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**AIA FEATURE STORY** By: Don Ketchum

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**LAKE HAVASU'S MICHAELS IS VALUABLE ON AND OFF THE FOOTBALL FIELD**

PHOENIX, AZ (October 4, 2008) – Lake Havasu High School’s Brent Michaels always has been productive on the football field. But it is what he does off the field that makes him just as valuable, if not more so.

He is one of the top students in the senior class, is involved with student government and other campus organizations. He also has offers to play football at the U.S. Military Academy (Army) in West Point, N.Y., and the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

After Lake Havasu’s recent 35-21 victory over area rival Bullhead City Mohave, Michaels joined three of his teammates and visited fifth graders at Nautilus Elementary School. The players brought along the Golden Shovel, which annually goes to the winner of the game against Mohave.

Michaels and his teammates wanted to show their appreciation for the students, who had written a good-luck letter to the team before the game.

“We wanted to give them the idea of what the shovel means to our school,” said Michaels, a 6-foot-1, 225-pound running back and linebacker. “We explained what we do, the work ethic you need to have to have success. They seemed very interested and enthusiastic.”

Michaels, the youngest of five brothers, said having role models as a youth is important. When he was younger, he looked up to his brothers and others at school.

“It is very important to do your best in school,” Michaels said.

He is involved with the school’s pep club, helping to organize dances and other activities to promote school spirit, as well as a student-government “close up” group that will take a trip to Washington, D.C. later in the school year to see many of the historical and government landmarks.

Lake Havasu coach Kris Garry said Michaels’ leadership is invaluable.

“He is one of those kids you would like to clone. He does everything right all the time,” Garry said. “Everyone looks up to him. He says, “Yes, sir, No, sir.’ He’s just an All-American kid.”

Michaels is not as vocal as some might be, but his example and work ethic speak volumes.

“He’s not afraid to speak up if he needs to,” Garry said. “He addresses the issues when they need to be addressed. On game days, he goes about things with his workman’s attitude. He’ll carry the ball 40 times and be fine with it or 20 times and be fine with it.”

Michaels burst onto the scene in 2007 when he rushed for 470 yards on 28 carries and six touchdowns in a 54-41 victory over Avondale Agua Fria. He was named the USA TODAY/MaxPreps National Player of the week.

In 2008, he has picked up where he left off. He had rushed for 733 yards on 84 carries with 11 touchdowns in his first four games, and added two more TDs in a 26-23 loss at Agua Fria on Oct. 3. The loss put Lake Havasu’s record at 3-2.

Michaels is looking forward to a strong finish to the football season and being more productive the rest of the school year. He hopes to become a lawyer or enter the field of law enforcement as a police officer.

The academy or university that gets Michaels “will be getting a good young man. They are going to love him.”

**Have a Story Idea:**

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