



Arizona Interscholastic Association
7007 N. 18th St; Phoenix, AZ 85020
602-385-3810; fax: 602-385-3779

NEWS RELEASE

AIA TO HONOR 1959 CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAMS

PHOENIX, AZ (Dec. 8, 2009) – The Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) will honor the 1959 State Championship Football Teams, from the first ever AIA state football championship, at University of Phoenix Stadium on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009.

Phoenix South Mountain, coached by Earl Clupper and the winner of the Division 1 and 2 playoffs, met Yuma Union, coached by Marvin Rosengarten and the winner of the Division 3 and 4 playoffs, at Arizona State University in the new Sun Devil Stadium on Dec. 5, 1959, for the Class AA State Championship in front of over 5,000 fans. Al McCoy called the game on radio.

After a scoreless first quarter, South Mountain scored late in the second quarter, having marched 76 yards in 12 plays. Jim Jones scored on a running play from four yards out and Bob Olson converted the extra point to give the Rebels a 7-0 lead.

With a little over minute remaining in the half, the Criminals began their drive and scored with 18 seconds left on a pass play from Ron Guiles to Gene Aken. Ray Szarek converted the extra point and the game was tied 7-7 going into halftime.

After a scoreless third quarter, and with only 35 seconds remaining in the title game, Yuma looked poised to score, but a pass from Guiles was intercepted in the end zone by South Mountain's Richard Bryant who ran it out to the one foot line. The game ended in a tie and Yuma Union and South Mountain were crowned co-AIA State Champions.

The two teams will be honored at halftime of the 2009 AIA 5A Division I Championship game being held at University of Phoenix Stadium on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 5:00 p.m.

Video Online

The championship game video from 1959 is also available to watch on-demand at www.aia365.com. The exact link is: <http://www.aia365.com/video.php?id=148>.

AIA Media Contact: Brian Bolitho; Director of Business Media; bbolitho@aiaonline.org; 602-385-3822