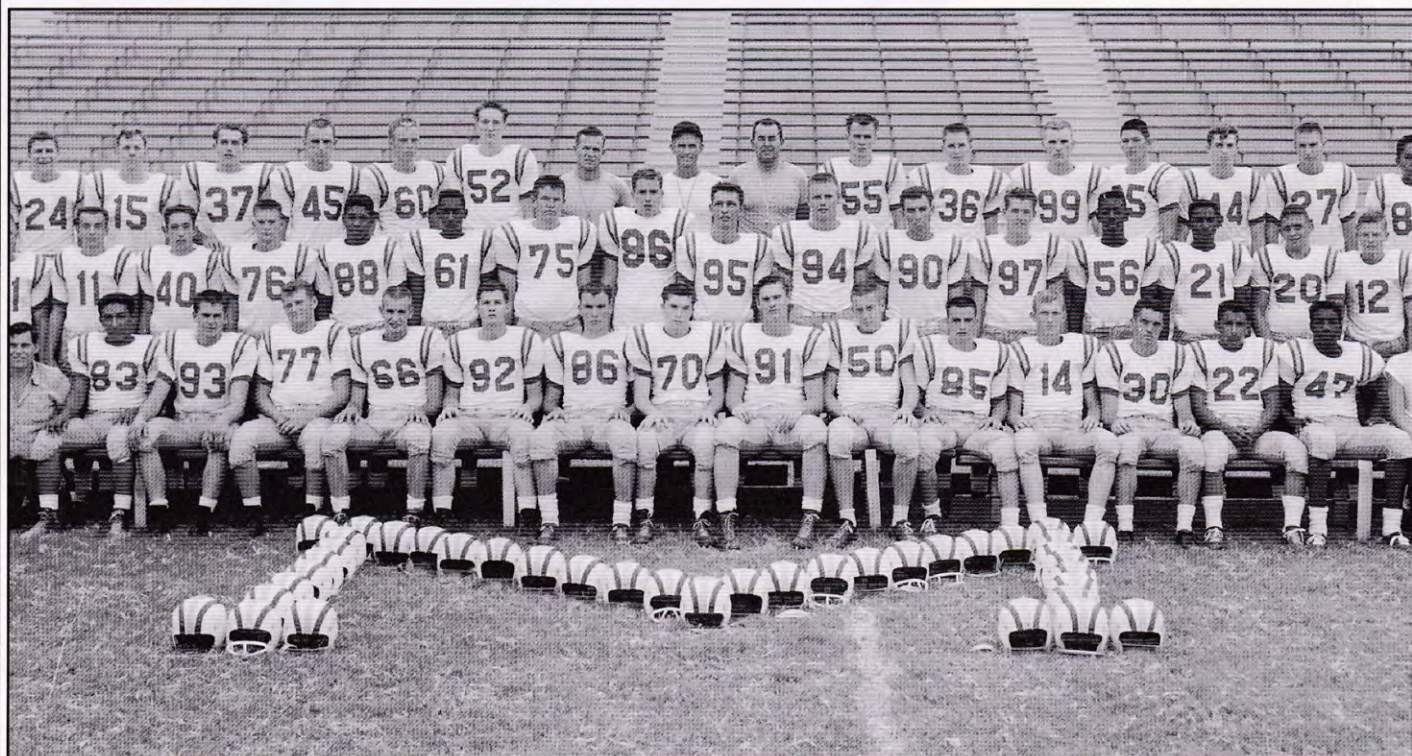
Three 'Rabbits, end Keith Lassen, line-backer Sammy King and tackle Merrill Johnson, earned spots on the prestigious all-state squad. State sports writers were split between Scottsdale's Albright and South's Nelson, two exceptional backs, for player of the year honors.

If nothing else, the '58 season brought to an end "the poll champs" in Arizona's large classification. The Arizona Interscholastic Association, pressured to adapt a state playoff format, did so for the 1959 season. But sometimes you just can't win. On Thanksgiving weekend, at Arizona State University, South battled Yuma to a 7-7 tie.

"That was a wasted trip. All we learned from that game was we had a long way to go to be a contender. We had a lot of work to do."



Saluting Mesa High School's '58 Jackrabbits ARIZONA STATE CO-CHAMPIONS



Coach Edgar "Mutt" Ford and assistants Dave Gates and Reed Peterson guided the 'Rabbits through a 7-1-2 campaign and the school's 7th state championship.

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- 1973, 1986 & 1993 Class 5A semifinalist!
- 15 Class 5A runnerups!
- 30-10-2 record vs. out-of-state teams!
- 10-0-0 record vs. California schools!
- 14-10-2 record vs. Texas schools!
- 6-0-0 record vs. New Mexico and Utah schools!
- One dozen Prep All-Americans!
- Former Coach Mutt Ford's record: 227-64-17!
- Nationally ranked in 1950, '54, '60 & '63!
- Posted .820 winning mark in Decade of the '30s!
- Intercepted state-record 33 passes in 1947!
- Scored in 85 straight games between 1945-53!
- Scored in 84 consecutive games from 1955-63!
- Produced eight (9) professional football stars!

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"It's Great to be a Jackrabbit!"

Air-Minded Coyotes Interstate Stars

By LONNIE COLLINS

Air-minded Johnny Black will fly his Phoenix High School squad to the West Coast tomorrow, where they will meet the Bakersfield Drillers in the third and final interstate game on the Coyotes' schedule.

*-Bill Nixon
The Arizona Times
October, 1948*

Johnny Black, in just his second year of high school coaching, took Phoenix Union to the top. He produced one of the best balanced teams ever at one of the state's all-time great programs.

In a poll of state coaches, the former Tucson High and University of Arizona star was named the state's top mentor, edging Superior coach Pete Drakulich.

At Phoenix Union, Black and assistants Bud Robinson and Bob Ruman went through a rugged first year. They were 2-6-1 in 1947. But they were competitive. One year later they waltzed through all Arizona competition and dropped just one game, 24-19 to San Diego High.

Without a doubt, it was one of the most unique, exciting schedules ever to face a Phoenix city school. Don Coyote gave his fans plenty to cheer about. The Pack ran over, under and around nine opponents, while failing only once. The season climax was a brutal 6-0 win over rival North High, played before 14,500 fans on Thanksgiving Day.

Fullback Gene Brown, guard Roy Alba and tackle Bob Matock earned first team all-state recognition. Matock later was named to the 1948 High School All-American squad, picked by *The Sporting News*.

In the season opener, a 40-6 win over Glendale, Brown returned the first punt of the game 65 yards for a score. He later returned another punt all the way, this time covering 60 yards. Bob Alford also scored twice in the rout.

Then, before 9,000 fans at historic Montgomery Stadium, Brown, Alford, Todd LaPorte and Lyle Underwood scored in a 26-0 shutout of San Bernardino, the first of three scheduled games with California schools. But one week later the Coyotes weren't so lucky. The opponent was San Diego High.

"The Hilltoppers, striking from way out on long, dazzling runs, edged the Coyotes 24-19 in a hard hitting, free



Before 14,500 fans at Montgomery Stadium, Gene Brown, Phoenix Union's 200-pound fullback, turns the corner against North High.

scoring interstate clash at Montgomery," reported legendary *Arizona Republic* writer Arnott Duncan.

Before 8,000 fans the Coyotes had the best of it on the statistical side, and won the battle in the line. But the San Diego backs, especially Neal Henderson and Charlie Davis, had too much speed.

"Back then we never had any black athletes," says Black, who today resides in Tucson. "They were all over at Carver High. Most of the California schools we played were loaded with black athletes.

"I remember one year against Bakersfield, they had a great running back named Frank Gifford. We knocked him out of the game. Then they replaced him with a black running back (Alec Thompson) and he ran wild against us. We couldn't stop him."

Two weeks later Black and the Pack

boarded a plane for an away clash with powerful Bakersfield. "I may be wrong," insists Black, "but I think Phoenix Union was the first high school to fly to away games on the coast. In college we wouldn't think of traveling out of state by bus, and I didn't want my players to do it at Phoenix Union. So we flew."

This time the Coyotes' hard-driving line drove Bakersfield all over the field, as the visitors prevailed 25-21. It was done without Gene Brown, who suffered an ankle injury on the first play of the game. But one play later LaPorte scored and the race was on. The Drillers, unable to gain anything against the Coyotes' forward wall, scored on long dashes and one pass. LaPorte, Bill Culton and Bob Stegall cashed in for the winners.

Phoenix cinched the state crown with a hard-fought 19-17 win over Tucson, before 12,500 fans at Montgomery in early November. Brown, LaPorte and Alford scored for the winners. Bisbee (19-7), St. Mary's (20-0), Mesa (21-15) and Yuma (33-7) fell as well.

In Black's four-year coaching tenure at Phoenix, the Coyotes played San Diego, Bakersfield, San Bernardino, Los Angeles Fremont and Las Vegas High in 10 different out-of-state tussles, posting a 7-3 overall record. It was his 1948 team which was the best.

"In college we wouldn't think of traveling out of state by bus, and I didn't want my players to do it at Phoenix Union. So we flew."



Saluting the 1948 Phoenix Union Coyotes Arizona State Champions!



"One of the Nation's Most Historic High Schools!"

With Arizona Coach of the Year John Black, All-America tackle Bob Matock, and all-state players Gene Brown & Roy Alba, the Coyotes were almost perfect!

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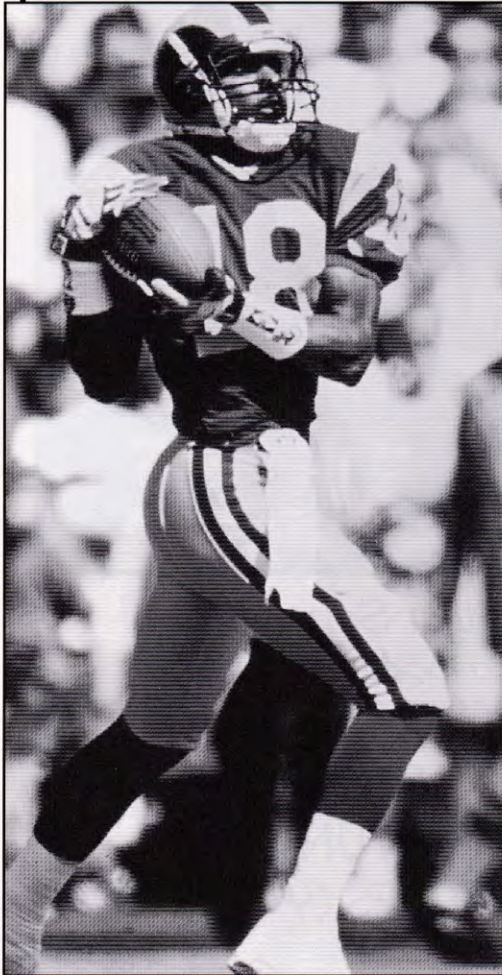
1948

PHOENIX UNION
COYOTES (9-1)

COYOTES 40	Glendale 6
COYOTES 26	San Bernardino 0
COYOTES 19	San Diego 24
COYOTES 25	Bakersfield 21
COYOTES 19	Bisbee 7
COYOTES 20	Phoenix St. Mary's 0
COYOTES 19	Tucson 17
COYOTES 21	Mesa 15
COYOTES 33	Yuma 7
COYOTES 6	Phoenix North 0

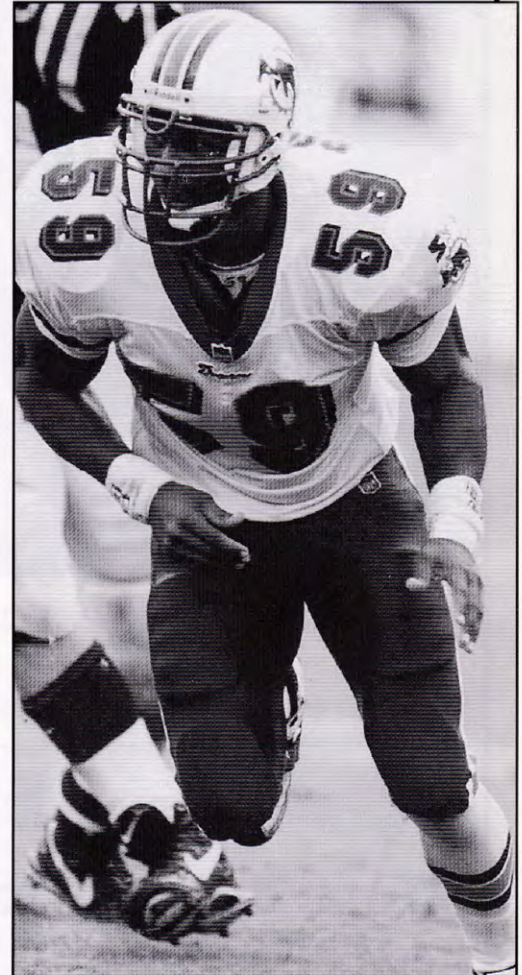


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RANDALL McDANIEL.....Minn. Vikings
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Arizona Cardinals ... This Could Be The Year!

By DAVID KUKULSKI

Some BIG, BIG days are just around the corner for the Arizona Cardinals. On and off the field.

Of course, the stadium issue is still a hot topic and some news on that front should be forthcoming in the near future.

But Coach Vince Tobin, his staff and team know what happens against the Dallas Cowboys on September 6th when the regular season begins is all they can control.

Normally, the outlook for any team that finished 4-12 the year before is far from promising. Yet, for the first time since the Big Red left St. Louis for Sun Devil Stadium, owner Bill Bidwell's team could overcome its losing ways while establishing its own identity in the Valley of the Sun.

Of course, having former ASU stand-out Jake Plummer as a budding star at quarterback doesn't hurt. When starting signal caller Kent Graham was injured midway through the 1997 campaign, Plummer suddenly found himself running the Cardinal offense. A tough spot for any rookie.

Plummer didn't disappoint. Sure, he struggled at times, throwing 15 interceptions while taking 52 sacks. Some sacks showed his inexperience; many resulted from an overmatched offensive line.

On the plus side, he set a team record with 2,203 yards passing as a rookie. He found paydirt 15 times and even set a rookie single-game record with 388 yards against the New York Giants. Still, the losses continued as the Cardinals couldn't quite get over the hump. Six games – three in overtime – were lost by a total of 20 points. A thrilling 29-26 victory over the Atlanta Falcons – sparked by Plummer's late-game heroics – made both the team and its fans feel better about 1998.

The receiving corps is solid. In fact, wideouts Rob Moore (6-3, 205) and Frank Sanders (6-1, 202) both topped the 1,000-yard barrier in receiving yardage. Moore led the NFL with 1,584 yards on 97 receptions. A dynamite trade with the San Diego Chargers brought another veteran into the fold; Eric Metcalf (5-10, 188) figures to be the third wide receiver as well as the Cards' return specialist. The tight end post will be by committee – with Chris Gedney, Johnny McWilliams, Trey Junkin and rookie Terry Hardy all getting a shot. Clearly, Gedney is the best receiv-



Second-year pro Jake Plummer enters the 1998 campaign as the field general of the Cardinal offense. He's shown considerable playing skills and outstanding leadership ability.

er of the bunch, having registered 23 grabs for 261 yards and four TDs last fall.

The running game will have a different look. Arizona had very little success on the ground in 1997. That put even more pressure on Plummer and the passing game.

Gone is leading rusher Leeland McElroy. Instead, Adrian Murrell (5-11, 214, formerly of the Jets), Mario Bates (6-1, 217, late of the Saints and a former Sun Devil) and rookie Michael Pittman (6-0, 204, Fresno State) should upgrade the ground attack. Fullback Larry Centers (5-11, 215) reached All-Pro status two years ago with his hard-nosed running and considerable pass-catching skills. Centers didn't get as many opportunities to handle the ball last year, but he remains one of Arizona's big-play performers.

What about the troubling offensive line? Lomas Brown (6-4, 275) is the pace setter at left tackle. The Cards traded for Lester Holmes (6-4, 315), who is penciled in at right guard. Youngsters Aaron Graham (6-1, 295) and Chris Dishman (6-2, 320), both former Nebraska Cornhuskers, will take first crack at center and left guard, respectively. Anthony Clement, a 6-8, 348-pound rookie from Southwest Louisiana, will test holdover James Dexter (6-5, 200) at right tackle.

Did Arizona strengthen itself in this critical area? Who knows? That's why we play the games.

Joe Nedney is back to handle the placekicking chores. Either Marcus Williams, another ASU product, or Scott Player will assume the punting duties, since Jeff Feagles departed for the Seattle Seahawks.

It's possible the new glamour position on this team is along the defensive front. Seven-year veteran Eric Swann (6-5, 295) has been among the best in the league for years. Defensive end Simeon Rice nabbed Rookie of the Year honors in 1996, although his play dropped off last year. The tackle position next to Swann will be manned by either Mark Smith (6-4, 273) or Bernard Wilson (6-2, 295). Smith was a very pleasant surprise in 1997 and appears to have a bright future. Brad Ottis (6-4, 280) is a fine plug-in guy.

But it's the ample talents of rookie Andre Wadsworth, a 6-4, 282-pound sparkplug from Florida State, that could push the Cardinals defensive line to "NFL best" recognition. If not now, certainly in the years ahead. Wadsworth was the third pick in the draft. He has speed, strength and great desire to excel. Many experts believe his acquisition – after Arizona traded the second pick to San Diego for a handsome price – will be a giant step forward for the franchise.

At linebacker, Eric Hill has moved on to the St. Louis Rams, so the versatile Ronald McKinnon (5-11, 230) is expected to take over in the middle. Jamir Miller (6-4, 242) finally showed his talents in 1997 and is set at one outside post. The right side should be manned by either Terry Irving (6-0, 224) or Patrick Sapp (6-4, 258), who came over in the San Diego deal.

The secondary also should be better. All-Pro Aeneas Williams (5-10, 190) is a great cover corner; in fact, he's snared 26 interceptions since 1994, tops in the NFL. Second-year pro Tommy Knight (5-11, 190) has ability, but he was erratic last fall. Ty Howard (5-9, 186) is also looking for playing time.

The safeties will be new. Tommy Bennett (6-1, 204) and Kwamie Lassiter (5-11, 180) appear to have the inside track, but keep your eyes on second-round pick Cory Chavous (6-0, 207), veteran Van Malone (5-11, 186) and rookie Pat Tillman (5-11, 202), yet another former ASU Sun Devil who was the Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year in 1997.



SPORTS QUIZ

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW FOOTBALL ...

1) Tucson High has sent hundreds of players into the college football world, and more than its share to the pro ranks. Who was this former Badger (photo at right) who became a star player for the St. Louis Cardinals?

2) Last year this southwestern city produced more Division One football signees (30) than all of West Texas (15):

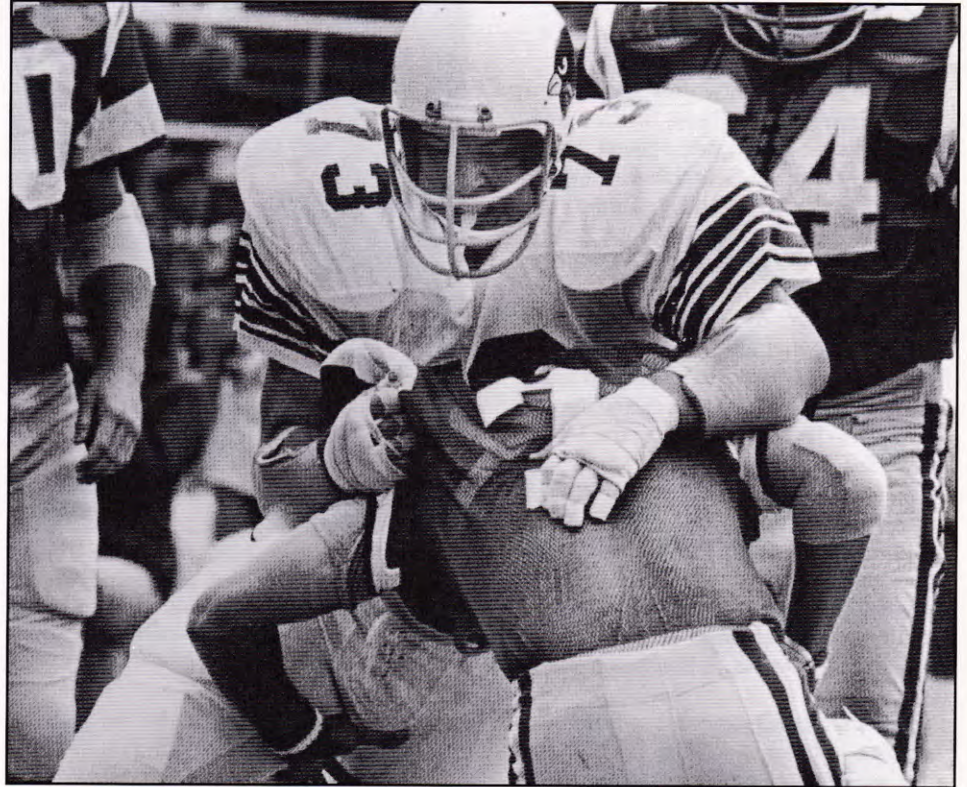
- a) Denver
- b) Phoenix
- c) Las Vegas
- d) Salt Lake City
- e) Albuquerque

3) Since this school now plays in the Class 5A ranks, it has a chance to win a state football championship in every classification, since it has already won titles in 1A thru 4A:

- a) Paradise Valley
- b) Tolleson Westview
- c) Gilbert
- d) Kingman
- e) Casa Grande

4) During the Decade of the '50s, this Arizona high school never lost a game to a California school, going 10-0-0:

- a) Tucson High
- b) Phoenix Union
- c) Yuma
- d) Mesa



Who is this former Tucson High star, later a defensive tackle for the NFL St. Louis Cardinals?

5) All of these Arizona high schools have closed at one time or another except:

- a) Phoenix North
- b) Jerome
- c) Phoenix Union
- d) Morenci

- e) Phoenix Carver
- f) Clarkdale
- g) Pine

6) Every one of these historic Arizona high schools is matched with its proper mascot except which one?

- a) Cottonwood Green Devils
- b) Jerome Muckers
- c) Phoenix Union Coyotes
- d) West Phoenix Thunderbirds
- e) Scottsdale Beavers
- f) Phoenix Indian Braves
- g) Pine Buffaloes

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ANSWERS:

- 1) Mike Dawson.
- 2) Phoenix. 3) Gilbert.
- 4) Mesa. 5) Morenci.
- 6) Cottonwood Red Devils

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ARIZONA'S HIGH SCHOOL



PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

1997.....NATHAN WIZE
.....Tucson Sabino (RB)
1996.....JUSTIN TAPLIN
.....Tempe (WR/KR)
1995.....MIKE BROWN
.....Saguaro (RB/DB)
1994.....TAVON COOPER
.....Peoria (RB/RS)
1993.....KEVIN SCHMIDTKE
.....Marana Mtn. View (RB)
1992.....MIKE MITCHELL
.....Brophy Prep (RB)
1991.....CHRIS HOPKINS
.....Tucson Salpointe (RB)
1990.....MARIO BATES
.....Tucson Amphi (RB)
1989.....BRIAN DREW
.....Tempe McClintock (RB)
1988.....ERIC DRAGE
.....Tucson Santa Rita (WR)
1987.....KEVIN GALBREATH
.....Phoenix Maryvale (RB)
1986.....BOBBY VALDEZ
.....Tucson Sunnyside (QB)
1985.....CLEVELAND COLTER
.....Tempe McClintock (RB)
1984.....STEVE BELLES
.....Phoenix St. Mary's (QB)
1983.....ANTHONY PARKER
.....Tempe McClintock (RB)
1982.....RODNEY PEETE (jr)
.....Tucson Sahuaro (QB)
1981.....STAN GILL
.....Flagstaff (RB)
1980.....FRED SIMS
.....Tucson Sunnyside (RB)
1979.....MOSSY CADE
.....Eloy Santa Cruz (DB)
1978.....MIKE CADE
.....Eloy Santa Cruz (RB)
1977.....(TIE) ALVIN MOORE
.....Coolidge (TB)
.....RIKI GRAY
.....Tucson Amphi (LB)
1976.....GREG BRADY
.....Coronado (QB)



**Sabino's Nathan Wize scored 51 touchdowns
and rushed for 3,101 yards.
(Tucson Citizen photo)**

1975.....BRIAN FELIX
.....Phoenix Union (RB)
1974.....DAVID MITCHELL (jr)
.....Phoenix St. Mary's (RB)
TIE.....JIMMY MOORE
.....Marcos de Niza (TE/DE)
1973.....ROB WILSON
.....Coronado (QB/DB)
1972.....JESSE PARKER
.....Tucson Rincon (RB)
1971.....FRED MORTENSEN
.....Tempe (QB)
1970.....BILL CROWE
.....Tempe McClintock (LB)
1969.....BENNY MALONE
.....Eloy Santa Cruz (RB)
1968.....JOE PETROSHUS
.....Tucson (HB)
1967.....TIM SMITH
.....Phoenix St. Mary's (RB)
1966.....(TIE) BOB SOZA
.....Mesa Westwood (TB)
.....BILL DAWSON
.....Tucson (OT/DT)
1965.....ART MALONE
.....Eloy Santa Cruz (TB)
1964.....LEROY PEOPLES
.....Marana (HB)
1963.....JAMES DUGAN
.....Flagstaff (HB/DB)
1962.....EVERETT ROLLINS
.....Scottsdale Arcadia (HB)
1961.....ANDY LIVINGSTON
.....Mesa (TB)
1960.....TED LAWRENCE
.....South Mountain (G)
1959.....BOB OLSON
.....South Mountain (FB)
1958.....LEWIS ALBRIGHT
.....Scottsdale (HB)
1957.....EDDIE WILSON
.....Chandler (QB)
1956.....WARREN LIVINGSTON
.....Mesa (TB)
1955.....GEORGE GREATHOUSE
.....Phoenix Union (TB)

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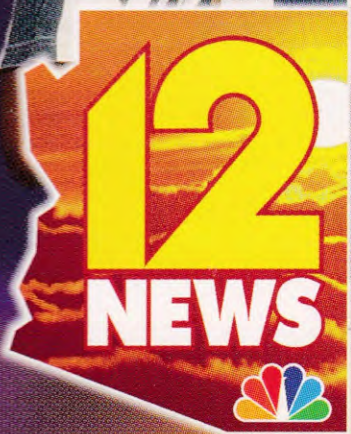
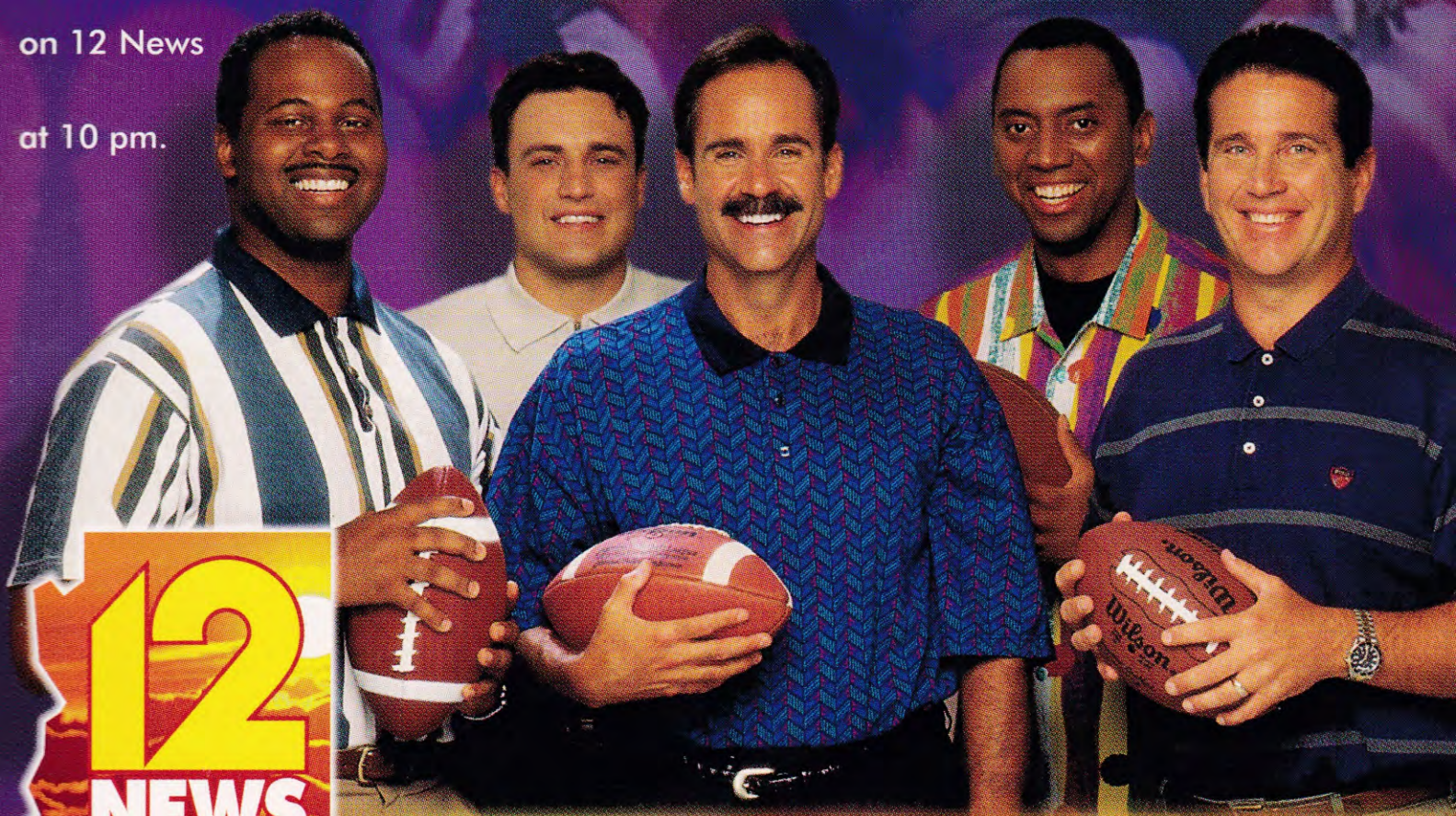
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