



NEWS RELEASE

FIFTH ANNUAL SOLLENBERGER CLASSIC TO BE PLAYED IN FLAGSTAFF

PHOENIX, AZ (July 6, 2010) – Chandler Hamilton and Las Vegas Bishop Gorman will meet in the Fifth Annual Sollenberger Classic, in Flagstaff, Ariz. at the J. Lawrence Walkup Skydome on the campus of Northern Arizona University, on Saturday, August 21, 2010, with kick-off scheduled for 7:10 p.m.

Hamilton, the Arizona Interscholastic Association's (AIA) Class 5A Division I defending state champion, will face the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association's (NIAA) Class 4A defending state champion, Bishop Gorman High School.

"We are excited to continue the relationship with the NIAAA and their staff for the third straight year," AIA Executive Director Harold Slemmer said. "Both schools are coming off very successful seasons, and are poised to defend their respective championships."

"The NIAA is appreciative and excited to again be included in the prestigious Sollenberger Classic," said Eddie Bonine, Executive Director of the NIAA. "The last two years have provided fantastic opportunities, both on and off the field, for a couple of our top football teams. The AIA staff does a tremendous job making our Nevada participants feel welcomed and putting on this first-class event."

Representing Arizona is the Hamilton Huskies under the direction of Head Coach Steve Belles. Hamilton won its second straight title by defeating Mesa High School 35-0 for the AIA 5A Division I championship on Saturday, December, 12, 2009 at University of Phoenix Stadium. The Huskies finished 2009 with an unblemished record of 14 wins and no losses, winning its fifth title in seven years. Class 5A Division I is the AIA's highest classification.

"I would like to thank the AIA for giving the Hamilton High School football program the opportunity to play in the Sollenberger Classic versus Bishop Gorman," Belles said. "It will be a great challenge for us to play one of the best teams in the nation. With that being said we will be playing for the pride of the great state of Arizona."

Representing Nevada and led by Head Coach Tony Sanchez, the Bishop Gorman Gaels won the NIAA Class 4A championship defeating Del Sol 62-21 on Saturday, December 5, 2008 at Sam Boyd Stadium. The Gaels finished the 2009 season with an unblemished record at 13 wins and no losses, winning their second title in three years. Class 4A is the NIAA's highest classification.

"We are very excited about the opportunity to represent the state of Nevada in participating in the Sollenberger Classic and to compete against one of the top teams in the nation in Hamilton," Sanchez said. "This is a great challenge for our boys at Bishop Gorman and a great way to kick off the 2010 season. This should make for an exciting and competitive football game that both communities will be chomping at the bit to see."

In addition to the game, fans traveling to Flagstaff will be able to attend open practices of the National Football League's Arizona Cardinals on both Friday, August 20, and Saturday, August 21. The Cardinals practice from 9:05 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and again from 3:05 p.m. to 5 p.m. on August 20, and from 9:05 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on August 21. Practices take place on the outdoor fields east of the J. Lawrence

Walkup Skydome on the NAU campus. It should be noted that practice times for the Cardinals are subject to change, and fans should visit www.azcardinals.com for the most up-to-date practice info.

The weather will also be a benefit to both teams and the fans traveling to take part in the event during the weekend of the Sollenberger Classic with the average high in August in Flagstaff at 80 degrees.

"I'm sure both the Phoenix metropolitan and Las Vegas communities would benefit from a weekend away from their warm summer climates," Slemmer said.

Bonine added, "The NIAA staff and Bishop Gorman High School are looking forward to visiting beautiful Flagstaff and the Northern Arizona University campus."

Tickets for the Sollenberger Classic are \$10.00, with children 5 and younger admitted free. will be available the day of the game at the NAU J. Lawrence Walkup Skydome Box Office.

The Sollenberger Classic can be seen live worldwide on the www.aia365.com, with coverage beginning at 7 p.m. on August 21.

Sollenberger Classic History

The Sollenberger Classic honors the late Barry Sollenberger, a former AIA employee. As a sports historian, Sollenberger was devoted to the task of documenting the achievements of high school athletes in the state of Arizona.

The first game honoring Barry was held at Sun Devil Stadium on the campus of Arizona State University. Chandler Hamilton, the 2005 AIA 5A Division I state runner-ups, defeated Mesa Red Mountain 21-7 on Friday, August 25, 2006.

The Phoenix Brophy Prep Broncos hosted Tucson Salpointe Catholic at Phoenix College on Thursday, August 23, 2007. The Broncos defeated Salpointe Catholic 33-17 to take hold of the Sollenberger Classic Trophy.

In 2008, Phoenix Brophy Prep, the 2007 AIA 5A D-I state champions, defeated Las Vegas Bishop Gorman, the 2007 NIAA 4A state champions, 16-6. The game was played on August 23, 2008 at University of Phoenix Stadium, home to the Arizona Cardinals.

In 2009, the Sollenberger Classic was played in Reno, Nevada at MacKay Stadium on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno. AIA 5A D-II defending state champion Peoria Centennial defeated NIAA 4A defending state champion Reno McQueen 51-20 on August 22, 2009.

About Arizona Interscholastic Association

The AIA is a voluntary association of public and private high schools which was established by and is responsible to its members. The democratic governance of the AIA provides representation and input opportunities to all its member schools through their governing board members, administrators and teachers who serve on the Legislative Council, Executive Board and ad hoc committees. There are currently 275 member high schools with over 305,000 students under the AIA. The AIA was established in 1925. The AIA is online at www.aiaonline.org.

About Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association

The NIAA is a non-profit organization of secondary schools in Nevada established in 1922. The NIAA is the governing body of high school athletics and activities in the Silver State as recognized by the Nevada state legislature. The NIAA has 105 member schools divided into four classifications and is responsible for sponsoring, directing and developing athletics and activities in Nevada's high schools. The NIAA is online at: www.niaa.com.

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