



**Arizona Interscholastic Association**  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOLLENBERGER CLASSIC**

*Presented by Station Casinos to be held in Las Vegas at  
Fertitta Field on the campus of Bishop Gorman High School*

PHOENIX, AZ (March 19, 2013) –For the second time in the eight-year history of the Sollenberger Classic, the 2013 games are heading to Nevada. The AIA and NIAA are also proud to welcome Station Casinos, LLC. as the presenting sponsor for the Sollenberger Classic. The games will be held at Bishop Gorman High School's Summerlin campus in Las Vegas.

On Friday, August 23, the Arizona Interscholastic Association's (AIA) 2012 Division I runner-up, Mountain Pointe High School, will compete against the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association's (NIAA) 2012 Division I champion, Bishop Gorman High School, at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, August 24, an AIA Division II semi-final team, Salpointe Catholic High School, will compete against the NIAA's Division I runner-up, Liberty High School, at 7 pm.

Representing Arizona is the Mountain Pointe Pride and the Salpointe Catholic Lancers. Mountain Pointe, coached by Norris Vaughan, defeated Hamilton in the opening game of the 2012 season, 17-14, and went on to become the No. 1 seed in the Division I state playoffs. Mountain Pointe reached the championship game, again playing Hamilton, but were defeated 31-16. The Pride finished the year with 12 wins and two losses.

The Lancers are coached by Dennis Bene, and entered the 2012 Division II state playoffs as the No. 1 seed with no losses to Arizona schools. In their semi-final game, Salpointe lost to No. 4 Centennial 28-14, and finished the year with a record of 12 wins and two losses.

Representing Nevada are the Bishop Gorman Gaels and the Liberty Patriots. The Gaels won their fourth straight Division I championship in Nevada by defeating the Patriots 63-10. The Gaels, coached by Tony Sanchez, finished the year with 13 wins and one loss.

Liberty Head Coach Rich Muraco leads the Patriots to their first Sollenberger Classic, as runner-up in the 2012 Division I state championship to the Gaels. The Patriots finished the 2012 campaign with a record of 11 wins and two losses.

Station Casinos is the leading provider of gaming and entertainment to residents of Southern Nevada, with 16 properties located throughout the Las Vegas valley, and is pleased to serve as the presenting sponsor for the Sollenberger Classic.

Tickets for the Sollenberger Classic are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students (ages 6-18) and children 5 and younger admitted free.

Information will follow regarding broadcast arrangements, and at a minimum, the games will be available online at [www.aia365.com](http://www.aia365.com).



## **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.

The Hamilton Huskies and Bishop Gorman Gaels made their second Sollenberger Classic appearance in 2010 at NAU's J. Lawrence Walkup Skydome. The Huskies, the AIA defending 5A-I state champion, defeated the Gaels, the NIAA defending 4A state champion, 24 to 17, in a tightly contested game.

In 2011, the Sollenberger Classic was hosted at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz. This marked the first year the Classic would feature two games. In the first game, the NIAA Class 3A runner-up Moapa Valley defeated the AIA Class 3A defending state champion Show Low, 28 to 26. In the second game, the NIAA Class 4A defending state champion Bishop Gorman defeated the AIA Class 5A-II defending state champion Chaparral, 42-22.

In 2012, University of Phoenix Stadium was host for the second straight year, and third time in the history of the Sollenberger Classic. In the first game, the AIA Division IV defending state champions, Blue Ridge High School, defeated the NIAA Class 3A runner-up, Moapa Valley, 23-14. In the second game, the AIA Division I state champion Desert Vista defeated the NIAA 4A Sunset Region runner-up, Palo Verde, 20-10.

## **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](http://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](http://www.niaa.com).

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