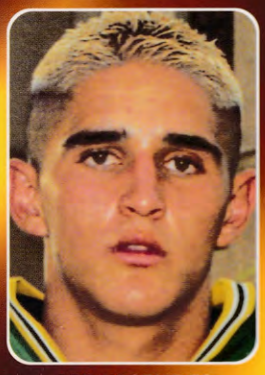
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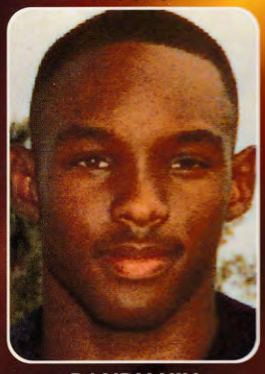
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Peoria



RANDY HILL
McClintock



DARRELL ARNOLD
Sunrise Mountain

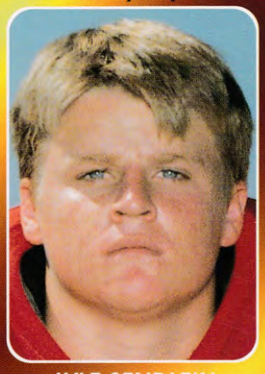


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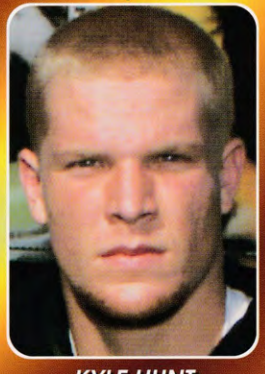
SUN DEVIL RECEIVER JUSTIN TAPLIN



MIKE NIXON
Sunnyslope



LYLE SENDLEIN
Chaparral



KYLE HUNT
Gilbert

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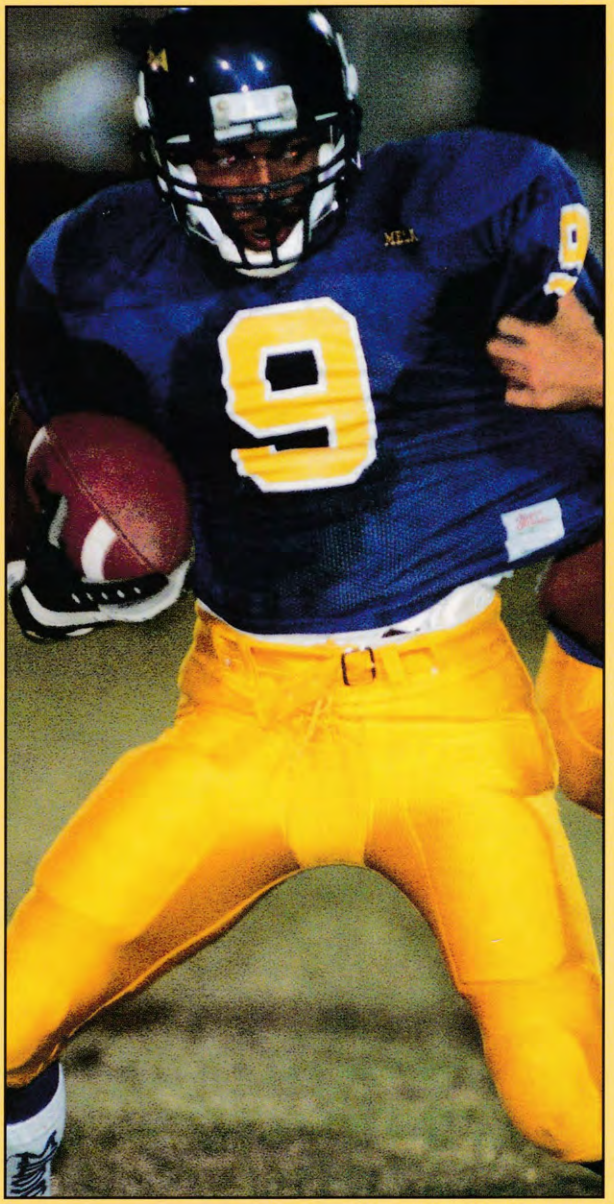
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Arizona's Best High School Receiver

2000.....JUNIOR TAYLOR
.....Mesa
1999.....SAMMY MOORE
.....Mesa Westwood
1998.....BRISTOL OLOMUA
.....Mesa Red Mountain
1997.....JASON JENKINS
.....South Mountain
1996.....JUSTIN TAPLIN
.....Tempe Union
1995.....TARIQ McDONALD
.....Phoenix St. Mary's
1994.....KENNY MITCHELL
.....Peoria
1993.....KENNY CHEATHAM
.....South Mountain
1992.....FREDDIE DODSON
.....Chandler
1991.....STEVE BUSH
.....Paradise Valley
1990.....JASON BIRDSONG
.....Glendale Cactus
1989.....JASON BIRDSONG
.....Glendale Cactus (jr)
1988.....ERIC DRAGE
.....Tucson Santa Rita
1987.....ORLANDO MCKAY
.....Mesa
1986.....ERIC GULIFORD
.....Peoria (jr)
1985.....STEVE MARTIN
.....Tucson Sahuaro
1984.....TODD YOUNG
.....Tempe Marcos de Niza
1983.....VINCE MASTERS
.....Coolidge (jr)
1982.....RANDALL McDANIEL
.....Avondale Agua Fria
1981.....GLENN DENNARD
.....Tempe Corona del Sol
1980.....SKIP PEETE
.....Tucson Sahuaro
1979.....JAY DOBYNS
.....Tucson Sahuaro



Mesa's Junior Taylor caught 49 passes for 689 yards and seven touchdowns. (Rick Wiley/The Tribune)

1978.....JUNIOR SOLOMON
.....Coolidge
1977.....CHARLES COBBS
.....Florence
1976.....JOHN MISTLER
.....Tucson Sahuaro
1975.....RON WASHINGTON
.....Tempe McClintock
1974.....SPEEDY HART
.....Phoenix St. Mary's
1973.....PRESTON DENNARD
.....Tempe Marcos de Niza
1972.....DON WOODS
.....Mesa
1971.....WILLIE SCROGGINS
.....Safford
1970.....DARION GILBERT
.....Phoenix Union
1969.....LARRY SHORTY
.....Eloy Santa Cruz
1968.....ED WEATHERSPOON
.....Globe
1967.....CALVIN DEMERY
.....South Mountain
1966.....MIKE BOWLING
.....Avondale Agua Fria
1965.....BILL DIPLEY
.....Scottsdale Arcadia (jr)
1964.....BILL SORCINELLI
.....Phoenix Camelback
1963.....BOB WALLACE
.....South Mountain
1962.....FRED CARR
.....Phoenix Union (jr)
1961.....WILLIE NASH
.....McNary (6-man)
1960.....MORRISON WARREN
.....South Mountain
1959.....ANDY STOGLIN
.....Phoenix Union
1958.....GEORGE HEARD
.....South Mountain
1957.....STEVE VAUGHN
.....Phoenix North

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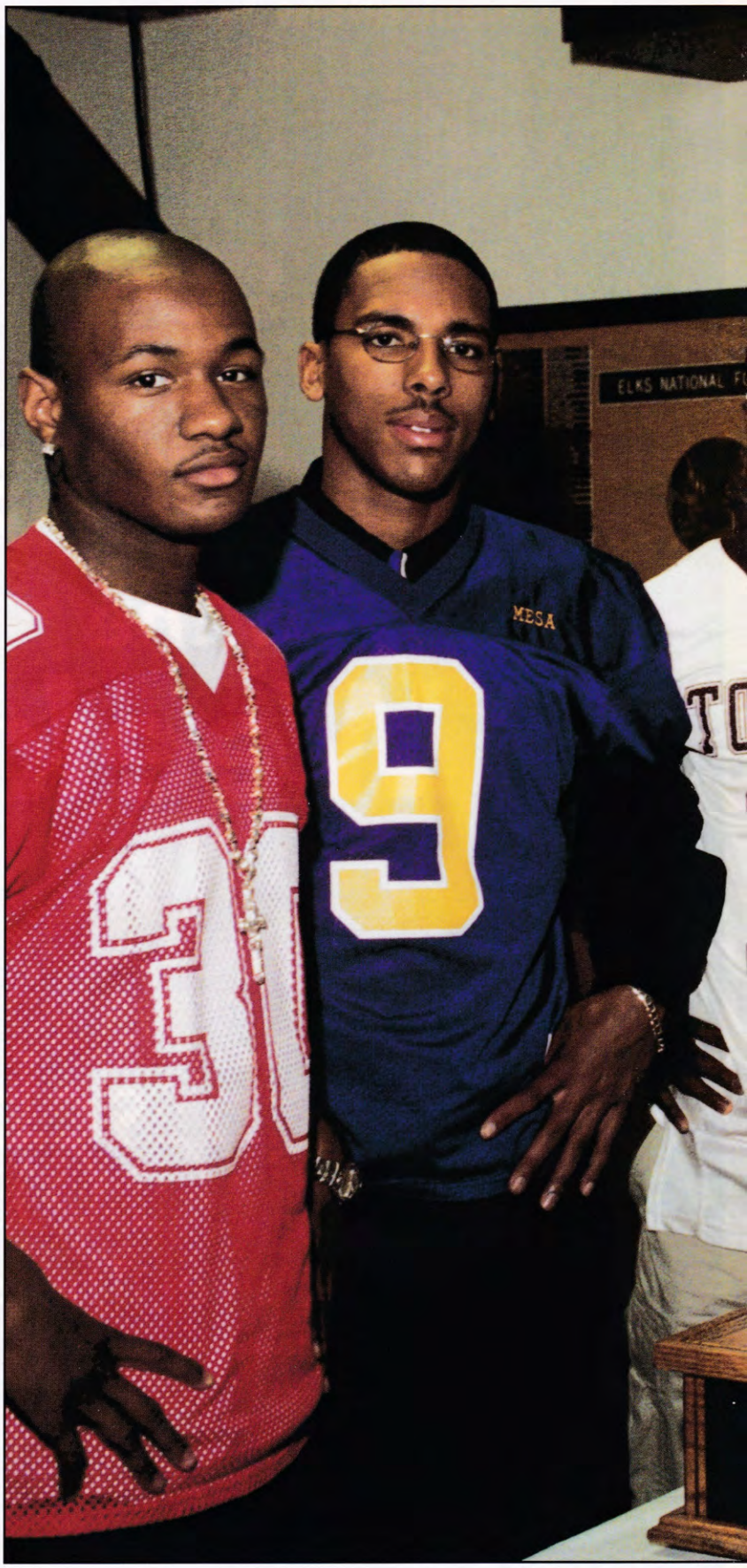
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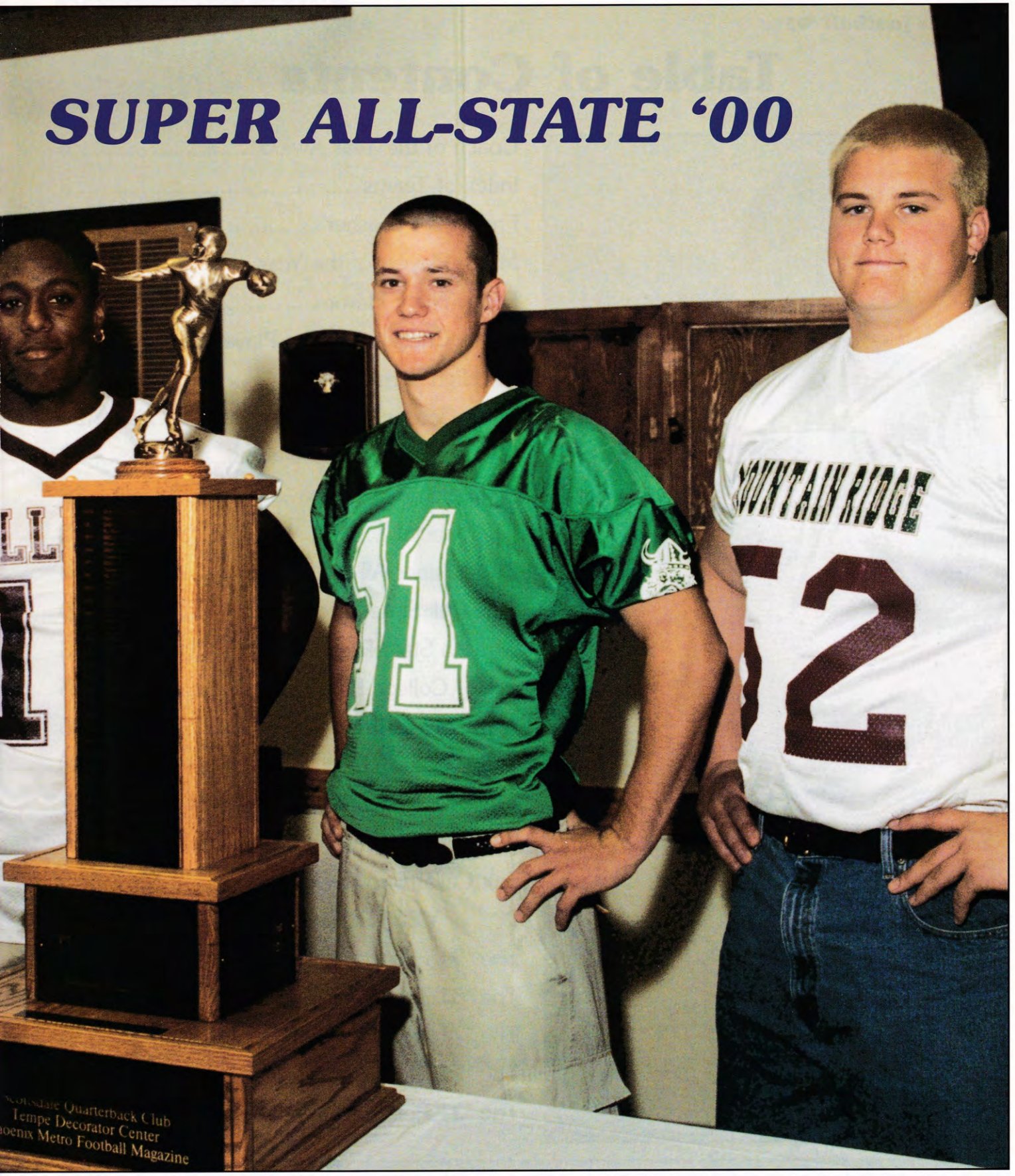
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SUPER ALL-STATE '00



Five members of ***Phoenix Metro Football Magazine's*** *'00 Super All-State Team pose with the Vic Housholder Trophy at the annual Scottsdale Quarterback Club's Super All-State Luncheon. L-R: Orme tailback Jabari Felton-Smith, Mesa receiver Junior Taylor, Tolleson halfback Mike Bell, Sunnyslope QB Mike Nixon and Mountain Ridge tackle Richie Incognito (Todd Lillard photo).*

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PHOENIX METRO FOOTBALL MAGAZINE is published annually by Phoenix Metro Publications, P.O. Box 27564, Tempe, Arizona 85285. Phone (480) 967-7256, or (602) 385-3822. Sold at selected newsstands and sporting goods stores throughout Maricopa County. Available through the mail for $9.00 per copy. Back issues available upon request. Cover photo of Justin Taplin courtesy Arizona State University. All rights reserved.

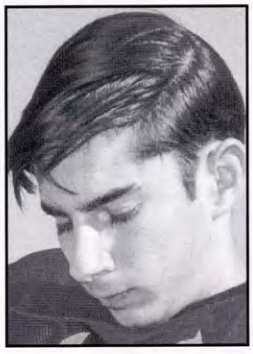
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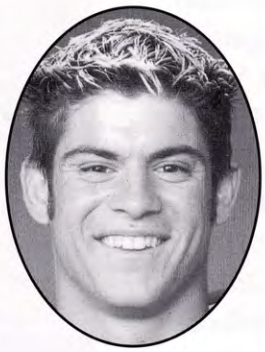
GOLDEN TOE AWARD



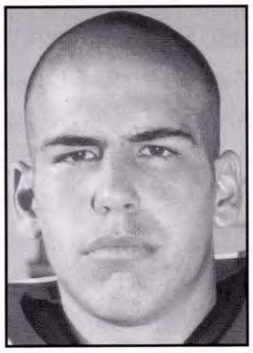
Monte Varah
Saguaro



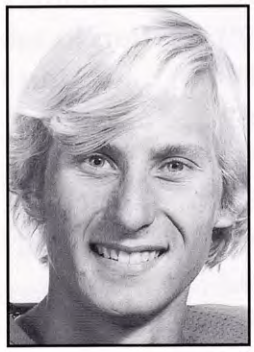
Luis Vega
Phoenix West



Scott Lane
Chaparral



Ramey Peru
Mesa Dobson



Lee Pistor
Phoenix Central

HONORING ARIZONA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL KICKER

2000..... Ryan Slack, Tucson Salpointe (PK)
1999..... Scott Lane, Scottsdale Chaparral (PK)
1998..... Ramey Peru, Mesa Dobson (PK)
1997..... Josh Lane, Phoenix Christian (PK)
1996..... Jeremy Kelley, Mesa Mountain View (PK)
1995..... Jim Sanson, Phoenix St. Mary's (PK)
1994..... Jim Sanson, Phoenix St. Mary's (PK)
1993..... Matt Belden, Glendale (PK)
1992..... Marcus Williams, Tempe McClintock (PK)
1991..... (TIE) Matt Peyton, Tucson Sahuaro (PK)
..... Dominic DeMark, Prescott (P)
1990..... Cole Ford, Tucson Sabino (PK)
1989..... Terry Belden, Glendale (P)
1988..... Jeff Black, Tucson Sahuaro (PK)
1987..... Steve Rausch, Mesa Dobson (PK)
1986..... Quin Rodriguez, Mesa Dobson (PK)
1985..... Mike Cortright, Phoenix St. Mary's (PK)
1984..... (TIE) Mike Schuh, Mesa Mountain View (P)
..... Phil Insalaco, Phoenix Christian (PK)
1983..... Dean Roney, Winslow (PK)
1982..... Richard Jones, Scottsdale Chaparral (PK)
1981..... Jerry Necoechea, Bisbee (P)
1980..... Jerry Necoechea, Bisbee (P)
1979..... Dave Wood, Phoenix Washington (PK)
1978..... Matt McKinney, Scottsdale Saguaro (PK)
1977..... Bill Zivic, Tucson Palo Verde (PK)
1976..... Kevin Rutledge, Gilbert (P)
1975..... Monte Varah, Scottsdale Saguaro (PK)
1974..... Gary Williams, Lakeside Blue Ridge (P)
1973..... Lee Pistor, Phoenix Central (PK)
1972..... Pat Whitehurst, Phoenix North (P)
1971..... Pat Hawbaker, Phoenix St. Mary's (P)
1970..... Jeff Hernandez, Miami (PK)
1969..... Danny White, Mesa Westwood (P/PK)
1968..... Cleveland Colter, Marana (PK)
1967..... (TIE) Luis Vega, Phoenix West (PK)
..... Marty Shuford, Scottsdale Saguaro (P)
1966..... Luis Vega, Phoenix West (PK)
1965..... Jim McCann, Phoenix North (P)
1964..... Ron Hendrix, Phoenix Camelback (PK)
1963..... Sam Maya, Glendale (PK)
1962..... Tom Lindsey, Marana (P)
1961..... Tom Crater, Gilbert (P)
1960..... Jon Chesser, Mesa (PK)
1959..... Bob Olson, South Mountain (PK)
1958..... Dornel Nelson, South Mountain (PK)
1957..... Eddie Wilson, Chandler (P)
1956..... Chubby Nottingham, Coolidge (P)

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Arizona Coach of the Year

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2000 .....Jimmy Jones, Mesa Red Mountain
1999.....Ron Estabrook, Scottsdale Chaparral
1998.....Jim Rattay, Tempe Desert Vista
1997 .....Bob Young, Mingus Union
1996.....Paul Moro, Lakeside Blue Ridge
1995.....Richard Gray, Arizona Boys Ranch
1994.....Doug Shaffer, Scottsdale Horizon
1993.....Mike Morgan, St. Johns
1992 .....Jim Beall, Snowflake
1991.....Tom Wheatley, Agua Fria
1990 .....Jeff Scurran, Tucson Sabino
1989.....Gary Venturo, Tempe Corona del Sol
1988.....Jerry Loper, Mesa Westwood
1987.....Mike Clark, Mesa Dobson
1986.....Jim Rattay, Mesa
1985 .....Jim Bevell, Scottsdale Chaparral
1984.....Pat Farrell, Phoenix St. Mary's
1983.....Jesse Parker, Mesa Mountain View
1982 .....Earl Putman, Moon Valley
1981 .....Richard 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
1972 .....Harvey Keeney, Miami
1971 .....Ollie Mayfield, Tucson
1970.....Ed Hubbard, Pima
1969.....Ray Laing, Phoenix Central



MOUNTAIN LION HEAD COACH JIMMY JONES.

1968 .....Ike Sharp, Douglas
1967 .....Ed Doherty, Phoenix St. Mary's
1966 .....Lonnie Foster, Eloy Santa Cruz
1965 .....John Mallamo, Tucson
1964 .....Emil Nasser, Winslow
1963 .....Royal Price, Mesa
1962 .....Bob Hendricks, Scottsdale Arcadia
1961 .....Lou Farber, Tucson Pueblo
1960 .....Edgar "Mutt" Ford, Mesa
1959.....Fred Bingham, Sunnyslope

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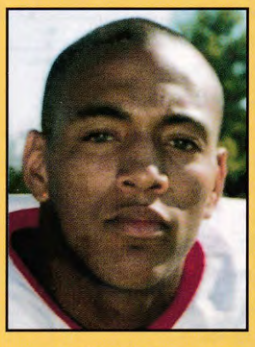
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(Coaching Award selected annually by the editors and staff of Phoenix Metro Football Magazine)

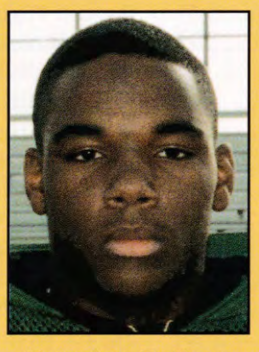
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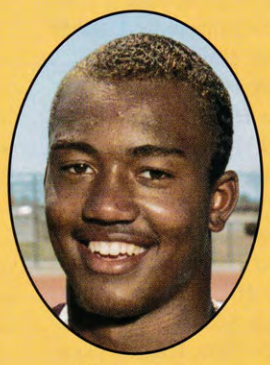
Tyrone Byrd Award Winners



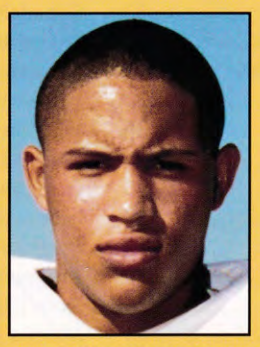
Eric Johnson
Alhambra



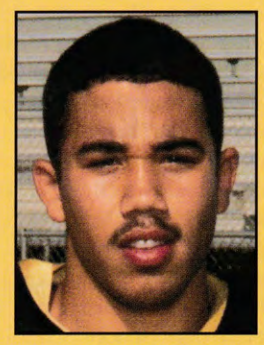
Brandon Falkner
Peoria



Chaz Scott
Hamilton



Mike Brown
Saguaro



Bobby Wade
Desert Vista

HONORING THE STATE'S BEST DEFENSIVE BACK

2000..... Chaz Scott, Chandler Hamilton
1999..... Marcus Thurman, Tempe Desert Vista
1998..... Bobby Wade, Tempe Desert Vista
1997..... Brandon Falkner, Peoria
1996..... Rashad Bauman, South Mountain
1995..... Mike Brown, Scottsdale Saguaro
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
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 Petroshus, 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..... Clay Freney, Globe
1956..... Warren Livingston, Mesa
1955..... Warren Livingston, Mesa (jr)
1954..... Eddie Mitchell, Phoenix North
1953..... Charles Christopher, Phoenix Carver

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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If Texas is better why are you here?

What in the world did we ever do to deserve such an infiltration of former Texas high school coaches into our system?

Don't get me wrong. I have friends from Texas. Some of them now coach in the Arizona high school ranks. But if you have followed high school sports for more than three decades - as we have - listening to both coaches and sports writers from Texas no longer becomes boring. It becomes nauseating. You've heard it too. They have better players. Better teams. Better coaches. Bigger crowds.

Two years ago **David Barron**, Managing Editor of *Texas Football Magazine*, wrote this after **Fox Sports Net** proposed a playoff format to determine a national high school football champion: "Do you really doubt by mid-December that the Texas champions aren't the best in the land? I don't ... After all, when it comes to the high school game, the other 49 states are a sideshow. We are Texas football."

Many coaches who got their start in the Lone Star State, and for whatever reason have matriculated into Arizona, never hesitate to criticize our high school system, the state playoff format, or whatever.

My question to them has never changed: If Texas is better why are you here?

Several years ago a local high school football coach, who spent time in the Texas ranks, actually told me that Texas often drew 50,000 fans to their state high school track meet. Honest. This from a person who allegedly has a college diploma. I guess he thought he was talking to a dummy - which is possible.

Still, I know a little about Texas. I was born there.

I know that the largest crowd to watch a high school track meet in Texas was the 35,000 which showed up at the 1985 state meet in Austin.

I know Texas is one of the best high school sports states in America. With 21-million people and 1,225 high schools it should be.

I know that Texas had more Division I-A football signees (320) last year than California (277), which has more people.

I know that last fall the top-ranked high school football team in Texas, three-time state champ **Midland Lee**, played a top Louisiana team during the regular season and lost 36-8. I know that five Texas college teams - Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, TCU and UTEP - played in bowl games last year and went 0-5. I know Texas is 0-6 in recent high school all-star games with California. How could this happen? The answer is simple:

Texas is not better. Never has been. It's only bigger.

Recently, Arizona lost a long time high school and college football figure when **Jake Rowden**, a former star player at Maryland, died. Jake was the first Texan to tell me that the only thing that made Texas football any better was its population base. "It's a numbers game," Rowden often said. "It's that simple."

I know that during one recent 10-year span in Arizona, the crowds at our state high school finals in Sun Devil Stadium outdrew the Texas finals five out of 10 years, with the paid attendance of 23,487 at the Westwood-Mountain View clash in 1988 our state's best. I know that two years ago the Phoenix metropolitan region sent more football players (30) to major schools on athletic scholarships than all of West Texas (15).

I agree with the late Art Johlfs, founder of the **National Sports News Service**, the first-ever national high school rating service, who often said, "The best thing about Texas high school football is the media hype which surrounds it. It's bigger and better than the sport."

I know that to experience the great Texas high school football mystique, week after week, you have to live in Texas. Yuck! Maybe that's why we all live here.

But every state, every system, every organization is different. They have their strengths and weaknesses. None are the same. None are perfect. And I guarantee you, if Arizona had 21-million people and 1,225 high schools, college recruiters and the national media would think this is one hell of a high school sports state. But surprise! It is anyway!

Yes, if Texas is better why are you here?

BARRY SOLLENBERGER

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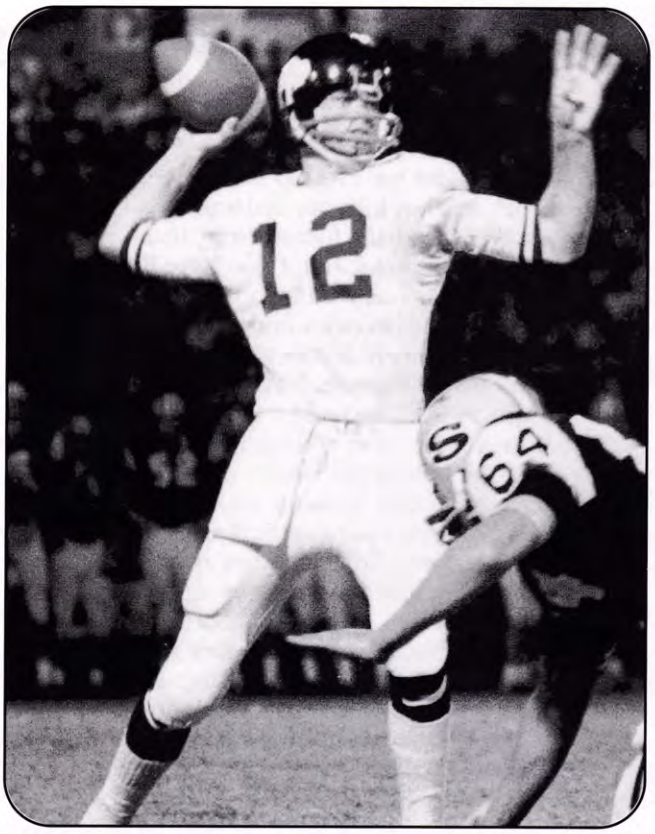
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2000 .. Mike Bell, Tolleson, RB
1999 .. Terrell Suggs, Chandler Hamilton, RB
1998 .. Bobby Wade, Desert Vista, RB/DB
1997 .. Todd Heap, Mountain View, TE/LB
1996 .. Justin Taplin, Tempe, WR
1995 .. Mike Brown, Saguaro, RB/DB
1994 .. Tavon Cooper, Peoria, 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



All-American quarterback Fred Mortensen passed for 4,007 yards and 29 touchdowns (Gazette photo).

1970 .. Bob Breunig, Alhambra, FB/LB
1969 .. Danny White, Westwood, QB
1968 .. Bill Mannion, St. Mary's, QB
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

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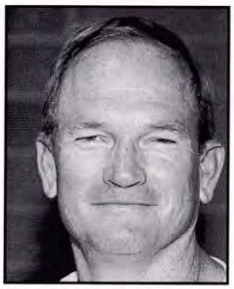
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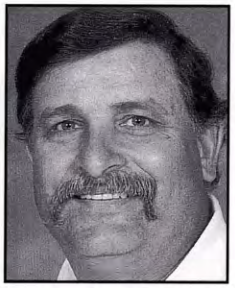
Karl Kiefer
Mtn. Pointe



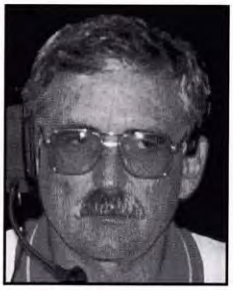
Tim McBurney
Tempe



Bil McKane
Mesa



Gerry LaBelle
Cactus Shadows



Ron Estabrook
Chaparral

Winning Pct./Coach/School/Record

.847 .. Ron Estabrook, Chaparral (111-20-0)
.840 .. Keith Brown, Phoenix Christian (84-16-0)
.800 .. John Wrenn, Chandler Hamilton (160-40-0)
.800 .. Gene Dales, Chandler Seton Catholic (16-4-0)
.794 .. Jim Rattay, Tempe Desert Vista (193-50-4)
.770 .. Doug Clapp, Peoria (137-41-6)
.757 .. Larry Fetkenhier, Glendale Cactus (153-49-4)
.733 .. Bill McKane, Mesa (66-24-0)
.725 .. Charles Bell, Northwest Christian (58-22-0)
.723 .. Mickey Bell, Agua Fria (34-13-0)
.722 .. Sean Loomer, Valley Christian (13-5-0)
.718 .. Jesse Parker, Gilbert (257-101-4)
.716 .. Karl Kiefer, Mountain Pointe (282-112-3)
.714 .. Roger Suchomel, Mesa Westwood (10-4-0)
.697 .. Tom McGoldrick, Wickenburg (23-10-0)
.679 .. Tom Bruney, Phoenix Maryvale (53-25-0)
.670 .. Doug Shaffer, Scottsdale Horizon (126-62-2)
.638 .. Bernie Busken, Mountain View (141-80-0)
.629 .. Steve Chisman, Phoenix Washington (95-56-4)

Winning Pct./Coach/School/Record

.629 .. Tom Joseph, Marcos de Niza (61-36-0)
.627 .. Tim Sanford, Phoenix Brophy (116-69-2)
.619 .. Tom Tucker, Phoenix Central (13-8-0)
.615 .. Pat Lavin, Bourgade Catholic (139-87-3)
.605 .. Tim McBurney, Tempe Union (72-47-2)
.604 .. Gerry LaBelle, Cactus Shadows (96-63-3)
.604 .. Chuck Esquivel, Ironwood (32-21-1)
.600 .. B.J. Pasquel, Scottsdale Coronado (6-4-0)
.594 .. Jim Ewan, Chandler (44-30-0)
.585 .. Gary Mauldin, Thunderbird (107-76-1)
.578 .. Doug Meyer, Arizona Lutheran (26-19-1)
.573 .. Cleveland Dansby, South (75-56-0)
.565 .. Pete Jonovich, Mesa Skyline (52-40-0)
.541 .. Mike Brown, Phoenix Greenway (80-68-2)
.526 .. Jimmy Jones, Red Mountain (71-64-3)
.525 .. Frank Lautt, Phoenix Alhambra (32-29-0)
.510 .. Steve Belles, Mountain Ridge (26-25-0)
.510 .. George Martinez, Westview (26-25-1)
.508 .. Gary Venturo, Corona del Sol (123-119-2)

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Sunnyslope quarterback Mike Nixon has passed for 5,455 yards and 40 touchdowns (Steve Paynter).

Phoenix Metro Football Magazine's *checklist of outstanding varsity players for the upcoming 2001 high school football season.*

QB ... Mike Nixon, Sunnyslope, 6-2, 195
QB ... Joey Vincent, Chandler Hamilton, 6-1, 185
RB.... Randy Hill, Tempe McClintock, 6-2, 210
RB.... Marques Broom, Phoenix Camelback, 5-10, 170
RB.... Quinton McCoy, Valley Christian, 5-11, 175
RB.... Maurice Smith, Tempe Union, 5-5, 150
RB.... Kelly Mitchell, Peoria, 6-0, 195
WR... Joel Filani, Paradise Valley, 6-4, 205
WR... Andy Holden, Gilbert, 6-2, 180
WR... Lee Resendes, Peoria, 6-1, 180
TE.... Kyle Hunt, Gilbert, 6-4, 230
OL.... Jason Karcher, Tempe McClintock, 6-4, 304
OL.... Darrell Arnold, Sunrise Mountain, 6-4, 285
OL.... Taitusi Lutui, Mesa, 6-3, 330
OL.... Mike Allred, Mesa Dobson, 6-2, 250
OC ... Wes Wilkens, Desert Mountain, 6-4, 240
LB.... Lyle Sendlein, Scottsdale Chaparral, 6-4, 245
LB.... Mike Talbot, Agua Fria, 6-2, 230
LB.... Jake Severn, Deer Valley, 6-0, 220
LB.... Mike Green, Mesa Red Mountain, 6-0, 230
LB.... Spencer Larsen, Gilbert Highland, 6-2, 220
LB.... Trevor Jones, Mesa, 6-1, 210
LB.... Tom Rucker, Mesa, 6-3, 230
DL.... Clayton Walker, Scottsdale Horizon, 6-4, 270
DL.... Kyle Caldwell, Scottsdale Saguaro, 6-3, 255 (jr)
DL.... DeAndre Johnson, South Mountain, 6-2, 240
DL.... Loren Howard, Scottsdale Saguaro, 6-5, 275
DB.... Andre Bailey, Tempe McClintock, 6-3, 190
K.... Timm Ryan, Tempe Corona del Sol, 5-10, 175

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Metro Checklist of Top Players

quarterbacks

Corey Anderson, Chaparral, 6-5, 210
Dallas Bates, Chandler, 5-8, 175
Kellen Bradley, Saguaro, 6-3, 185
Tony Chavez, Queen Creek, 5-11, 166
Nick Gehrts, Buckeye, 6-3, 180
Ken Holmes, Skyline, 5-11, 170
Derek Martinson, Fountain Hills, 5-11, 175
Brent Miller, Desert Vista, 6-4, 210 (jr)
Nate Mortensen, Tempe, 6-2, 195
Jason Murrietta, Ironwood, 6-2, 210
Mike Nixon, Sunnyslope, 6-2, 195
George Preciado, Deer Valley, 6-3, 220
Brett Randall, Westwood, 5-11, 160
Jeff Rush, Brophy Prep, 6-3, 220
Victor Rushing, South Mountain, 5-9, 160
Luke Taylor, Agua Fria, 6-5, 215
Chris Thomas, Camelback, 6-1, 170
Joey Vincent, Hamilton, 6-1, 185
Reed White, Gilbert, 5-11, 180

running backs

Quinton Bellamy, Bourgade, 5-10, 175 (jr)
Jovan Bonelli, Cactus, 6-1, 188 (jr)
Marques Broom, Camelback, 5-10, 170
Darius Cade, Chandler, 5-8, 175 (jr)



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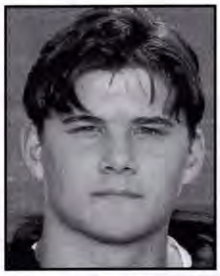
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Reed White
Gilbert



Clayton Walker
Horizon

John Cole, Tempe, 6-3, 240
Anthony Franco, Cactus, 5-10, 220
Jafar Frasier, Buckeye, 6-0, 220
Steve Gammage, Brophy Prep, 6-0, 220
Sidney Goodman, Casa Grande, 6-0, 225
Marcus Haynes, Centennial, 5-10, 175
Matt Higgins, Shadow Mountain, 6-0, 190
Randy Hill, McClintock, 6-2, 210
Robert Jones, Dobson, 6-0, 240
Nigel Kelly, Gilbert, 5-9, 170
Lamont Laster, Marcos de Niza, 6-2, 195
Chris Mays, Agua Fria, 5-9, 170
Quinton McCoy, Valley Christian, 5-11,175
Kelly Mitchell, Peoria, 6-0, 195
Marco Nelson, Chaparral, 5-9, 165
Matt Pritchett, Mountain View, 5-11, 185
C.J. Rogers, Mountain View, 5-11, 185
Mark Smith, Valley Christian, 5-9, 180
Maurice Smith, Tempe, 5-5, 150
Chris Trujillo, Skyline, 6-0, 170

receivers

Jason Avila, Independence, 5-11, 170
Tommie Bailey, McClintock, 6-2, 180
James Cobb, Coronado, 6-2, 180
Gary Cox, Maryvale, 5-9, 155
Dominic Di Domizio, Camelback, 6-3, 205
Joel Filani, Paradise Valley, 6-4, 205
Mike Fleming, Mountain View, 5-11, 165
Todd Hadley, Fountain Hills, 5-11, 185
Brian Hernandez, Mountain Pointe, 6-0,175
Andy Holden, Gilbert, 6-2, 180
Kyle Hunt, Gilbert, 6-4, 230
Driesen James, Westview, 6-1, 190
Wes James, Cactus, 5-10, 166
Andrew Johnson, Greenway, 5-10, 160
Josh Jordan, Chandler, 5-8, 165 (jr)
Brian Keith, Centennial, 6-2, 210
Adam Mannon, Hamilton, 6-2, 190
Rory Martin, Highland, 6-1, 185
Alex Matthews, Westwood, 6-4, 205
Andre McMillon, Maryvale, 6-3, 166
Travis Meier, Ironwood, 6-3, 220
Zac Miller, Desert Vista, 6-4, 215
Drew Miranda, Mesa, 6-0, 170
Noland Palmer, Highland, 6-3, 195
George Passmore, Agua Fria, 6-1, 170
Matt Petersen, Sunnyslope, 5-9, 155
Ygnacio Renteria, Maryvale, 5-10, 190
Lee Resendes, Peoria, 6-1, 180
Steve Robbins, Apollo, 6-0, 180
Jacob Starkey, Corona del Sol, 6-4, 220
Riley Weber, Thunderbird, 6-1, 175
Nick Weitzel, Sunrise Mountain, 6-2, 180

centers

Chris Donnay, Mountain Pointe, 6-2, 270
Chris Ellington, Thunderbird, 5-11, 220
Matt Huffman, Maricopa, 6-2, 220
Russ Richardson, Phoenix Christian, 6-2,265
Mike Stowers, Mesquite, 6-0, 220
Wes Wilkens, Desert Mountain, 6-4, 240

linemen

Mike Allred, Dobson, 6-2, 250
Darrell Arnold, Sunrise Mountain, 6-4, 285
Cade Becher, Peoria, 6-4, 290
John Booker, Agua Fria, 6-1, 215
Kyle Caldwell, Saguaro, 6-3, 255 (jr)
Noah Carpenter, Goldwater, 6-2, 230
Tasi Chambers, Central, 6-1, 265
Todd Chapman, Brophy Prep, 5-11, 225
Ryan Clark, Hamilton, 6-3, 290
Kevin Cluff, Westwood, 6-8, 270
Adam Conovaloff, NWCC, 5-10, 175
George Cortez, Centennial, 6-0, 235
Gordon Davis, Desert Vista, 6-6, 290
Pete Diaz, Maryvale, 5-9, 220
Chris Drake, Mountain Pointe, 6-4, 250
Chris Drivinghawk, Hamilton, 6-3, 250
Gabe Garcia, Highland, 6-4, 304
Van Gutenson, Marcos de Niza, 5-11, 225
Jose Herrera, Camelback, 6-0, 225
Kenny Hillman, McClintock, 6-0, 235
Loren Howard, Saguaro, 6-5, 275
D.J. Howell, Millennium, 6-2, 190
Devon Jackson, Trevor Browne, 6-0, 220
DeAndre Johnson, South Mtn., 6-2, 240
Jason Karcher, McClintock, 6-4, 304
Nick Kinchen, Horizon, 5-11, 230
Mike LaPrade, Brophy Prep, 6-0, 270
Isaac LaVant, Phoenix Christian, 6-1, 260
Robert Lisonbee, Ironwood, 6-1, 275
Andy Luckenbill, Greenway, 6-3, 230
Taitusi Lutui, Mesa, 6-3, 330
Avash Mardjaee, Pinnacle, 6-0, 218
Bill Mercer, Tolleson, 6-2, 230
Mike Meyers, North Canyon, 6-3, 240
Ronnie Owens, South Mountain, 6-0, 230
Nick Pecora, Wickenburg, 6-3, 265
Dauntae Poole, Maryvale, 5-10, 192 (jr)
John Radosevich, Agua Fria, 6-1, 225
Matt Rainey, Buckeye, 6-4, 225
Barrett Reznick, Horizon, 6-0, 270
Carl Ross, Maryvale, 6-1, 265
Joe Skipper, Goldwater, 6-2, 205
Ben Siegert, Cactus, 6-3, 253
T.J. Teeples, Agua Fria, 6-3, 270
Brey Vacchina, Moon Valley, 6-1, 315
Jensen Valenzuela, Coronado, 6-1, 280
Jason Voss, Valley Christian, 6-3, 235

Nick Wahlstrom, Moon Valley, 5-11, 195
Clayton Walker, Horizon, 6-4, 270
Anthony Williams, Independence, 6-1, 200

linebackers

Justin Beasley, Trevor Browne, 6-2, 220
Buddy Bloomgren, Saguaro, 5-11, 185
Ryan Carroll, Millennium, 6-1, 185
Brice Churchman, Mtn. Ridge, 6-2, 190
Nathan Day, Scottsdale Christian, 6-2, 200
Justin Eller, Desert Vista, 6-0, 190
Gilbert Gallahar, Sunnyslope, 6-0, 190
Jose Garcia, Mesquite, 6-0, 205 (jr)
Brett Goodman, Pinnacle, 6-0, 223
Mike Green, Red Mountain, 6-0, 230
Matt Gromeke, Ironwood, 6-1, 230
Stephen Hogg, Centennial, 5-11, 185
Brandon Isaac, Phoenix Christian, 5-10,222
Robert James, Maryvale, 5-11, 185
Jerred Johnson, Westview, 5-11, 190
Trevor Jones, Mesa, 6-1, 210
Spencer Larsen, Highland, 6-2, 220
Bobby Longo, Shadow Mountain, 5-11,210
Cody McDonald, Seton Catholic, 6-2, 240
Adam McDowell, Independence, 6-2, 210
Jared McVicker, Apache Junction, 5-9, 205
Justin Moreni, Gilbert, 5-10, 210
Devin Mowry, Tolleson, 6-1, 215
Mike Norton, Cactus Shadows, 6-1, 210
James Palmer, Mesa, 6-1, 210
Bryan Perkinson, Mountain View, 6-2, 185
Evan Reid, Skyline, 6-1, 210



Jason Karcher
McClintock



Jake Severn
Deer Valley

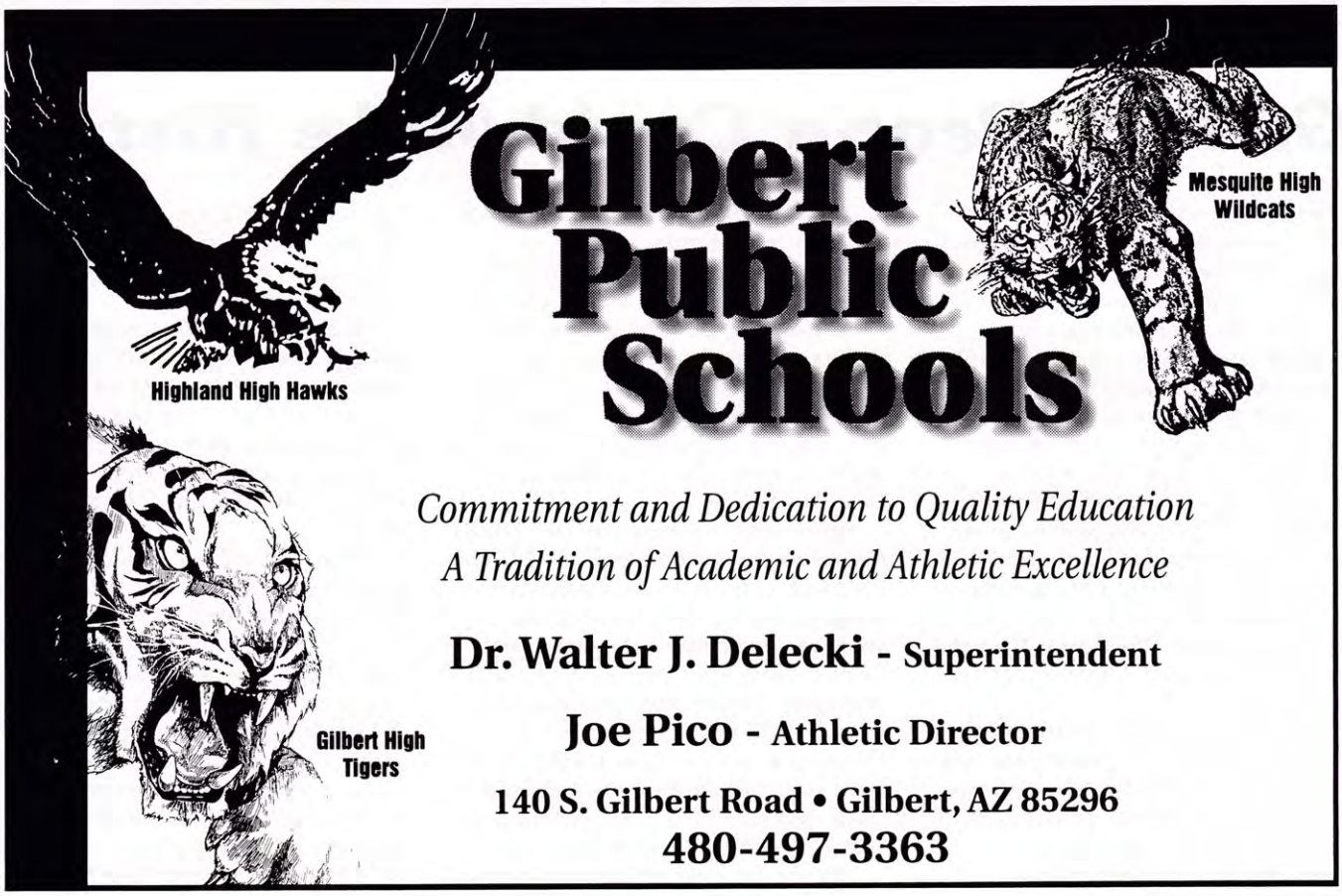
Tom Rucker, Mesa, 6-3, 230
Lyle Sendlein, Chaparral, 6-4, 245
Jake Severn, Deer Valley, 6-0, 220
Mike Talbot, Agua Fria, 6-2, 230
Nate Wahlstrom, Moon Valley, 5-11, 215
Taylor Waldon, Tolleson, 6-1, 210 (jr)
Jeff Webb, Corona del Sol, 6-0, 210
George Yarno, Hamilton, 6-2, 240

deep backs

Eric Anderson, Camelback, 6-2, 190
Andre Bailey, McClintock, 6-3, 190
Kevin Bauer, Arizona Lutheran, 6-1, 175
James Broom, Camelback, 5-11, 160
Mike Falco, Horizon, 5-10, 185
Zack Gable, Buckeye, 5-9, 165
Omar Harper, Peoria, 5-10, 160
Robert Harrison, Cortez, 5-10, 185
Adam Kiser, Paradise Valley, 6-0, 195
Marvin Mhene, Washington, 5-9, 180
Grafton Milne, Mountain View, 6-0, 180
Brian Pacheco, St. Mary's, 5-9, 170 (jr)
Oscar Rios, Alhambra, 5-11, 170
Scott Rogers, Gilbert, 6-1, 180
Joe Roundy, Dobson, 6-1, 185
Victor Rushing, South Mountain, 5-9, 160
Tim Ryan, Corona del Sol, 5-10, 175
Will Sadowski, Wickenburg, 5-9, 178
Joey Salinas, Glendale, 5-9, 170
Steve Trujillo, Skyline, 6-0, 170
Mike Walker, Mountain Ridge, 6-0, 185
Marcus Washington, Mesa, 5-10, 170 (jr)
Adam Whitworth, Red Mountain, 5-11, 175

kickers

Greg Bouton, Phoenix Christian, 6-0, 175
Mike Braunstein, Gilbert, 5-8, 160 (jr)
Erik Contos, Red Mountain, 5-10, 175
Adam Johnson, Marcos de Niza, 6-0, 185
Nick Johnson, Horizon, 6-0, 170
Nate Mortensen, Tempe, 6-2, 195
Jance Nave, NWCC, 6-1, 180
Mike Nixon, Sunnyslope, 6-2, 195
Brock Rideout, Desert Vista, 5-8, 150
Micah Robinson, Chandler, 5-9, 150
Timm Ryan, Corona del Sol, 5-10, 175
Mike Sidler, Centennial, 6-0, 165
Kyle Sparks, Tolleson, 5-6, 155 (so)
Luke Taylor, Agua Fria, 6-5, 215
Riley Weber, Thunderbird, 6-1, 175





Tailback Kelly Mitchell, latest in a long line of quality backs at Peoria, scored 17 touchdowns and gained 986 yards, five on this play against Westview (Steve Paynter photo).

Gilbert, Peoria Could Make History

Two schools with common goals, a similar history and a promising future, top our preseason 5A football poll for the Phoenix metropolitan region.

Gilbert, the only Arizona school which has won a state championship in every class but 5A, and Peoria, which has won titles in 1A and 4A, have a legitimate shot at the crown, with the edge going to Gilbert. The Tigers, coached by veteran Jesse Parker, return 10 different players who started in the team's 42-24 semifinal loss to Red Mountain, the eventual state champ.

"We should have an excellent year," says Parker, whose 257 wins is the third most in state history. "Most of our key players return."

Better yet, the Tigers return almost all their skill players, including starting quarterback Chad White, who also handles the punting. With tight end Kyle Hunt and wideout Andy Holden, Gilbert has two excellent college prospects at those positions. White, the son of Arizona Rattler head coach Danny White, completed 127 of 238 passes for 1,661 yards and 11 scores.

At Peoria, coach Doug Clapp has to replace his signal caller, since '00 starter Vince Fiore picked up his diploma. But the Panthers return three big-time players: wideouts Lee Resendes and Billy King, along with tailback Kelly Mitchell.

Peoria was eliminated in the playoffs second round by Westwood, 17-14. The Panthers, a power in 4A football for years, joined the 5A fraternity two years ago and haven't skipped a beat. Since moving up, they have won the 5A Northwest Region title twice and compiled an 18-5 record in the process. This year's defense looks stronger and eight starters return on offense. Overall, Clapp has won 77% of his games since 1986, plus three 4A state crowns.

But the 5A field will be more than a two horse race. Look for schools like Brophy Prep, Mesa, Hamilton and Mountain View to have a say in the end.

At Brophy, the Broncos joined the list of playoff teams to fall to Red Mountain, dropping a 28-14 decision in the quarterfinals. Like Gilbert, the Broncos return their quarterback, 6-3, 220-pound senior Jeff Rush, son of NBA/WNBA Director of Officials Ed Rush.

Mesa, like Gilbert, has little experience at quarterback. But that's about all. Coach Bill McKane has another good collection of skill players, including the best trio of linebackers in Maricopa County: Trevor Jones, Tom Tucker and James Palmer, along with massive tackle Taitusi Luti, at 6-3, 330 pounds a good college prospect.

Mountain View, which recently set a state record for most wins in a decade (114 in the '90s), lost three times last

year, but two were to the same school, 34-18 and 17-7 to Red Mountain. With only three starters back for the defending champs, don't look for that to happen again. The Toros should bounce back. You know a program is solid when a three-loss season is the worst in six years. In fact, Mountain View has lost more than three games in a single season only once in the past decade.

If there's a sleeper in the ranks, it might be at Chandler, where the Wolves hired successful coach Jim Ewan from Mountain Ridge. Without a doubt, CHS has the speed, starting with junior tailback Darius Cade (10.72), who rushed for 735 yards as a sophomore, and wideout Josh Jordan, the state long jump champ at 24-feet, 8-inches.

Several schools and coaches face milestones entering the '01 campaign. Mesa, the state's winningest program with 584 triumphs, soon may become the first school in the four-corner states to win 600 wins.

In the coaching ranks, Mountain Pointe's Karl Kiefer (282) moves closer to 300 wins, with Tucson Amphi's Vern Friedli (273) and Gilbert's Parker (257) close behind. Several Phoenix area coaches have a shot at their 100th win, including Gerry LaBelle at Cactus Shadows (96), and Phoenix Washington's Steve Chisman (95), both in the 4A ranks.

METRO 5A TOP 20 POLL

1. Gilbert Tigers
2. Peoria Panthers
3. Brophy Prep Broncos
4. Mesa Jackrabbits
5. Hamilton Huskies
6. Mountain View Toros
7. Horizon Huskies
8. Desert Vista Thunder
9. Maryvale Panthers
10. Red Mountain Lions
11. Highland Hawks
12. Mountain Pointe Pride
13. Westwood Warriors
14. Corona del Sol Aztecs
15. Mountain Ridge Lions
16. Camelback Spartans
17. Ironwood Eagles
18. Paradise Valley Trojans
19. Marcos de Niza Padres
20. Westview Knights

5A FIESTA REGION

1. Gilbert (9-4)
2. Chandler Hamilton (11-1)
3. Gilbert Highland (7-4)
4. Gilbert Mesquite (4-6)
5. Yuma Kofa (6-4)
6. Chandler (1-9)

The young Tigers made it interesting. **Gilbert**, once a football power in the 4A ranks, is now a menace in 5A. Third-year coach Jesse Parker, who built nearby Mountain View into a state power before moving to Texas, has returned and jumpstarted the program. Ten underclassmen started in the Tigers' semifinal loss to Red Mountain. Quarterback, each running back, two good receivers and both kickers return. So does linemen Conor Smith (6-3, 255) and Mike Payne (6-1, 215), along with linebackers Elec McWilliams (6-1, 220) and Marty Szafranski (6-0, 170). Payne is the Tigers' center. Field general Reed White (1,661 yds.,11 TDs), wideout Andy Holden (48 catches, 790 yds., 7 TDs) and tight end Kyle Hunt (12.1 yds. pc) are the key players. In two playoff games, a 31-28 win over Tucson Amphi and a 40-34 shootout with Mesa, Holden caught nine passes for 220 yards and three scores. Those scoring passes from White covered 28, 45 and 74 yards. White also handles the punting (38.8), while place kicker Mike Braunstein booted nine field goals. Three backs, Mike Lueneburg (604 yds.), Nigel Kelly (540 yds.) and Justin Moreni (345 yds.) return. Payne, Hunt and Scott Rogers are good defensive players, too. Rogers starts on the corner. At different times, guard Mike Petterborg (6-1, 210) and tackle Lyneal Malicdem (5-10, 190) started. Overall, 30 players return with playoff experience. "We have lots of experienced, hard working kids back," adds Parker. "We have good skill position players and a good kicking game. That's a plus."

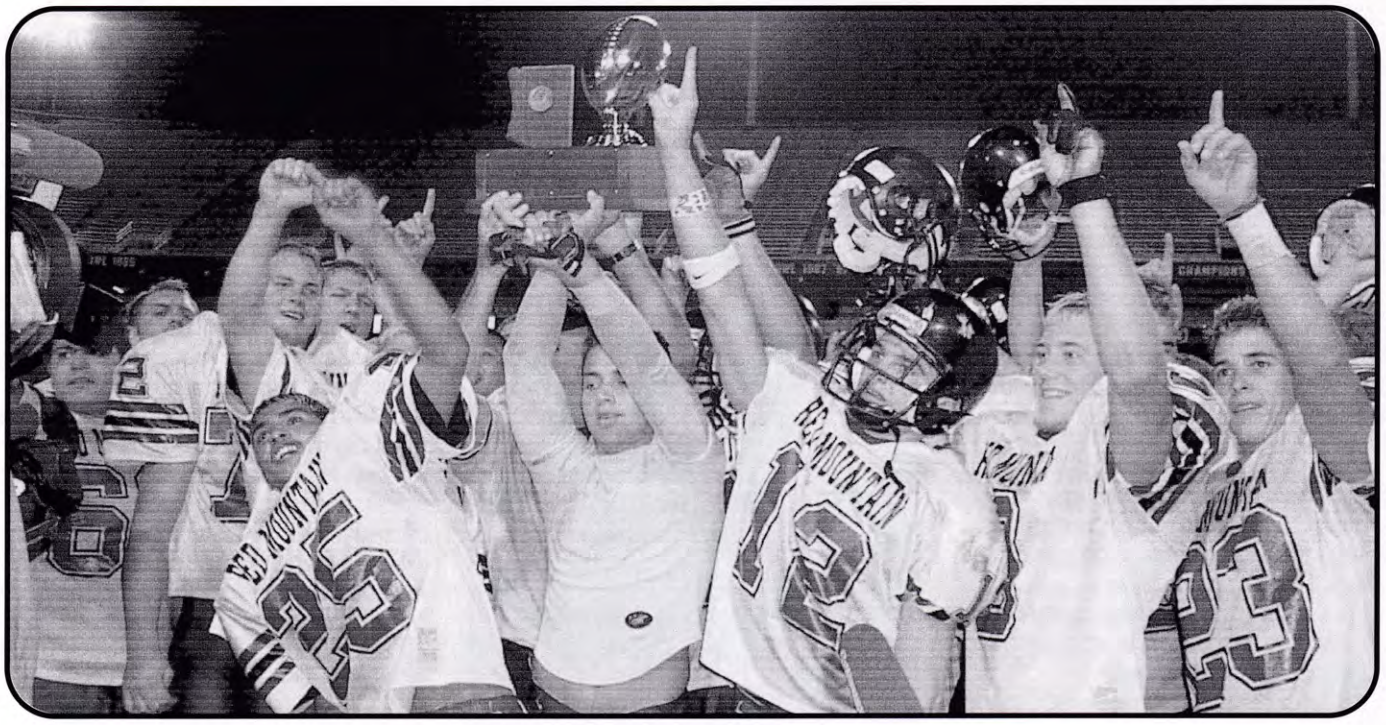
From the very start, **Hamilton** has been strong. Coach John Wrenn, who won 132 games in 15 years in Illinois 6A competition, returns 23 lettermen (11 starters) from last year's hard-luck playoff team which finished 11-1. The Huskies, for the second year in a row, lost their starting quarterback early in the playoffs. But Joey Vincent (6-1, 185) looks healthy, and ready to go. Last year the junior signal caller was the most productive quarterback in in the East Valley, completing 56% of his passes for 1,273 yards and 14 touchdowns. He threw only four interceptions. He also rushed for 452 yards and eight more TDs. Wide receiver Adam Mannon (6-2, 190), tackle Ryan Clark (6-3, 290) and guard Chris Drivinghawk (6-3, 250) are three-year letter winners. Linebacker George Yarno (6-2, 240) and cornerback Andy Munoz (5-11, 175) give the Huskies two excellent defenders. "If we stay healthy we should be better than last year," warns Wrenn, 28-5-0 at the new school.

Although graduation cleaned out most of the starting lineup, **Highland** returns enough key players to make it interesting. Mike Reardon is facing a rebuilding season, but looks for another good campaign from Spencer Larsen (6-2, 200), one of the best linebackers in the region. A starter since his sophomore year, the gifted senior can also play quarterback. Wideout Rory Martin (6-1, 185) caught 24 passes for 546 yards, while teammate Nolan Palmer (6-3, 195) grabbed 10 for 155. Up front the Hawks look strong, as usual. Reardon has two good linemen with Gabe Garcia (6-4, 304) and Jeff Biedermann (6-3, 235) in the lineup. Highland will find out what they're made of early. They scrimmage Brophy Prep, then play Mesa, Peoria, Scottsdale Horizon and Mountain View in successive weeks.

Finally, **Mesquite** looks solid. Coach Rich Iversen's club returns seven starters on both sides of the ball, including all-league center Mike Stowers (6-0, 220), and promising junior linebacker Jose Garcia (6-0, 205). Tight end/linebacker Maikeli Niu (6-4, 205) and two-way guard Lee Govert (6-0, 205) are solid, experienced players. The junior class looks strong, with Garcia (who doubles at running back), quarterback Jake Stoltz (5-11, 170), and lineman Josh Chalk (6-0, 205) back. "We've made big improvement since the first year," says Iversen, who started five sophomores. "We played a lot of young players, and if our junior class steps up, we'll be better."

Chandler improved its position in the region with one key move. It hired successful head coach Jim Ewan from Mountain Ridge. Although the numbers are down, and strength (a lack of it) is an early weakness, the Wolves should

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Mountain Lions 52	Kingman 14
Mountain Lions 34	Westwood 14
Mountain Lions 34	Mtn. View 18
Mountain Lions 14	Desert Mtn. 0
Mountain Lions 42	Dobson 9
Mountain Lions 14	Mesa 28
Mountain Lions 17	Mtn. View 7
Mountain Lions 28	Brophy Prep 14
Mountain Lions 42	Gilbert 24
Mountain Lions 20	Westwood 10

improve. "We have several of the fastest players in the state in Josh Jordan and Darius Cade," claims Ewan, who won a state championship earlier in his career at Eloy. "We have three or four others who are only a step behind. If we stay healthy, we'll be better. But our overall strength has to improve."

Cade, who is just a junior, was the second leading rusher in the region, gaining 735 yards and scoring six touchdowns. His best sprint time during the track season was 10.72 for 100 meters, one of the best times ever at Chandler for an underclassman. Jordan, another junior, caught just eight passes for 114 yards in Chandler's run-oriented offense. During the track season his 24-foot, 8-inch long jump was the best leap in the nation by a sophomore. Senior Christian Lindvall (6-3, 185), another good receiver, managed 14 catches, gaining 128 yards. Little Dallas Bates (5-8, 175), an excellent baseball player, returns at quarterback. The Wolves' field general passed for 681 yards and three touchdowns. But he threw 11 interceptions. Two-way tackle James Grout (6-0, 235) appears best among a thin crop of linemen. Mike Ballard (5-9, 175) is an undersized, but tough linebacker. Micah Robinson handles the punting.

Although **Yuma Kofa** looks green (as far as varsity experience) the Kings look more talented, with a very good junior class. Coach Steve Casey returns 14 players from a 6-4 club, including first team all-region linebacker Albert Sanchez, a 5-11, 212 senior. Deep back/wideout Collin Jorden (5-11, 180) earned all-region honors both ways. Two junior linemen, Jeff Smith (6-2, 218) and Michael O'Mallan (6-0, 215), started as sophomores. Four additional juniors, quarterback Chris Bielke, halfback Matt Dela Pena, tackle Bryan Nance (6-3, 265) and wideout D.J. Shooter look solid. In fact, the Kings might have the biggest junior class in the region, with 265-pound Joe Gomez, 250-pound Aaron Allen and 240-pound Matt Garcia in the mix.

5A DESERT VALLEY REGION

1. Phoenix Brophy Prep (10-2)
2. Scottsdale Horizon (4-6)
3. Paradise Valley (5-5)
4. North Canyon (5-5)
5. Phoenix St. Mary's (5-5)
6. Shadow Mountain (3-7)

Brophy Prep's good season ended in the quarterfinals, a two touchdown loss to eventual state champ Red Mountain.

All-region picks

Five different schools from Maricopa County return at least seven different all-region picks from last year's 2000 campaign. The leaders, based on reports from coaches:

Picks	School	Last Year	Conference
9	Phoenix Camelback	5-5	5A Metro Region
9	Valley Christian	6-3	2A Metro Region
8	Phoenix Christian	10-1	2A Metro Region
7	Peoria	11-1	5A Northwest Region
7	Maryvale	8-3	5A Metro Region
6	Westview	5-6	5A Metro Southwest
5	Agua Fria	11-1	4A West Valley Region
5	Scottsdale Saguaro	8-5	4A East Sky Region
5	Gilbert	9-4	5A Fiesta Region
5	Scottsdale Horizon	4-6	5A Desert Valley Region
5	Glendale Cactus	5-5	4A West Valley Region

The Broncos, coached by Tim Sanford, posted their second 10-win season in three years. With 25 lettermen back, including several players at key positions, Sanford's squad looks solid again. If the key position is quarterback, Brophy is set. Senior Jeff Rush, a 6-3, 220-pound veteran, is back. He's the guy who'll make the offense click. Last year he completed 68 of 118 passes for 1,276 yards and 15 scores. He threw only six interceptions. Big running backs like Steve Gammage (6-0, 220) and Kyle Dukeshier (6-1, 220) make it go. Inside and out. Two-way tackles Mike La Prade (6-0, 270) and Todd Chapman (5-11, 225) form a solid front. Scatback Adam Deguire (5-6, 185) doubles up and plays in the secondary. Justin Evans (6-2, 220), a slick two-way player at linebacker/tight end, could be one of the best juniors in the league. But like most Brophy teams, seniors dominate playing time. Look for Bob Kohrs, Chris Grogan, Matt Ahearn, Rob Maxwell, Rudy Sanchez, Matt Robb, Chris Fischer, Mark Hearn, Chad Purtell and Jason Kamienski in the lineup. "We should have a lot of firepower on offense," claims Sanford. "A major concern is defense. We return only one starter."

At **Horizon**, the Huskies recorded their first losing season in 14 years. Although the skill position players look green, look for an improved club with solid line play. It starts with all-state candidate Clayton Walker, at 6-4, 270 one of the top players in the region. He doubles at tackle and defensive end. Teammates Barrett Reznick (6-0, 270), Nick Kinchen (5-11, 230), J.J. Humpal (6-0, 235), Tim Miller (6-0, 225), Mike Richards (6-1, 220) and Eric Duchaj (6-1, 225) give Doug Shaffer and his staff the solid, senior line they are accustomed to. Mike Falco (5-10, 185), with 4.6 speed, might be the quickest Husky in camp. A two-way back who returns kicks, Falco could be the big play artist the team needs. Tim Roemer and Will Hainke could battle at quarterback. Both are seniors. Matt DeFreitas and Jeremy Sorenson should start in the secondary. Nick Johnson is the team's kicker.

Don't let that Wing-T offense at **Paradise Valley** fool you. The Trojans, known for their good running game, might have the best player in the region and he's an end, wideout Joel Filani. Opposing teams need to find a way to defend this guy. The 6-4, 205-pound senior is one of the best pass catchers around. And with 4.6 speed he doubles in the PV secondary. He's joined there by Adam Kiser (6-0, 195), an all-league pick at safety. Two-way back Mike Dallas and defensive end Matt Munguia earned a few post season votes of their own.Halfback Donnie Schwahn gives the Trojan offense added speed. Junior guard Will Certain is one of eight players who saw varsity playing time as sophomores. "We were in every game and made vast improvement with a young team," claims Don Yantis, whose team opens with Peoria and Trevor Browne. "We play in a tough region. But we'll be ready."

North Canyon batted .500 and the Rattlers have the tools to improve on that. Coach Jeff Bowen's club was in every game and 11 players with varsity experience return. Defensive end Mike Meyers (6-3, 240), a tackle on offense, is one of the best in the region. In fact, the Rattlers have a solid defense, maybe one



Lee Resendes
Peoria



Kyle Hunt
Gilbert

of the best around, with Meyers, linebackers Jon Moss (6-2, 205), Jesse Ledin (5-10, 190) and Jason Horn (6-2, 230), tackle Tom Eade (6-1, 260) and end Andy Lester (5-11, 205). Horn is just a junior. Depth seems to be a weakness. Each player above goes both ways. Seniors Kyle McGee and Ryan Bergeson will battle for the quarterback job.

John Rodriguez, a former quarterback at the school, takes over for long-time mentor Pat Farrell at **St. Mary's** and welcomes only six lettermen from a 5-5 team. The Knights look set at quarterback, with junior Brian Pacheco (5-9, 170) in the lineup. He also doubles at safety. In fact, most of the key positions will be filled by juniors, including halfback E.J. Hooks (5-9, 180), tackle Justin Hickman (5-11, 220) and guard Stephen Caparella. Both wideouts, Nick Meza and Christian O'Neil, are seniors. "Our team is young, but the kids have a great attitude," says Rodriguez, who might find his return stint with the Knights a rough one.

Improvement is the name of the game at **Shadow Mountain**, and the Matadors have the numbers to do it. Ten key players return, including all-league halfback Matt Higgins (6-0, 190) and linebacker Bobby Longo (5-11, 210), two of the better players in the region. Quarterback Jeremy Thorne (5-10, 175) has a good collection of runners to work with, including fullbacks Dan Boyle (5-11, 200) and Charles Carle (5-10, 205), along with Higgins. Big Chris Fiscina (6-3, 230) is the center, and plays defensive tackle. So does Jason Ellsworth (6-2, 240). Eric Angulo (6-2, 230) is a solid defensive end. In fact, the line play looks better and deeper than most years, with up-and-coming young players like Adam Melsek (6-2, 230, jr.) starting.

5A CENTRAL REGION

1. Tempe Desert Vista (4-6)
2. Tempe Mountain Pointe (5-6)
3. Tempe Corona del Sol (5-6)
4. Tempe Marcos de Niza (5-5)
5. Desert Mountain (6-4)

After two nationally ranked seasons, the talent level dropped off drastically at **Desert Vista**, and it showed in the won-loss column. Look for Jim Rattay's club to bounce back, and earn a playoff ticket. Twenty underclassmen played, including three sophomores and a talented freshman. Ten starters return, including young quarterback Brent Miller, a 6-4, 210-pound junior who shared playing time with Andrew Mathison. Miller completed 42 of 74 passes for 547 yards and six scores. He threw only four interceptions. The Thunder looks solid up front, with 6-6, 290-pound tackle Gordon Davis, along with 250-pound guard Nick Rico and 215 pound tackle Josh Flaster. Rattay hopes to strengthen the running game with improved play from Eric Adams, a 200-pounder who also plays linebacker. Defensive backs Chase Bartlett and Jon Reynoso started. Justin Eller is a solid linebacker. Brock Rideout kicked 22 extra points and two field goals. But the player to watch is young Zach Miller, a 6-4, 215-pound sophomore who doubles at tight end/linebacker. He's a good one.

The outlook looks better at **Mountain Pointe**, although the Pride won the Tempe 5A city title and the region crown. But a first round playoff loss left them with a losing record. That shouldn't happen this year. Veteran coach Karl Kiefer, winner of 282 games in the profession, returns 19 players, plus some of the biggest linemen in the county. Center Chris Donnay (6-2, 270) and guard Chris Drake (6-4, 250) were all-region picks. They're joined by tackle Kenny Canter (6-5, 290), tackle Matt Roumain (6-5, 300) and guard Tony Bailey (5-10, 230), giving the Pride a solid front wall, one of the biggest around. Wideout Brian Hernandez caught 26 passes for 534 yards and six touchdowns. Halfback/linebacker Danny Baugher and end/linebacker Steve Kirk are solid. Shane Wilson should get the nod at quarterback. Larry Jordan saw limited duty at running back, but could start.

The injury bug bit **Corona del Sol** hard, so Gary Venturo is hoping for the best. The team looks deeper so that will help. With 16 returning starters he has lots of experience and a good senior class. Tight end Jacob Starkey (6-4, 220) looks like the best of the lot. He caught 14 passes for 217 yards. Deep back Timm Ryan (5-10, 175) also handles the Aztecs' kicking. He booted a 54-yard field goal against Yuma Kofa. He's a three-year varsity player. Throw in linebacker Jeff Webb (6-0, 210) and Venturo has three potential all-star candidates. David Degraff, Tim Gammage, Scott Otero and Derek Anderson were honorable mention all-league picks. Greg Evans, Ray Walker, Craig Fugate, Jake Adams, Barry Henry, Pat Mahaney, Truman Todd, Ryan Orton, Henry Todd and Mike Pollak all started. As usual, the Aztecs are big, with 10 players tipping the scales at 220-plus pounds.

If **Marcos de Niza** shores up its line in the offseason, watch out. The Padres, coached by Tom Joseph, have some of the parts in place, starting with tackles Alfred Martinez (6-1, 250) and Van Gutenson (5-11, 225). Depth is the problem. Throw in tight end/tackle Brett Palmer (6-2, 250), center Joaquin Ruiz (6-0, 240), tackle Tui Ofahula (6-0, 230) and guard Joe Smaltz (5-11, 225) and the foundation is there. Fullback Lamont Laster (6-2, 195) gained 573 yards on 98 carries. Those numbers could double. Halfback Adam Johnson (6-0, 185), the team's punter, also plays safety. Marcus Johnson, Alex Webster and Mark Merrill make up the receiving corps. Merrill handles the place kicking. Two juniors, Zach Gutenson and Bets Angulo, will compete for the quarterback position. "We have the potential to be real good," says Joseph, who welcomes an undefeated JV team to the mold. "We need to develop depth on both lines. If we do we'll be better."

Last year, **Desert Mountain** had to be the best 6-4 team in the state. With all-state quarterback Chad Christensen (now at Arizona State) leading the way, the Wolves knocked off Mountain View in the season finale but still missed the playoffs. This year the Wolves move to the Central Region, with a squad cleaned out by graduation, not to mention a coaching change. Steve Belles has taken the Mountain Ridge job, with assistant Craig Cobley now the head man. Bull all is not gloom. With 6-4, 240-pound center Wes Wilkens in the lineup, Desert Mountain has one of the best at that position in the region. Running back Ricky Crudo (5-11, 195) managed 309 yards on 44 carries. Add tight end Cliff Payne (6-2, 220), safety Richard King (6-1, 185) and guard Brandon Sherwood (6-1, 230), and the Wolves have five quality players in the lineup. Depth is a major concern.

5A NORTHWEST REGION

1. Peoria (11-1)
2. Kingman (3-8)

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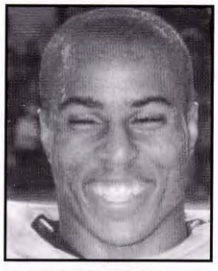
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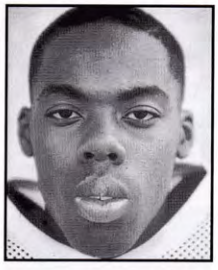
2000 ..... Lynzell Jackson, Tempe, WR
1999 ..... John Rattay, Desert Vista, QB
1998 ..... Bobby Wade, Desert Vista, RB/DB
1997 ..... Marcus Jones, Mountain Pointe, RB/LB
1996 ..... Justin Taplin, Tempe, WR
1995 ..... Keith Brown, Mountain Pointe, RB
1994 ..... Skeeter Brown, Mountain Pointe, RB
1993 ..... 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



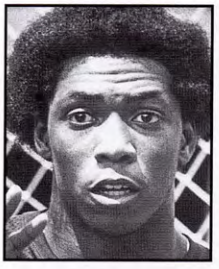
Lynzell Jackson caught 56 passes for 880 yards and 14 touchdowns (Ralph Freso photo).



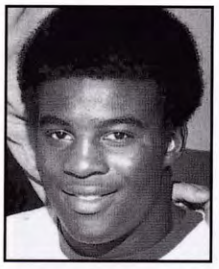
Marcus Jones
Mountain Pointe



Kenny Wheaton
McClintock



Glenn Dennard
Corona del Sol



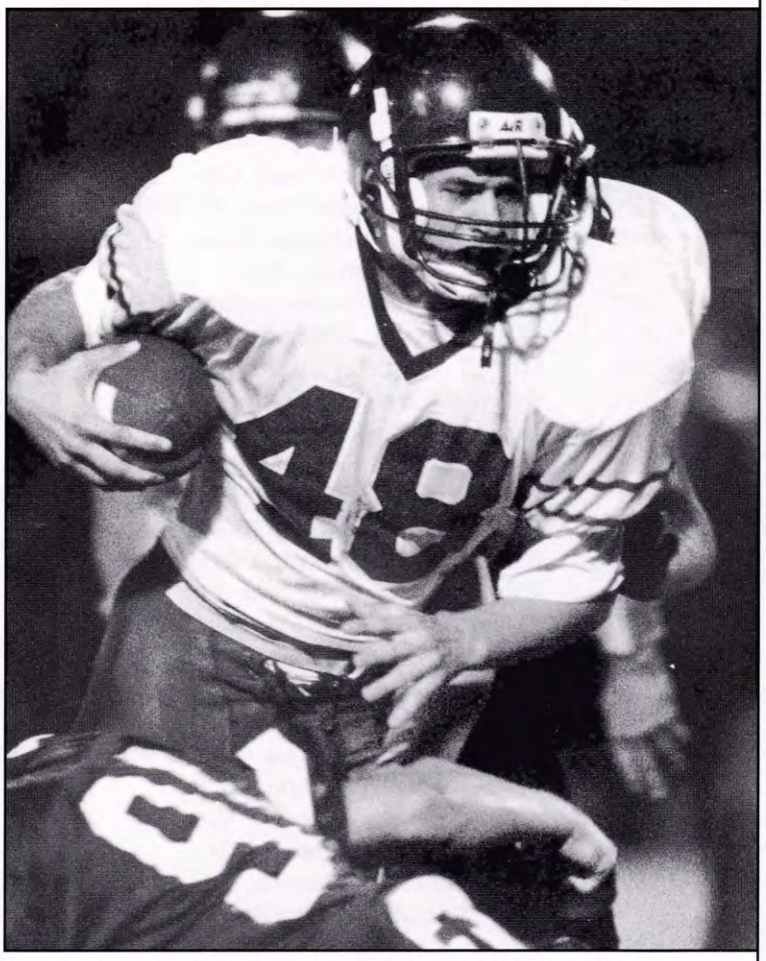
Jimmy Moore
Marcos de Niza

"Good luck Sun Devils, Cardinals, Rattlers and all local high schools!"

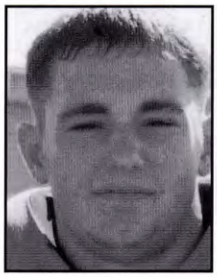
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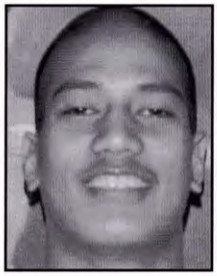
2000.....Steve Walker, Red Mountain, RB/LB
1999.....John Beck, Mountain View, QB
1998.....Bristol Olomua, Red Mountain, WR
1997.....Todd Heap, Mountain View, TE/LB
1996.....Cody Price, Westwood, LB
1995.....Tom Pace, Mesa, QB
1994.....Matt Griffith, Mesa, NG
1993.....Mikel Moreno, Mesa, QB
1992.....Brandon 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



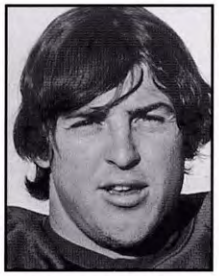
Mesa quarterback Mikel Moreno (Mesa Tribune photo).



Cody Price
Westwood



Bristol Olomua
Red Mountain



Mickey Hatcher
Mesa



Bob Davis
Mountain View

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3. Glendale Mountain Ridge (8-4)
4. Glendale Ironwood (6-4)
5. Deer Valley (4-6)
6. Phoenix Goldwater (1-10)

The football factory at **Peoria** keeps marching onward. Veteran coach Doug Clapp has another title contender, with 28 returning lettermen, an excellent group of juniors from an unbeaten JV squad, and more than half-a-dozen seniors who played varsity as sophomores. If the Panthers can replace departed quarterback Vince Fiore, watch out. The defense looks stronger. Eight starters, including three of the best players in the Valley, return on offense. "The biggest position for us to fill will be quarterback, no doubt," agrees Clapp, who has won 77% of his games since 1986. "But we have a JV kid coming up who hasn't lost a game in high school."

Whoever it is will have two of the best receivers in town to throw to. Lee Resendes (6-1, 180) and Billy King (5-10, 180) are both all-state candidates. Resendes caught 47 passes for 802 yards and seven touchdowns. He averaged 17.1 yards per catch. King caught 29 for 534, averaging 18.4 yards. He scored 10 times, including two on punt returns. Both have 4.6 speed. Running back Kelly Mitchell (6-0, 195. 4.6) gained 986 yards and scored 17 times. Fullbacks Shawn Havill (5-10, 200) and Jesse Montoya (5-9, 220) played a lot. With 6-4, 290-pound tackle Cade Becher in the lineup, Peoria looks solid up front. Robert Baker (6-4, 270), Aaron Wolfley (6-0, 255) and junior Evan Becher (6-4, 230) beef. Omar Harper (5-10, 160) and Chris Kluzek (5-11, 185) were all-region defensive backs. Throw in Harry Gahager (5-10, 180) and Peoria's secondary looks solid. Michael Pezely (6-1, 200), Ryan Hester (5-10, 200) and Ammon Wolfley (6-2, 205) are good linebackers. Wolfley is just a junior.

Kingman, playoff material two years ago, dropped to 3-8 but looks to rebound in a big way. Ray Smith's forces look improved at almost every position, with 15 key players back. The Bulldogs have three good senior leaders in linebacker Travis Lewis (5-11, 185), end Marc Johnston (5-11, 190) and tackle E.J. Hurley (6-3, 240), all veteran players. Fullback Josh Meyer, guard Dillon Jenkins, center Eldon Sheely, tackle Ben Park and junior linebacker Bailey Blair should start. Tim Dinnella, a 6-3, 270-pound newcomer, doubles at tackle and nose guard. "We look forward to redeeming ourselves," adds Smith, who has won over 100 games at the school.

Steve Belles, the former coach at Scottsdale Desert Mountain, takes over at **Mountain Ridge**, where 18 holdovers and most of the coaching staff remain. The Mountain Lions finished 8-4, played one game in the playoffs, return six starters on defense, and welcome a good junior crop from an 8-1 JV squad. Last year's defense posted four consecutive shutouts. The varsity lost by a field goal to Peoria. The new coach's defense is led by all-region linebacker Brice Churchman, a 6-2, 190-pound senior. Safety Mike Walker (6-0, 185) was an honorable mention all-region pick. He'll join speedy Diondre Davis (5-7, 170) in the offensive backfield. Don Groblewski (5-11, 185) is another deep back with good speed. Quarterback Scott Ast (5-11, 185) could get competition from Brady McDowell (6-2, 177), who can also play in the secondary. The offensive line looks strong, with senior Jadon Dailey (6-0, 265) leading the way. He's quick for his size.

Ironwood, hit hard by injuries, hopes to bounce back with 33 returning players, the most in the region. Coach Chuck Esquivel looks to start a junior at quarterback, but he's a good one, 6-2, 210-pound Jason Murrietta. With him in the lineup the Eagles are set for two years. Travis Meier (6-3, 220) was an all-region pick at tight end. Linebacker Matt Gromek (6-1, 230) and tackle Robert Lisonbee (6-1, 275) are three-year letterman. With Lisonbee and big Kyle Deatherage (6-3, 270) in the lineup, Ironwood has two excellent tackles. Junior James Conkling (6-1, 205) doubles at fullback/safety. "We started great then injuries killed us," claims Esquivel. "We played one key game with eight starters out, and some of those players never returned."

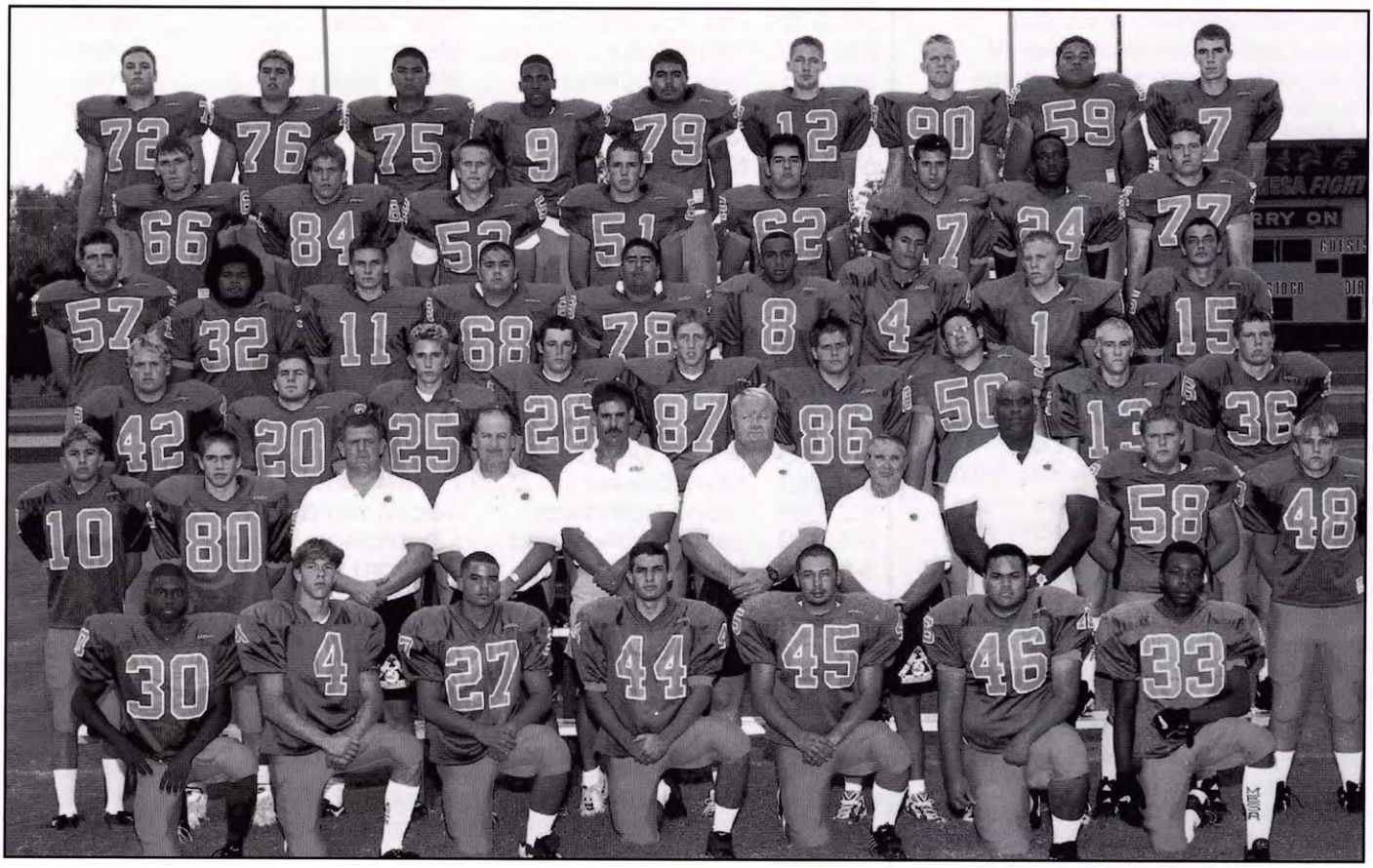
Injuries ruined things at **Deer Valley**

Big bodies

At least nine players in the Phoenix metro area weigh in at 300-plus pounds, with 6-foot, 8-inch, 370-pound newcomer Eric Roberts the biggest. The region's largest players, based on coach's reports:

Size	Player	School	Grade
6-8, 370	Eric Roberts	Deer Valley	senior
6-3, 330	Taitusi Lutui	Mesa	senior
6-1, 315	Brey Vacchina	Moon Valley	senior
6-7, 310	Carl Curry	South Mountain	senior
6-3, 305	Robert Tellinghuisen	Apollo	senior
6-3, 305	Nick Uiha	Tempe Union	junior
6-4, 304	Jason Karcher	McClintock	senior
6-4, 304	Gabe Garcia	Highland	senior
6-5, 300	Matt Roumain	Mountain Pointe	senior
6-6, 290	Gordon Davis	Desert Vista	senior
6-5, 290	Kenny Canter	Mountain Pointe	senior
6-4, 290	Cade Becher	Peoria	senior
6-3, 290	Ryan Clark	Hamilton	senior
6-4, 285	Darrell Arnold	Sunrise Mountain	senior
6-1, 285	Nate Smith	Thunderbird	senior
6-1, 285	Robert Dowd	Saguaro	junior
6-4, 280	Mikal Brewer	Centennial	junior
6-2, 280	David Hathaway	Red Mountain	senior
6-1, 280	Jensen Valenzuela	Coronado	senior
6-5, 275	Loren Howard	Saguaro	senior
6-4, 275	Jacob Sanders	Buckeye	junior
6-2, 275	Justin Hurst	Saguaro	junior
6-1, 275	Robert Lisonbee	Ironwood	senior
6-8, 270	Kevin Cluff	Westwood	senior
6-4, 270	Clayton Walker	Horizon	senior
6-4, 270	Robert Baker	Peoria	senior
6-3, 270	T.J. Teeples	Agua Fria	senior
6-3, 270	Kyle Deatherage	Ironwood	senior
6-3, 270	Mike Pollak	Corona del Sol	junior

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also. Coach Rick Mey hopes that's behind them and the new squad stays healthy. The Sky Hawks had three players sign major college scholarships, but still return a good nucleus with 24 lettermen. The key offensive player is quarterback George Preciado (6-3, 220), who set school records for completion percentage (64%), attempts (221) and completions (141). He has two good targets in tight end Tim Woloschak (6-2, 225) and wideout Jeff Vilar (5-8, 160). Woloschak and fullback Colton Campbell (5-11, 210) are juniors. On defense the coaches look to all-league linebacker Jake Severn (6-0, 220), a three-year varsity player and one of the best athletes in the region. Last spring he threw the discus 166-feet. His older brother Drew, an all-state pick last fall, is now at Wyoming. Junior Jason Vilar (5-8, 165) is a good defensive back. Two transfers, 6-8, 370-pound tackle Eric Roberts from Wisconsin, and 6-0, 175-pound defensive back Chris Bowens from Thunderbird High should help.

Mike Waters would like to put a stop to back-to-back 1-10 seasons at **Goldwater**. Hopefully 23 returning lettermen express the same feeling. The Bulldogs did improve, and played several opponents tough. The running game looks better, with halfback Nick Manzo (5-10, 170) and good linemen like Joe Skipper (6-2, 205), Noah Carpenter (6-2, 230) and Jared Olsen (6-1, 215) back for their senior year. Defensively, the 'Dogs have two linebackers worth watching, juniors Aaron Morton (5-10, 180) and Jason Peterson (5-11, 205), solid players each. "Our record wasn't an indication of how much our program improved," claims Waters. "Hopefully we can prove how hard the players have worked."

5A EAST VALLEY REGION

1. Mesa (8-4)
2. Mesa Mountain View (8-3)
3. Mesa Red Mountain (12-2)
4. Mesa Westwood (10-4)
5. Mesa Dobson (1-9)
6. Mesa Skyline (2-8)

Defending region champ **Mesa** saw its playoff run end in a wild quarterfinal loss to Gilbert. But 15 players, many who saw action, paint another bright picture for the state's winningest program. Coach Bill McKane's club looks solid at almost every position but quarterback. That key position could make or break the Jackrabbits. Mesa's defense, from the front wall back to the secondary, looks as good as ever. Two-way tackle Taitusi Lutui (6-3, 330) is back for one more year. Trevor Jones (6-1, 210), Tom Rucker (6-3, 230) and James Palmer (6-1, 210) form the best trio of linebackers in the region. Both Jones and Rucker, along with Lutui, are college prospects. Jones also plays fullback, and averaged 5.1 yards per carry. Palmer was the lead-off man on Mesa's state champion 400 meter relay team. Junior Marcus Washington (5-10, 170) starts in the secondary, and also plays tailback. In a part-time role he gained 412 yards on 66 carries. The same goes for wideout Drew Miranda (6-0, 170), who averaged 16.2 yards per catch in Mesa's run-oriented offense. Junior Matt Forkenbrock (5-11, 185) is a promising defensive back. Still, it's the guys in the trenches who'll make this 'Rabbit team go. Watch for Brandon Partridge, Bryan Rudd, Josh Krize, Ben O'Barr, Randy Agne, Manny Pacheco and Jarrett Stradling to play key roles when league play begins. "If we keep our injuries to a minimum, we could compete for the region title again," says McKane, whose team beat state finalists Westwood and Red Mountain last year. "Still, we need a quarterback to step up. If that happens we'll be tough."

Twenty underclassmen suited up at **Mountain View** last year, and most of those players are back. The Toros didn't finish strong, as they dropped a season ending game to Scottsdale Desert Mountain, then fell to rival Red Mountain (for the second time) in the playoff's first round. As always, the running game looks sound, with all-region picks Matt Pritchett (5-11, 185) and C.J. Rogers (5-11, 185) back. Pritchett gained 706 yards on 106 carries. Rogers chipped in with 595 yards on 91 tries. He also picked up post season votes as a defensive back. Wideout Mike Fleming (5-11, 165), fullback Derek Hargrove (5-11, 185), linebacker Bryan Perkinson (6-2, 185) and safety Grafton Milne (6-0, 180) earned honorable men-

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tion all-region votes. Fleming caught 17 passes for 244 yards. Brandon Sowards and Craig Ahlstrom logged time in the secondary.

The ball finally bounced right for Jimmy Jones and **Red Mountain**. The Lions dropped their opener to Maryvale, then went unscratched for three months except for a tough loss to Mesa. When the dust cleared they had beaten Westwood at Sun Devil Stadium for all the marbles, then carted off the big gold trophy. "It was a great experience," says Jones, the only football coach the school has had. "The kids got the job done and hopefully set the tone for the future. We should be in the hunt again, but everybody will be after us."

However, graduation all but cleaned out a veteran roster. Only four starters from the last game remain: all-region linebacker Mike Green (6-0, 230), safety Adam Whitworth (5-11, 175), tackle Russell Croyle (6-3, 220) and place kicker Erik Contos (5-10, 175). Contos, a three-year varsity letterman, also plays in the secondary. Green and Croyle can play both ways, and Whitworth doubles at running back. Jordan Cameron (5-11, 170) could give the running game a good lift. Still, the strength of this year's squad is the line. Look for players like Matt Doerfler, Joe Mills, Chris Sunderhaus, Evan Washburn, Dustin Wells, Tyrone Webb, Mark Burnett, Brad Burgess and David Hathaway to make or break the season.



Alex Matthews
Westwood



Kevin Cluff
Westwood

To say Roger Suchomel got off to a good start would be an understatement. **Westwood's** former track coach took over the football seat and three months later the Warriors were in Sun Devil Stadium playing Red Mountain for the 5A title game. This year he starts over. Graduation took a heavy toll. Only three juniors played on the varsity. One starter, 6-4, 210-pound tight end Alex Matthews, returns. A good athlete, he'll be forced into two-way action at defensive end. Brett Randall (5-11, 160) will get another shot at quarterback. He completed more than 50% of his passes in a part time role. Two-way tackle Kevin Cluff (6-8, 270) is back after a broken wrist knocked him out of action early. "It was a great season, reaching the finals like that," adds Suchomel. "But it's going to be a challenge this year. We have a lot of holes to fill."

First-year coach Tom DeMassa takes over at **Dobson**, where the Mustangs have strung together six consecutive losing seasons. He hopes to right the ship, but it might take awhile. Still, the Mustangs aren't lacking for material, stating with all-region tackle Mike Allred (6-2, 250), one of the best players in the East Valley. Fullback Robert Jones (6-0, 240) is the big weapon on offense, with 469 yards on 89 carries. He doubles at linebacker. In fact, the defense will be the Mustangs strong suit, with Allred, Jones, safety Joe Roundy (6-1, 185), guard Alfredo Nevarez (6-0, 215), safety Andrew Hangartner (5-10, 170), cornerback Spencer Perreira (5-11, 178) and backer B.J. Roth (6-0, 175). Roundy and Roth will compete for the quarterback slot. Two-way back Alex Hawthorne (6-1, 180) might be the only junior to crack the starting lineup. Seniors Matt Omer, Mike Garza and Garrett Hackitt could start.

Skyline, the new kid on the block, faces a big move into the 5A ranks with a new coach and lots of hope. Only 13 seniors dotted last year's roster, so most of the key players are back. Of the 27 returning lettermen, the top candidates include quarterback Ken Holmes (5-11,

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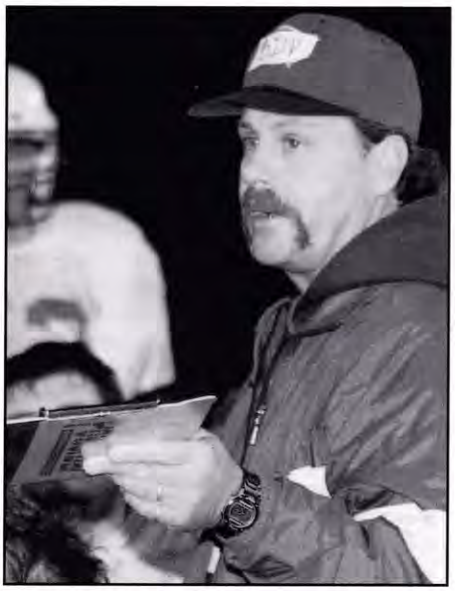
170), guard/linebacker Evan Reid (6-1, 210), and two-way backs Steve and Chris Trujillo, both 5-11, 170-pounders. Kelan McNaughton, A.J. Vanderaa and Chris Rodriguez are additional Coyotes who saw playing time.

5A METRO SOUTHWEST

1. Tolleson Westview (5-6)
2. Phoenix Trevor Browne (3-7)
3. Phoenix Alhambra (6-4)
4. Yuma Cibola (5-5)
5. Phoenix Central (7-4)
6. Phoenix Carl Hayden (1-9)

Westview, which could move the ball on almost everybody but could stop none, won a playoff ticket and got bounced early by Chandler Hamilton, 55-21. In that game, Knight QB Scott Martinez, the coach's son, passed for a state record 511 yards. Since then Martinez has picked up his diploma, so this year's plan is to beef up the running game. That starts with speedy tailback Josh Wallace (5-10, 180), one of several returning starters. Whoever starts at quarterback will have one of the fastest (4.5) receivers in the league to play catch with, 6-1, 190-pound Driesen James. Last year James averaged 20.3 yards per catch, hauling in 23 passes for 466 yards and two scores. Alex Toquillas (6-3, 200) looks like the best offensive lineman. Defensively, linebacker Jerred Johnson (5-11, 190) was an all-region pick, with linemen Adam Ramos (5-10, 225) and Joel Honeycutt (6-0, 230) strong, solid players. Although the Knights lost six games, they dropped only one region contest. "We could win the region two straight years," claims George Martinez. "That's our goal. The kids have worked hard and are ready to go."

Trevor Browne might have something to say about the league race. But they'll have to do it with a new coach and a new system. Phillip Wooley moves over from Camelback, replacing Bill Mitton, who retired after 29 years at the Phoenix school. Only 14 players return and the senior class looks thin. In fact, only eight seniors could start when the Bruins lace up their shoes Sept. 7 in Tempe at Desert Vista: linebacker Justin Beasley (6-2, 220), tackle Devon Jackson (6-0, 220), safety Steven Fernandez (5-9, 180), quarterback Perfecto Guitierrez (6-2, 170), guard Marlin Fierro (5-10, 190), center David Fierro (6-0, 220), safety Santos Hernandez (5-10, 175) and linebacker Jerry Day (5-11, 170). The rest of the slots could be filled in by underclassmen,



FULL CYCLE - Jim Ewan, once the head man at Mesa Junior College, is back in the East Valley, this time at Chandler.

including some good, young sophomores. Still, the senior class is the key. Beasley and Jackson were all-region picks. Juniors like split end Terrance Williams, guard Angel Browning, guard Chris Florentin and cornerback Ralph Carrathers could start. Sean Dahley, a 5-9, 185-pounder, is a promising sophomore running back. "We have a tough early schedule," warns Wooley. "But hopefully that will work to our advantage when we get to region play."

Alhambra started off with a 5-1 run, then the injury bug bit and the Lions missed the playoffs by one game. All-state running back Cornell Canidate, an Arizona State signee, is gone, and his slot will be hard to fill. Still, Frank Lautt and his staff like the looks of this group, plus several youngsters up from a 6-3 junior varsity. The key player roams the secondary, two-time all-region defensive back Oscar Rios (5-11, 170), a three-year varsity lettermen who has 14 interceptions to his credit. While the strength of last year's squad was the offense, this year's group looks more solid at defense. Senior Jorge Lopez (6-0, 175) and junior James Randall (5-9, 165) join Rios in the secondary. Mario Hernandez (5-9, 205) is a good linebacker. Offensively, tight end Victor Ochoa (6-0, 205) and tackle James Minder (6-4, 240) are bright spots. "We have lots of hard working kids," says Lautt. "We could have an exciting team, with lots of underclassmen."

At **Yuma Cibola**, the young Raiders look to improve with 16 letter winners from a 5-5 unit, the best finish since 1992. Shawn Wehrer's team looks strong at quarterback, with senior Victor Clifton (5-10, 145) and junior Cody Peterson (5-11, 180) vying for the job. Tailback Mike Jones (5-9, 165) should get plenty of protection from guard Marty McCamy (6-1, 239(, plus tackles Joe Ochoa (5-11, 245) and Jesus Ibarra (6-0, 268).

Phoenix Central made the playoffs for the first time in 17 years, going 7-4 in the process. Third-year coach Tom Tucker has posted 6-4 and 7-4 records, but might be hard pressed to match that this year. Graduation took a big toll. Plus, the junior varsity was winless, although lots of sophomores played on the varsity. Hope resides in the junior class, starting with two all-region picks, tight end/tackle Tasi Chambers (6-1, 265) and two-way lineman Kevin McClintock (6-0, 265), an honorable mention. Young Nathan Batiste (5-11, 180) is a promising running back, and tough enough to play linebacker. Abe Villaescusa (5-11, 165) is a good, young receiver. Seniors with game experience include center Aaron Mueller (6-0, 270), deep back Kevin Gray (5-11, 170), linebacker Aldon Williams (6-0, 190), guard Tanner Moore (6-0, 195), tackle Tywan Johnson (6-1, 240) and halfback Cedric Corbin (5-10, 180). "We've gotten better each year, but this will be a rebuilding one," adds Tucker, a former assistant at Maryvale.

5A METRO REGION

1. Phoenix Maryvale (8-3)
2. Phoenix Camelback (5-5)
3. South Mountain (3-7)
4. Yuma Union (7-3)
5. Phoenix North (1-9)

Maryvale, consistently strong, saw their season end early in the playoffs. Mesa sent the Panthers home after the first round. Also, gone is big play artist Daryl Lightfoot, who took his 4,298 career yards and 41 touchdowns to Arizona State. Still, enough quality players, including seven all-region picks, return. Flanker/defensive back Gary Cox (5-9, 155) picked up votes on both sides of the ball. He caught eight passes for 161 yards, averaging 20.1 yards per grab. He and Robert James (5-11, 185), another two-way player, return kicks. Wideout Andre McMillon (6-3, 166) caught 13 passes for 184 yards, best among returning players. Look for tight end Ygnacio Renteria (5-10, 190) to catch the ball more. Up front the Panthers have quality linemen in Carl

Big schools

Enrollment figures for the Valley of the Sun's largest high schools during the 2000 football season:

Students	High School
3,821	Mesa
3,807	Mesa Mountain View
3,483	Mesa Dobson
3,104	Mesa Red Mountain
3,069	Tolleson Westview
3,069	Mesa Westwood
3,016	Gilbert
2,874	Mountain Ridge
2,862	Gilbert Highland
2,787	Phoenix Trevor Browne
2,695	Tempe Corona del Sol
2,677	Gilbert Highland
2,612	Phoenix North
2,611	Chandler
2,598	North Canyon
2,544	Phoenix Alhambra
2,505	Tempe Desert Vista
2,533	Gilbert Mesquite
2,485	Scottsdale Horizon
2,391	Desert Mountain
2,374	Phoenix Central

SOURCE: Arizona Interscholastic Association

Ross (6-1, 265) and Pete Diaz (5-9, 220). Defensively, junior Dauntee Poole (5-10, 192) is quick and hard to block on the line, while young Mark Baymon (6-0, 190) is a good two-way end.

It's good news and bad at **Camelback**, where first-year coach Daryl Phillips greets 19 players from a 5-5 squad. The bad news is the loss of head coach Phillip Wooley, who departed for the Trevor Browne job. The good is with Phillips at the helm the school will keep the same system, one which will highlight all-star back Marques Broom. Phillips was the Spartans' offensive coordinator. A three-year varsity letterman, the 5-10, 170-pound Broom rushed for 1,503 yards and scored 18 touchdowns, second best among returning backs in Maricopa County. He averaged 32.8 yards on punt returns, including one 90-yard TD strike. He scored four times against North and three against Yuma. Overall, the Spartans return nine players who received all-region votes, the most at the school in years. Besides Broom, junior tight end Dominic Di Domizio (6-3, 205) is a big play threat. He caught 12 passes for 144 yards in Camelback's run-oriented offense. Quarterback Chris Thomas (6-1, 170) completed 45% of his passes for 615 yards and five scores. But he threw 10 interceptions. With two-way back Eric Anderson (6-2, 190) in the backfield, opponents can't gang up on Broom. Anderson, an all-region safety, managed 520 yards on 100 carries. Guard Jose Herrera (6-0, 225) plays both ways and looks like the best lineman. Anthony Boyd (6-2, 225) looks solid. Two juniors, safety Ron Phillips and linebacker Thomas Huff, have good speed and football savvy.

Improved play from interior linemen should help **South Mountain** in the won-loss column. The Jaguars, coached by Cleveland Dansby, also return their quarterback, Victor Rushing (5-9, 160), a slick runner and passer. The next best skill player is senior Leander Lewis (6-0, 185), the best runner in the team's wishbone. Lewis and his running mates have an improved line to work with, including DeAndre Johnson (6-2, 240), Carl Curry (6-7, 310), Ronnie Owens (6-0, 230) and Jesus Hernandez (6-0, 250). Defensively, Johnson, Owens and Lewis form the best trio of linebackers in the region. "We'll be better than last year because our offensive line will be bigger and better," says Dansby, who hopes his 13th season at the school will be a lucky one.

Down in **Yuma** the Criminals' 7-3 finish was the best at the school in almost 10 years. Third-year coach Pat Rowe almost made the playoffs, but a loss to Camelback in the final week ended things on a sour note. If the line play improves as it should, the 'Crims' next step is the playoffs. LaShawn Barron (6-0, 270) heads a list of good senior linemen. Defensively, David Estrada (5-10, 250), Ryan Seale (5-9, 172), Jared Elkins (5-11, 170), Brian Buland (5-10, 195) and Tyrone Powell (5-11, 180) are keys. If they stay healthy Yuma could win seven games again. Seale, Buland and Powell double at running back, with Seale handling the kicking duties.

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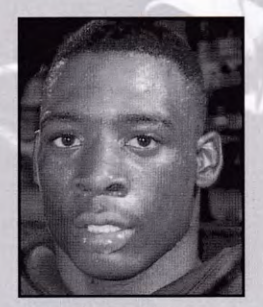
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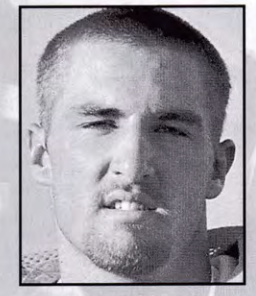
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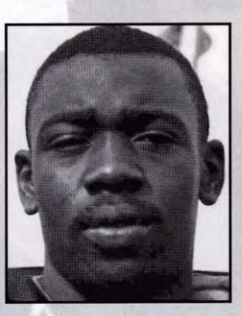
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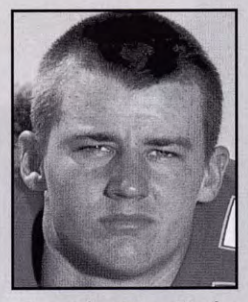
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Peoria



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Casa Grande



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Phoenix Union



Austin Sendlein
Chaparral

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1999 .. Austin Sendlein, Scottsdale Chaparral
1998 .. Brian Gaffney, Phoenix Brophy
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 .. Craig Davis, Tucson Canyon del Oro
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)
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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

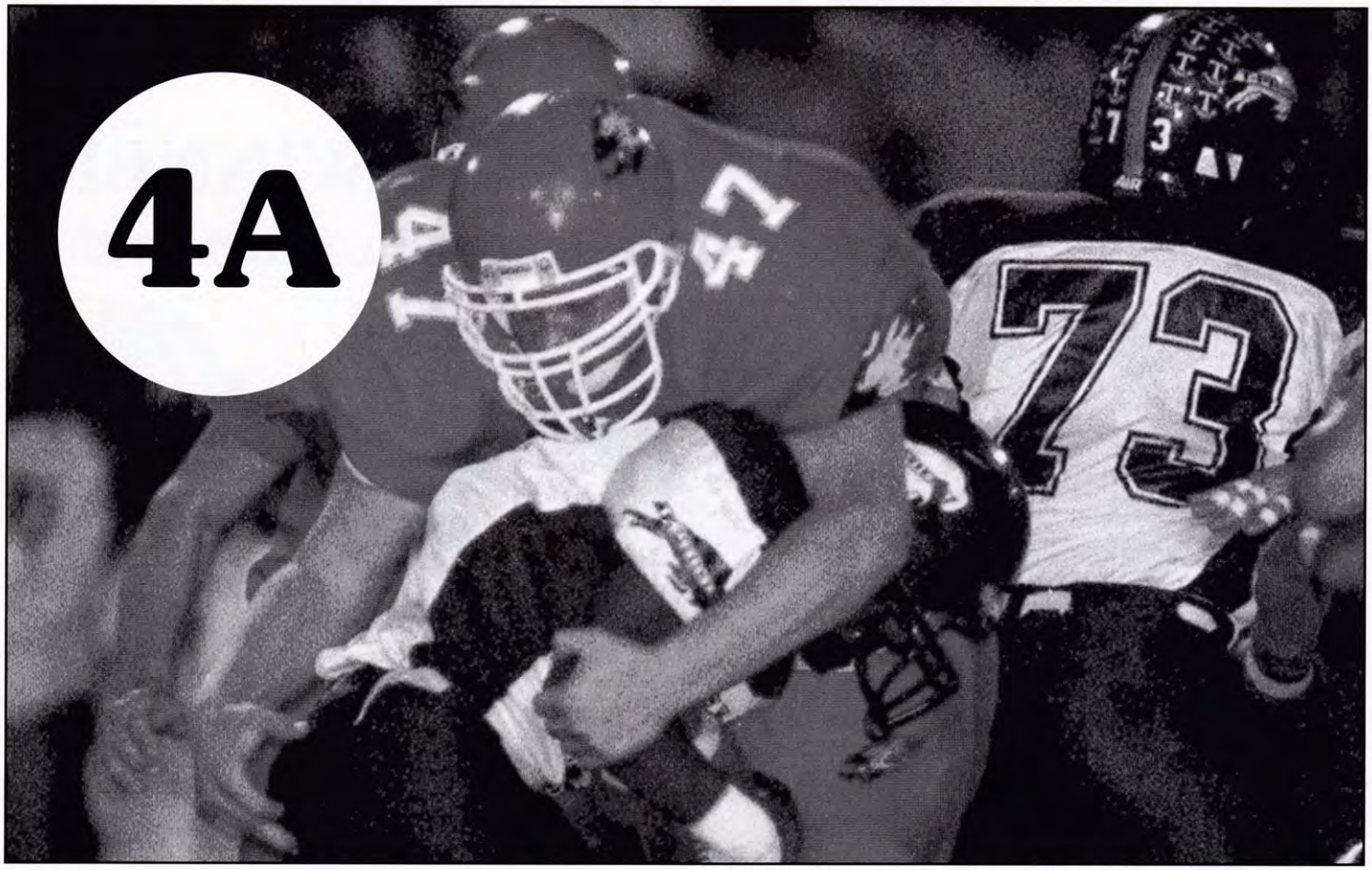
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Chaparral linebacker Lyle Sendlein, a University of Texas signee, stops Tempe running back Maurice Smith for no game. The Firebirds have won 28 games in a row (Tribune photo).

McClintock's Chargers Move in as No.1

The 2000 football campaign, like many before it, proved again that 4A football - talent wise - is not far behind the larger 5A class. When it was time to sign national letters of intent, almost as many 4A kids as 5A were recruited. In fact, almost half of the top rated prospects in the Valley of the Sun for the upcoming season come from 4A schools - or below. Recent 5A powers like Peoria and Tucson Sabino moved up a class and were competitive overnight. This year a former 5A power moves down.

Because of an enrollment decline Tempe McClintock, one of the state's most successful 5A programs, finds itself in the reshaped Skyline Region. The Chargers, unable to join the nearby East Sky Region, find themselves lined up with the likes of Moon Valley, Sunnyslope, Thunderbird, Washington and Glendale. The move down might be bad news for the 4A Conference. Had McClintock stayed in 5A this year, they would have been a preseason Top 5 pick. That's how strong this year's club looks, at least on paper. Second-year coach Dick Baniszewski, a member of the Chargers' 1980 state championship club, returns at least three of the best players in the Valley. Tailback Randy Hill, tackle Jason Karcher and defensive back Andre Bailey will get a good look from most of the schools in the Pac-10, and beyond.

But the rest of the 4A fraternity isn't about to run and hide. Defending state champ Chaparral enters the '01 campaign with a 28-game winning streak, longest in 4A history. And the Firebirds, who meet McClintock in the third week of the season, might not be the best team in Scottsdale. That nod goes to Saguaro, which returns its quarterback (2,000-yard passer Kellen Bradley), and possibly two of the best defensive ends on the same team in the state, Loren Howard and Kyle Caldwell.

Chaparral's opener won't be a breeze either. The Firebirds travel to Sunnyslope to face the Vikings and their all-star quarterback Mike Nixon, one of the best athletes in the Valley. Nixon has passed for 5,455 yards and 40 touchdowns since starting on the varsity as a freshman. He also starts in the secondary and handles the team's kicking.

Tempe High, once a long-time rival of McClintock's, returns three excellent players in quarterback Nate Mortensen, fullback John Cole and miniback Maurice Smith, the best 5-foot, 5-inch football player on cleats. For years they've held their own against the Chargers. In fact, the last time McClintock won a 5A state title (1989), they dropped their opener to Tempe.

On the westside look for the usual suspects, Agua Fria and Cactus. Both have a long history of producing quality players and competitive teams, and both return a ton of veteran players.

4A SKYLINE REGION
1. Tempe McClintock (5-5)
2. Sunnyslope (9-4)
3. Phoenix Moon Valley (5-5)
4. Phoenix Thunderbird (4-6)
5. Phoenix Washington (3-7)
6. Glendale (0-10)

McClintock, with a young lineup, won five of its last six games and tied for first in the 5A Central Region. But a mid-season loss to Mountain Pointe kept them out of the playoffs. They move into the 4A Syline with 19 lettermen, good team speed and improved strength. "We have no ineligible players due to grades, and that's a plus" says Dick Baniszewski, a former assistant at Mountain Pointe. "Our level of commitment will determine our success." Except for quarterback, most of the key players return. Top of the list is blue-chip tailback Randy Hill (6-2, 210, 4.5), whose 1,657 rushing yards and 17 touchdowns is the best among returning backs in the Valley. Only one other Charger ever gained more yards, 1989 player of the year Brian Drew (1,668). Hill set a single game school record with 281 yards against Marcos de Niza, and gained 250 against Chandler. With two-way tackle Jason Karcher (6-4, 305) in the lineup, backs like Hill can rest assured the holes will be there. Safety Andre Bailey (6-3, 190, 4.5) is one of the best defensive backs around. He carried the ball only once on offense and gained 22 yards. He might see action at quarterback, although junior Brad Heet (5-11, 175) will get a good look. Whoever it is will have excellent receivers to throw to in wideout Tommie Bailey (6-2, 180, 4.5) and tight end Kenny Hillman (6-0, 235, 4.9). In fact, Hill and the two Baileys were members of the Chargers speedy 400 meter relay team (42.0) last spring. Fullback Gabe Flores (5-10, 235, 4.8) managed 469 yards on 81 carries. Besides Karcher, big bodies up front include Davor Kolacevski, Darryl Kennon and Matt Dieu. Dionte Lewis, Weslee Ketchum and Terrance Wright give the Chargers three more good two-way players, and extra quickness at the skill positions.

No team in the Valley rode farther on one players arm than **Sunnyslope**. Quarterback Mike Nixon, a starter since his freshman year, passed, ran and kicked the Vikings into the semifinals, where they got out-talented by state champ Chaparral. Along the way he completed 144 of 291 passes (49%) for 2,266 yards and 21 touchdowns. He scored 11 times from the line of scrimmage. He also found time to kick 36 extra points and eight field goals, and averaged 37.3 yards per punt. However, only 13 varsity players return, including just one running backs. Only the receiving corp has experience. Wideout Matt Petersen (5-9, 155) averaged 21.7 yards per catch, grabbing 24 passes for 520 yards and five touchdowns. Dan Matock (5-11, 170), who starts in the secondary, caught 10 passes for 125 yards. Tight end K.C. Arnold (6-0, 170) caught six passes for 93 yards. Gilbert Gallahar (6-0, 190) is the lone runner, but he caught 27 passes for 337 yards coming out of the backfield. He averaged 5.0 yards per carry, gaining 584 yards and scoring nine times. For Dallas Hickman's club to survive another playoff trip the key men are in the trenches. Nixon can't do it alone. Starting with guard Chuck Cosgrove (5-9, 190), if Arein Cottner (6-0, 200), Brian Wilson (6-0, 205) and Devin McCollow (6-2, 210) play well, the Vikings will be tough. All four have playoff experience, so it might work. "Our kids played well the latter part of the season," adds Hickman. "We had a productive season and improved as a team. But this is a different year. The redesigned region adds quality programs like McClintock and Moon Valley to our schedule." The Vikings open with Chaparral and finish with McClintock.

METRO 4A TOP 20 POLL

1. McClintock Chargers
2. Agua Fria Owls
3. Saguaro Sabercats
4. Chaparral Firebirds
5. Cactus Cobras
6. Sunnyslope Vikings
7. Greenway Demons
8. Tempe Buffaloes
9. Centennial Coyotes
10. Sunrise Mtn. Mustangs
11. Moon Valley Rockets
12. Buckeye Hawks
13. Tolleson Wolverines
14. Thunderbird Chiefs
15. Apollo Hawks
16. Cortez Colts
17. Independence Patriots
18. Washington Rams
19. Coronado Dons
20. Millennium Tigers

Moon Valley lost three one-point games which kept an average season from becoming a good one. Coach Roger Britson's squad has three of the region's best players with linebacker Nate Wahlstrom (5-11, 215), defensive end Nick Wahlstrom (5-11, 195) and tackle Brey Vacchina (6-1, 315) in the lineup. Nathan, who runs 40 yards in 4.6 seconds, benches 325 pounds and holds the school record for tackles in a game, season and career. Nick, a two-time national powerlifting champ, recorded 21 quarterback sacks and his 108 tackles were second only to his brother's. Vacchina, a varsity tennis player, squats 700 pounds and bench presses 450. Back these three up with a secondary consisting of Nate Moore (5-8, 160), Bruce Hubbard (5-8, 180) and Jason Strayhand (5-8, 180), and the Rockets' defense looks solid.

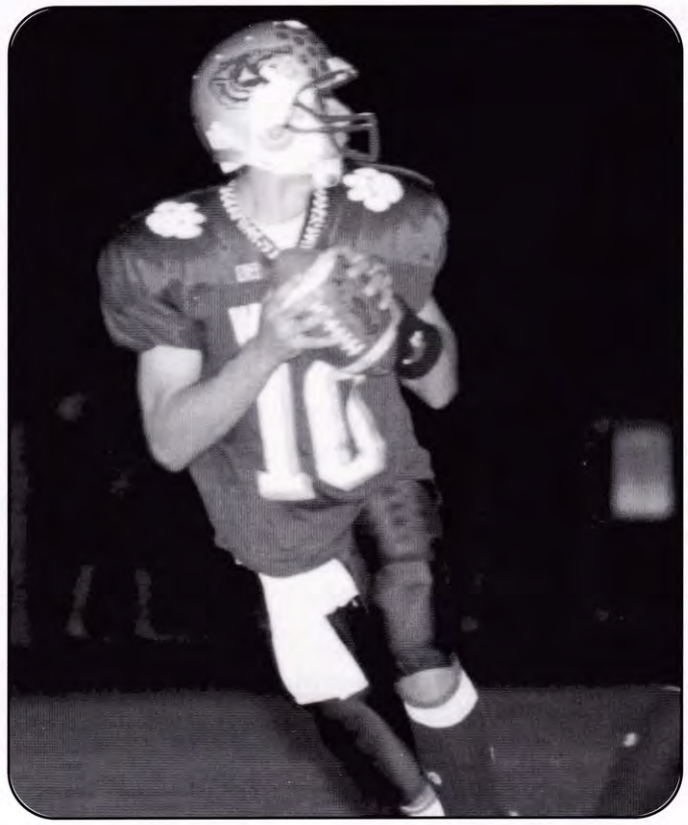
Gary Mauldin, one of several Valley coaches with 100-plus wins, returns just 14 squad members from a young **Thunderbird** team which paid the price for inexperience. The Chiefs were also plagued by injuries and started four different quarterbacks. But an improved line and big playmaker receiver Riley Weber paint a better picture. Weber, a 6-1, 175-pound senior, plays in the secondary and handles the kicking also. In fact, most of the skill positions look strong, with running backs Jim White and Brad Wood returning. Nick Berger could get the nod at quarterback. Billy Blaser is another good receiver. But the key to the Chiefs' season will be the line, where center Chris Ellington and teammates James Leos, Tyler Linsacum, Tyler Peterson and Nate Smith, a 6-1, 285-pounder, need to step it up. "We have high expectations and goals for both players and coaches," insists Mauldin.

One coach close to the 100-win column is **Washington's** Steve Chisman, who is five shy of the mark. With a little luck and help from 18 holdovers he has a shot. "The kids have a good attitude and are confident they can right the ship," says Chisman, whose ream was overmatched most of last year. All-region cornerback Marvin Mhene (5-9, 180, 4.6) returns, along with linebacker Pat Puls (5-9, 170), two of the better Rams. Dan Gomez and Kevin Meyer will compete at

Scottsdale Quarterback Club

SALUTING OUR CITY PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

2000 ... Chad Christensen, Desert Mountain, QB
1999 ... Josh Griffin, Chaparral, RB/KR
1998 ... Jeff Krohn, Horizon, QB
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, Sagaro, 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

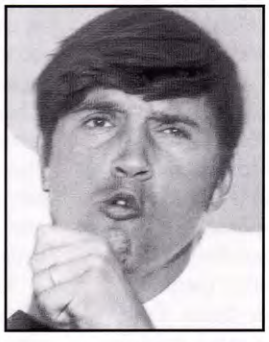


Desert Mountain QB Chad Christensen.

1974 ... Rick McClelland, Saguaro, FB/LB
1973 ... Rob Wilson, Coronado, QB/DB
1972 ... Keith Sobraski, Coronado, OT/DT
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 Dipley, Arcadia, RB/DB
1965 ... Bill Dipley, Arcadia, WR (jr)



Gil Gillenwater
Arcadia



Marty Shuford
Saguaro

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quarterback. Lance Kwiatkowski (6-1, 205) looks like the best lineman. Miles Kastner and Brit Manies are good defensive ends. The biggest difference between this year's club and last year is experience. Probable starters John Doxie, Gil Gamez, Stephen Jiminez, Alex Macias, Joe Johnson, Matt Walters, Scott Stelter, Ray Sevilla and Jon Abbott are all seniors.

Winless **Glendale** should be much improved with more depth after a full year under a new system. Second-year coach Mark Smith has better talent at the skill positions, plus an improved line. "We should be a lot better," says Smith. "If we can find some linebackers it could be a step in the right direction." In senior Joey Salines (5-9, 170) the Cardinals have a good two-way back. He starts at free safety. Junior Jerry Vaughn (5-11, 175) is the free safety. In fact, with defensive end Josh Gault (6-4, 215) in the lineup, the 'Cards defense looks much stronger. Newcomers Justin Maples, a 250-pound tackle, and end/kick returner Melvin Roberts will start. With 4.6 speed Roberts is the fastest player in the Cardinals' camp.

Westview quarterback airs it out for 511 yards

Last fall, Westview quarterback Scott Martinez completed 33 passes in 55 attempts for a state record 511 yards and three touchdowns during a 5A playoff loss to Chandler Hamilton. The region's all-time single game best:

Yards/Player/School/Opponent	Classification
511 - Scott Martinez, Tolleson Westview vs Hamilton, 2000	5A
482 - Mike Strack, Centennial vs Mingus Union, 1997 (jr)	4A
479 - Marty Rincon, Tolleson Westview vs Prescott, 1993	4A
429 - Mark Tefteller, Phoenix Christian vs Bourgade, 1998 (jr)	2A
418 - John Beck, Mesa Mountain View vs McClintock, 1999	5A
404 - Mike Makings, Scottsdale vs Mesa, 1971	5A
403 - Rick Johnson, Paradise Valley vs Sunnyslope, 1983	5A
402 - Richard Lucero, South Mountain vs Trevor Browne, 1997	5A
395 - Jonathan Beasley, Glendale Cactus vs Peoria, 1994 (jr)	4A
385 - Rick Savale, Scottsdale Arcadia vs Scottsdale, 1966	5A
380 - Bob Pitre, Scottsdale Arcadia vs Scottsdale, 1975	5A
375 - Tim Rattay, Phoenix Christian vs Maricopa, 1994	2A
374 - Jason McCullough, Scottsdale Arcadia vs Yuma, 1992	5A
374 - Marty Rincon, Tolleson Westview vs Lake Havasu, 1993	4A
366 - Marty Rincon, Tolleson Westview vs Centennial, 1993	4A
365 - Todd Sheridan, Scottsdale Arcadia vs Tolleson, 1982	5A

4A EAST SKY REGION

1. Scottsdale Saguaro (8-5))
2. Scottsdale Chaparral (14-0)
3. Tempe Union (11-2)
4. Scottsdale Coronado (6-4)
5. Apache Junction (0-10)
6. Scottsdale Arcadia (4-6)

If teams get better with age, **Saguaro** is headed in the right direction. That direction is the playoffs again. Coach Stuart Goldstein's surprising club won six regular season games and missed the state finals by four points. They dropped a heartbreaker to Tucson Sunnyside in the semifinals. "The kids feel they have unfinished business to do," says Goldstein, who took over a program after one win the year before. The offense starts at quarterback and here the Sabercats are set. Look for veteran Kellen Bradley to improve last year's performance, where he completed 138 of 286 passes (48%) for 1,986 yards and 18 touchdowns. Wideout Andy Hall (6-4, 195) grabbed 28 of those passes for 430 yards. But the strength of this Saguaro squad is defense. It starts at the ends, with Loren Howard (6-5, 275) and Kyle Caldwell (6-3, 255), who is just a junior. Beno Thomas (6-5, 210) doubles at defensive tackle/tight end. Justin Hurst (6-2, 275), Robert Dowd (6-1, 285) and Zach Ward (6-2, 245), all juniors, are promising two-way players. Buddy Bloomgren, Christian Serena and Chaz Bennett start at linebacker. Promising junior nose guard Ryan Vroom is recovering from a wrestling injury. Tyler Kidder and Travis Allen are good skill position players, along with Caldwell, who is a bruising running back and one of the best junior prospects in the Valley.

At **Chaparral** you can't get much better than this. The Firebirds have won 28 consecutive games and back-to-back 4A crowns. No CHS team on any level has lost a football game in over three years. Although veteran coach Ron Estabrook lost 32 seniors through graduation, the Firebirds suited up 58 players each game. Several key ones return, starting at quarterback, where 6-5, 210-pound Corey Anderson has one more year of eligibility. Last year he completed 53 of 128 passes (41%) for 984 yards and 17 touchdowns. He threw only seven interceptions. Look for his completion percentage to improve. This year's running game looks to Marco Nelson (5-9, 165), whose 526 yards and nine touchdown performance could double. Guard Matt Lersch (6-2, 240) and tackle Matt Dobbins (6-2, 230) are two quality linemen. With these four in the lineup the offense is set. The Firebirds will build their defense around two strong ends and one of the best linebackers in the Valley. Matt DePaolo (6-3, 215) and Benten Colley (6-2, 210) will defend the flanks. Lyle Sendlein (6-4, 240) takes care of the middle. Sendlein, who will join his older brother Austin at the University of Texas next year, recorded 90 unassisted tackles for the state champs. "It was a dream season," adds Estabrook, who has won 85% of his games in the business. "But we will be rebuilding this year. We lost a lot of good seniors." The Firebirds get tested early, traveling to Sunnyslope for their opener, then hosting Phoenix Greenway and top-ranked McClintock.

Tempe came close. Tim McBurney's Squad got out of the blocks fast, crushing defending 3A state champ Show Low in their opener in the Round Valley Classic. They finished 11-2 on the season, falling to Chaparral in regular season play, then league rival Saguaro in a playoff matchup. Like most teams in this region the Buffaloes have a quality quarterback. This year it goes to Nate Mortensen (6-2, 195), last year's starting safety. He has all the tools and could be the key figure. He also handled the place kicking, booting 47 extra points. The Buffs' attack looks balanced, too. Wideout Cory Marshall (6-0, 170) caught 45 passes for 420 yards and three scores. Tight end Brando Covarrubias (6-2, 210) is a good-sized target. Tailback Maurice Smith (5-5, 150) gained 1,860 net yards and scored 22

Statewide poll picks:

A preseason look at the top teams in Arizona in each class, based on coach's reports and returning players:

5A - Gilbert

Ten starters from state semifinalist, including blue-chip tight end Kyle Hunt, plus one of state's all-time winningest coaches make Tigers tough.

4A - Tempe McClintock

Randy Hill, Andre Bailey and Jason Karcher are blue-chip prospects for best Chargers team since 1992.

3A - Lakeside Blue Ridge

State's best program has won 63-straight recently, and 88 of last 90 games. Coach's son is one of state's best linebackers.

2A - Chandler Valley Christian

Skill position players, starting with state sprint champ Quinton McCoy, might be too speedy for 2A foes.

1A - St. David

It may be fourth down and long for 8-man football, but the most dominating 8-man program in years keeps rolling along.

touchdowns. Fullback John Cole (6-3, 240) rambled for 887 yards and scored 10 times. But the line looks green. Two-way tackle Nick Viha, a 6-3, 305-pound junior, is the only returning starter. Little Dusty Williams (5-10, 160) is an undersized but tough linebacker. McBurney and his staff will look to an incoming JV squad (7-1) for depth.

Depth shouldn't be a problem at **Coronado**, where the Dons return 13 players who saw playing time. B.J. Pasquel has two three-year lettermen to build his offense around, wideout James Cobb (6-2, 180), an honorable mention all-region pick, and two-way tackle Jensen Valenzuela (6-1, 280), a solid player. Seniors Ruben Rios (6-0, 210), Dan Garner (6-2, 185) and Seth LoBianco (5-11, 170) are strong defensive players. Look for juniors Adam McMahon, Brett Babcock and Jason Caparella to start on the line. "We had a good season in a tough region," says Pasquel, the Dons' third coach in three years. "We don't have much experience this year, but our depth and talent level looks better."

It's looking a lot better at **Apache Junction**, where 21 holdovers, including seven starters on both sides of the ball, return. Coach Steve Neal played a bunch of sophomores, so it was surprising to see the JV team win half their games. Still, seniors are the core of the team, and Neal has two good ones in linebacker Jared McVicker (5-9, 205) and cornerback Eric Hector (5-7, 165). With juniors like running back D.J. Boe (6-0, 178), receiver Rich Tabor (6-1, 165) and cornerback Pete Rios (5-10, 145) in the lineup, the future looks better. "We're improving each year," adds Neal, who is encouraged by the growth in the region.

4A DESERT SKY REGION

1. Phoenix Greenway (9-2)
2. Glendale Apollo (5-5)
3. Phoenix Cortez (6-4)
4. Lake Havasu (6-4)
5. Glendale Independence (5-5)
6. Cactus Shadows (2-8)

Two season's ago 14 sophomores and three freshmen dressed in varsity uniforms at **Greenway**, and the Demons went 8-4. This year Mike Brown returns one dozen key players from a 9-2 squad which lost to Sunnyslope in the playoff's first round. The two-time region champs look stronger, with a good mixture of skill players and strong linemen. Brown, who is also the varsity track coach, guided the Demons to a second place finish last spring with a track team made up mostly of football players. Guard/defensive end Andy Luckenbill (6-3, 230) and wideout/cornerback Andrew Johnson (5-10, 160) are three-year varsity players. Johnson was a member of Greenway's 42.6 sprint relay team. Look for the Demons to start a junior at quarterback, 5-11, 170-pound David Henry, who doubles at free safety. Classmates Sean Laidlaw and Brandon Halverson line up at tailback. Kyle Harriger (6-3, 225) and Ryan Thoresen (6-2, 215) are solid linemen, and both are seniors. Juniors Josh Zierten, Cody Smith and Brett Heflin could start on either side of the ball. The Demons might have the toughest September schedule in Phoenix, playing Tempe, Chaparral, Cactus and Agua Fria in that order.

First-year coach Ed Barnes replaces veteran Gregg Parrish at **Apollo**, were the Hawks return 17 lettermen from the coach's last squad. A season-ending upset of Sunnyslope brought a happy finish to Parrish's 25 year career. "We'll be young but we have a lot of speed," claims Barnes. "We have a lot of newcomers to the varsity, so our preseason schedule will have to get us ready to play." The Hawks do return first team all-region tight end Steve Barnes (6-0, 180), a senior who also plays safety. Two-way back Toussainte Zolnierez (5-8, 160) picked up honorable mention votes. Little Richard Leon (5-8, 160) will run the offense. Seniors Justin Monnet, Justin Schlegel and Robert Tellinghuisen are veterans. with Tellinghuisen tipping the scales at 300-plus pounds. Juniors Shane Keffer and Ernie Solares are solid skill position players.

If **Cortez** had beaten Prescott in the final seconds last year, the Colts would have been in the playoffs. Still, several key players from that 6-4 unit return, including versatile Robert Harrison. The 5-10, 185-pound senior, with 4.6 speed, starts at tailback and safety, handles all the kicking and returns kicks. Eric Whitehurst (6-2, 205) started at tight end and linebacker, but might be switched to quarterback. In fact, most of the senior class has been on the varsity level for three years now. Two years ago the Colts, during Vito Maynes first year as head coach, played 13 sophomores on the varsity. "That team won one game," says Maynes. "Then we won six. We hope to keep the trend going in the right direction."

Independence, another team which played lots of sophomores recently, welcomes a new coaching staff and several key all-region picks. The Patriots won five of their first six games, then injuries cut

them down. Several good players greet the new staff, starting with all-region defensive end Anthony Williams (6-1, 200, 4.8), a starter since his sophomore year. Linebacker Adam McDowell (6-2, 210) and deep back Jason Avila (5-11, 170) help form a solid defensive base. Lineman Adrien Chapman (5-11, 205), back Leigh Gholstein (5-11, 180) and tight end Robert Woods (6-0, 170) are experienced two-way players.

Cactus Shadows saw their production drop off last year, but the Falcons should bounce back with 18 holdovers and a good senior class. Coach Gerry LaBelle's forces won seven games two years ago, so the potential is there. Last fall a lack of leadership and team speed led to a two-win season. Senior Mike Norton (6-1, 210), an all-region linebacker, was one bright spot. He also starts on the line. Quarterback Jake VanDerStad (6-0, 202) has plenty of backs and receivers to work with, including Jake Nicol, Travis King, Mike Romelfanger, Brandon Flood and Jared Smith, who is a junior. But the answer to success resides in the line. Hopefully, Mike Coutts, Jason Holt, Brandon Reeves and Jim Mellody will improve. If LaBelle beefs up his line in the offseason, the Falcons could be a surprise.

4A WEST VALLEY REGION

1. Agua Fria (11-1)
2. Buckeye (9-2)
3. Tolleson (9-3)
4. Millennium (3-7)
5. Bullhead City Mohave (0-10)
6. El Mirage Dysart (1-7)

Look for **Agua Fria** to get after it again. Last year's near-perfect campaign ended on a sour note when Sunnyslope staged one of the biggest upsets in 4A, knocking the Owls out of the race in the quarterfinals. If team's get better with age, Mickey Bell's crew is ready. Twenty-four underclassmen played. Five first team all-region picks return, including one of the best athletes in the area, fullback/linebacker Mike Talbot. The 6-2, 230-pound Talbot, whose 187-11 discus throw was the best in the state, is the next in a long line of talented AF players. T.J. Teeples (6-3, 270), a two-way tackle, was another first team all-region pick. So was linebacker Aaron Sanchez (5-9, 190), tackle Jon Booker (6-1, 215) and backer Kevin Churchill (5-11, 190). Wideout George Passmore (6-1, 170), halfback Chris Mays (5-9, 170) and tackle John Radosevich (6-1, 225) were honorable mention. Quarterback Luke Taylor (6-5, 215) handles the punting. Justin Lee (5-10, 175) is a good defensive back. Unlike last year's club, this is a senior dominated squad.

At **Buckeye** the Hawks return a good nucleus of players, starting with several key all-region picks. The challenge will be competing in a new region with the likes of Agua Fria and Tolleson. Here's betting they do, especially with three-year lettermen like QB Nick Gehrts (6-3, 180), end Matt Rainey (6-4, 225) and guard Ty Marcotte (5-9, 200) in the lineup. These three know the system. Gehrts completed 50 of 93 passes (54%) for 719 yards and five scores. He threw for 1,100 yards and 10 touchdowns as a sophomore. Fullback Jafar Frasier (6-0, 220) gained 901 yards on 143 carries. Two-way tackle Jacob Sanders (6-4, 275, jr.) is the biggest Hawk in camp. Zach Gable, Jon Michael Jacobson, Josh Gladden, Josh Oliver, Nathan Moody and Nat Bolden are penciled in as starters. "Our goal was to be competitive and I think we accomplished that," says veteran coach Rudy Pacheco. "We have a good nucleus back to take it to the next level."

Tolleson starts a new era without Mike Bell, the state player of the year who took his 39 touchdowns and 2,484 yards to the University of Arizona. The Owls lost three games to two different teams, rival Agua Fria in the region title game, and twice to state champ Chaparral. Both those games were close. Sixteen underclassmen played, at least a little. Several key players graduated, but just enough return to make it interesting. The

Tucson Coaching Legend Succumbs



Gridley, the 1945 National Coach of the Year, won four state titles.

The Arizona high school coaching fraternity lost a special member on August 9 when legendary Tucson High head coach Rollin T. Gridley died. He was 96.

Gridley, who coached the Badgers from 1935 to 1947, put Tucson schoolboy football on the map. He won 77% of his games, four state championships, and a state record 33-game winning streak during World War II. His winning percentage was the second best in state history at the time, behind R.R. "Robby" Robinson of Phoenix Union fame, who won 83% between 1920 and 1936 at the downtown school. Gridley was the 1945 National High School Coach of the Year, selected by the *National Sports News Service* in Minneapolis.

The grand old man of southern Arizona football, a former player himself at the University of Arizona under James "Pop" McKale, installed the Badgers' famed T-formation in 1944 and rolled with it. Along the way he sent dozens of players into the college ranks, produced 20 first team all-state players, four high school All-Americans and two nationally ranked teams. After Gridley retired, Tucson continued to run the "T" for over 30 years, under three different head coaches. Those coaches, Jason "Red" Greer, John Mallamo and Ollie Mayfield, continued the Badgers' dominance in the sport, and all three won multiple state championships.

Many of southern Arizona's all-time great athletes played for "Grid", including Joe Batiste, Fred Batiste, Sol Ahee, Oscar Carrillo, Lee "Legs" Carey, Karl Eller, Frank Borman and Fred Enke, Jr., who later started at quarterback for the Detroit Lions and Baltimore Colts.

During Tucson High's home opener last year against Glendale Ironwood, the Badgers' historic old field, where so much history was made, was officially named Rollin Gridley Stadium. Entering the 2001 high school season, Tucson has won 505 football games, the second most in state history.

Wolverines are set at linebacker, with 6-1, 215-pound senior Devin Mowry and 6-1, 210-pound junior Taylor Waldon. Both were all-region picks, along with two-way tackle Bill Mercer (6-2, 230). Junior Marcus Thomas (6-1, 180) caught a 50-yard touchdown pass against Cactus. Young place kicker Kyle Sparks made 44 extra points as a freshman. If he keeps that pace he's going to etch his name into the state record book before his career ends.

Finally, **Millennium** has a solid varsity roster, with 25 players who suited up for varsity games, plus an incoming junior class which won six games. Coach Ron Frank has several quality players to build with, including fullback/linebacker Ryan Carroll (6-1, 185), and two-way end D.J. Howell (6-2, 190). Both were honorable mention all-league picks on defense. Two junior tackles, Alex Waddell (6-0, 220) and Royce Reed (6-0, 255) give the Tigers strength up front. Junior Regan McCarthy (6-1, 175) looks to start at quarterback, with brother Ryan (6-1, 185) the tight end. Young tailback Taryl Galloway, junior center Danny Garcia and sophomore safety Tate Ford look to start. "We feel real positive about the upcoming season," insists Frank. "The players have worked hard and are hungry to show they can play."

Injuries, youth and a lack of depth added up to a winless **Mohave** season, where Mark Ruckle is trying to right the ship. The Thunderbirds return 19 players, with junior back Tristan Green (5-10, 175) the only holdover to earn any season acclaim. He picked up votes as a running back. Two-way tackle Daryl Staley (6-5, 275) is the biggest T'bird in camp. Green is the fastest. Cliff Elsner (5-10, 190) is an undersized but tough center/linebacker.

4A WELLS FARGO REGION

1. Glendale Cactus (5-5)
2. Peoria Centennial (5-5)
3. Sunrise Mountain (4-6)
4. Prescott (7-4)
5. Phoenix Pinnacle (4-5)
6. Bradshaw Mountain (2-8)

Look for **Cactus** to bounce back in a big way. The Cobras missed the playoffs for the first time in nine years, but finished the season on a high note, blitzing Mohave 65-0. Graduation cleaned out the quarterback slot, although J.W. Lucas (6-2, 195) got his feet wet a few times. The running game looks sound if 5-10, 220-pound workhorse Anthony Franco (1,078 yards,17 touchdowns), and 6-1, 188-pound junior Jovan Bonelli (553 yards,8 TDs) return. Wideout Wes James (5-10, 166) caught 33 passes for 425 yards and three TDs. Tight end Ryan Enos (6-4, 211) managed 13 grabs for 182 yards and two scores. Big Ben Siegert (6-3, 253) earned a spot on the all-region team at defense. With him in the lineup, Cactus looks big up front again, with players like Curtis Lyons (6-0, 209), Tim McConnell (6-3, 240) and Dan Armstrong (6-4, 233) having started at one time or another. Linebackers Bennett McLaughlin, Jason Bryans and Cody Dusthimer got into the fry also.

Last year **Centennial** averaged 31.4 points per game, best in the area among .500 clubs. The Coyotes enter this campaign with better balance and more seniors at starting positions. Four all-league players return, including one of the best kickers in the region. Tailback Marcus Haynes (5-10, 175, 4.5) gained 1,049 yards and scored eight touchdowns. His return gives the offense a shot in the arm. And running mate Julian Ornelas (5-9, 200) is every bit as fast as Haynes. Ornelas gained 478 yards on 72 carries and scored 12 times. Richard Taylor's defense looks improved with linebacker Stephen Hogg (5-11, 185) and nose guard George Cortez (6-0, 235) back. Both were all-region picks. So was place kicker Mike Sidler (6-0, 165), who was 34/36 on extra points, 7/14 at field goals. Brian Keith (6-2, 210) was an honorable mention tight end selection. He caught 20 passes for 265 yards. Ends Adam Garday (6-2, 212) and Adam Graebel (6-3, 200) are solid defensive players. This Centennial club looks strong up front again, starting with center Cameron McDade (6-2, 265), flanked by big bodies like Sean Horning (6-0, 260), Mikal Brewer (6-4, 280) and Curtis Crossland (6-0, 235), to list a few. The Coyotes' opener looks like a dandy, a Sept. 7 date at Tempe McClintock.

Look for **Sunrise Mountain** to bounce back in a big way. The Mustangs, winners of nine games two years ago, dropped to 4-6, but that could be forgotten soon. "It was disappointing," claims second-year coach Jim Davis. "Even though it was a rebuilding year we expected more." Size, speed and depth describe the senior class. Throw in a junior class which hasn't lost in high school (16-0) and you can see why the coaching staff is excited. The line looks solid, starting with offensive tackle Darrell Arnold (6-4, 285), the group's top prospect. He's a dandy. Mix in Steven Sogard (5-11, 220), Ryan

Southern Arizona's Best

A look at some of the top players in Southern Arizona for the 2001 campaign, based on coaches' reports and post-season results:

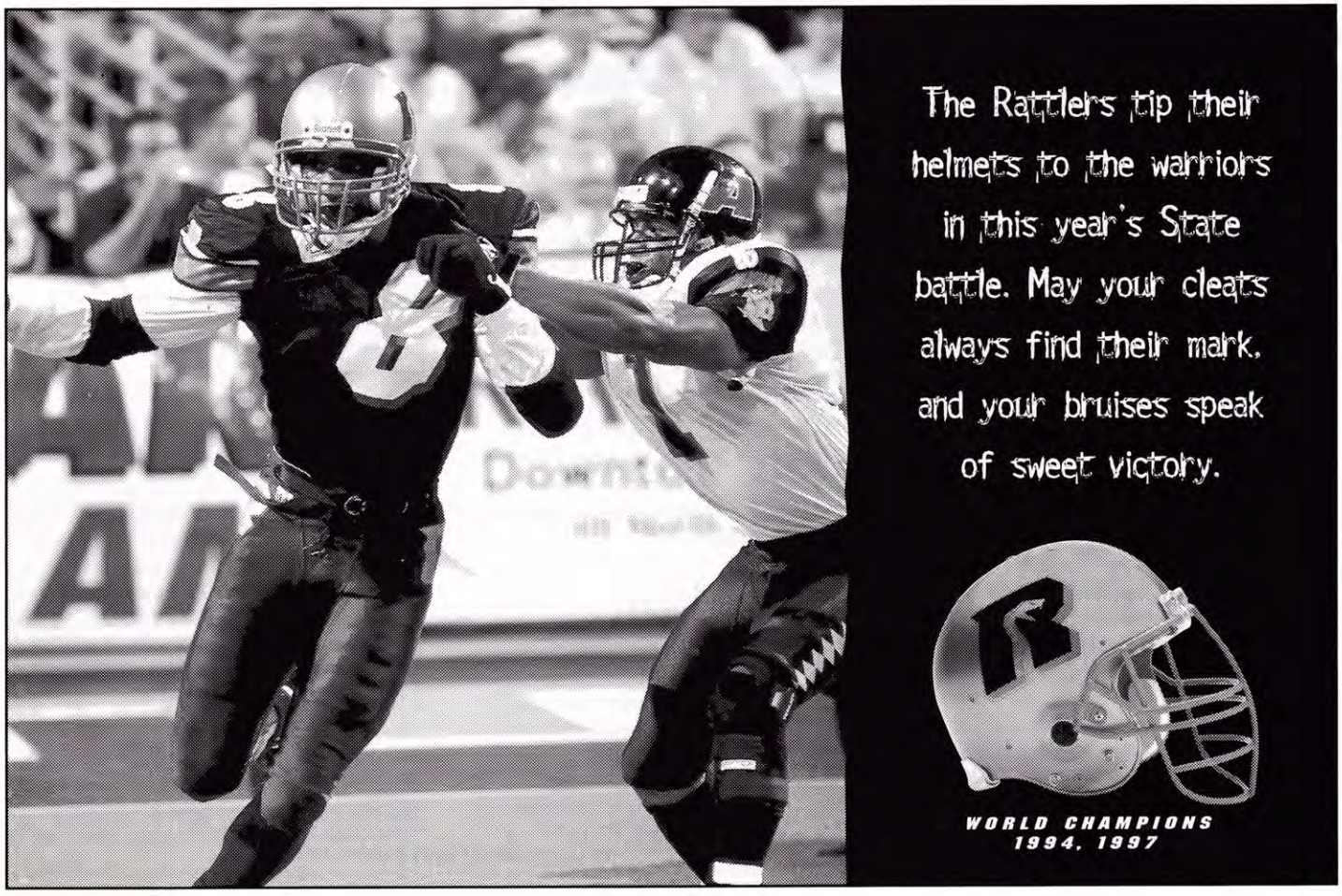
QUARTERBACKS - Michael Romney, Thatcher, 6-0, 195; Randy Youtsey, Coolidge, 5-11, 175; **BACKS** - Sean Hinton, Thatcher, 6-0, 195; Philo Sanchez, Tucson Sunnyside, 5-8, 168; Aaron Butler, Tucson Catalina, 6-2, 185; Chad Dietmeyer, Tucson Amphi, 5-9, 175; Brenton Varner, Tucson Palo Verde, 5-8, 160; Willie Blair, Morenci, 5-10, 160; Michael Allred, Willcox, 6-0, 160; Isreal Ibarra, Eloy Santa Cruz, 5-8, 160; Ryan Seale, Yuma, 5-9, 172; Sidney Goodman, Casa Grande, 6-0, 225; Bryan Slagle, Tucson Rincon, 5-10, 180; Anthony Gibalski, Tucson Salpointe, 5-9, 160; Bobby Johnson, Marana Mountain View, 6-2, 190; **RECEIVERS** - Skip Mendoza, Tucson Sahuaro, 5-9, 160; Brad Wood, Tucson Sabino, 6-1, 180 (jr); Brian Sharp, Marana, 5-11, 155; Dustin Owen, Tucson Canyon del Oro, 6-2, 195; **LINEMEN** - Matt Huffman, Maricopa, 6-2, 220; Dan Hardy, Tucson Amphi, 6-1, 205; Shaughn Landayer, Tucson Santa Rita, 5-10, 188; Miguel Cabezola, Tucson Amphi, 5-11, 210; Jason Wade, Marana Mountain View, 6-3, 220; Casey Woodall, Morenci, 5-11, 190; Cade Bryce, Pima, 6-2, 250; Adam Padilla, Miami, 6-2, 250; David Estrada, Yuma, 5-10, 250; Daniel Ortega, Florence, 5-10, 225; Stephen Berg, Tucson Canyon del Oro, 6-6, 315; **LINEBACKERS** - Rene Flores, Tucson Santa Rita, 5-11, 205; Tim Kitcheyan, Ft. Thomas, 5-10, 170; Albert Sanchez, Yuma Kofa, 5-11, 212; Jared Elkins, Yuma, 5-11, 170; **KICKERS** - Brad Jones, Tucson Flowing Wells, 5-9, 165 (jr); Frank Lopez, Tucson Sunnyside, 5-8, 140.

Stradleigh (6-2, 220) and Adam Ortiz (6-0, 190), and Davis has the makings of an excellent offensive line, one of the best in the region. Junior defensive end Justin Smith (6-4, 195) was the state long jump champ, leaping 22-feet, 9-inches as a sophomore. For Sunrise to reach the playoffs the skill position players need to step up. Wideout Nick Weitzel (6-2, 180), an all-region pick, and tailback Bobby Silvagnoli (5-7, 170), just a junior, give them big play potential. The Mustangs' home opener is against state finalist Tucson Sunnyside.

Prescott is another team expecting good leadership and determination from the senior class. Coach Lou Beneitone returns 16 players from last year's playoff squad. Too bad one of them might not be Jason Pridie. The all-region receiver, defensive back and kicker, an excellent baseball player, is not expected back, but would be a welcome sight. At least to Prescott fans. The rest of the league won't miss him one bit. Still, the Badgers look solid at several positions, including center Eric Folger (5-11, 260) and guard James Giggey (5-11, 255), both all-region picks. Quarterback Jake Hanna (5-11, 150) is joined in the backfield by Brian Bonilla (5-11, 150) and Ryan Shipp (5-11, 170), good two-way players. Bonilla handles the punting. End Spike Clatterbuck (6-0, 180) can play in the secondary. Bryan Hoskin, Michael Alvarez, Cutterbuck and Shipp all play linebacker. Players like Tyler Champlin, Bryan Pereboom and Micah Johnson add depth to the secondary. Keep an eye on Chris Parker, a young sophomore who could start both ways. "We didn't lose a home game and made the playoffs," says Beneitone. "We played for the league championship, so this year we need to take it one step higher."

"A first year program is expected to take its lumps, and at times we did," says Jim Hepting at **Pinnacle**, newest school in the Paradise Valley area. "But we hung together and became a better team late in the season." No school in this rearranged region returns as many players (29) as Pinnacle, including several good seniors to build with. The coaching staff hopes tackle Avash Mardjaee (6-0, 218) and guard/linebacker Brett Goodman (6-0, 223) give the Pioneers leadership and solid play each week. Two-way back Evan Boardman (5-10, 180), with 4.6 speed, is the quickest player in camp. Boardman, Aaron Shoults (6-0, 190) and Matt Russo (5-10, 180) are promising juniors. All three play good defense, too. Two sophomores, quarterback Trent Walker (6-1, 185) and fullback/linebacker Sean Spellman (5-11, 197) could start. Still, taking a group of mostly sophomores and juniors into 4A battle with proven teams like Cactus, Centennial and Sunrise Mountain could make for a long fall.

Graduation took a heavy toll at **Bradshaw Mountain**, which struggled through a 2-8 campaign. Then head coach John Rodriguez left for the Phoenix St. Mary's job, so the Bears are looking for more than a few good players. Bradshaw, which has won only six games in the past three years, will build this year's squad around linemen Adam Clinton and Nick Alvarez, along with defensive back Kelly Wohlwend, three bright spots in a not too bright campaign. All three earned first team votes on the *Prescott Courier's* annual all-region squad.





Speedy Quinton McCoy (10.82/21.61) might be the top recruited small school player in Phoenix.

Valley Christian Speed Too Much?

All of a sudden the small school ranks in Phoenix, mainly the 2A Metro Region, are starting to get some recognition. Not too long ago Phoenix Christian quarterback Tim Rattay opened some eyes with his 40 touchdown, 2,646-yard season. He took those stats to Scottsdale Community College, then Louisiana Tech, where he broke more records than Elvis Presley. Today he plays for the San Francisco 49ers.

Last fall the same high school produced running back Jimmy Wilson, who crossed the goal line 30 times and gained 1,891 yards for Keith Brown's Cougars. Then he accepted a scholarship to Washington State. Jabari Felton-Smith, the all-state back from The Orme School (located near Mayer), set a 2A single season scoring record with 44 touchdowns. He tacked on 2,434 yards for good measure, then signed a letter of intent with Northern Arizona. Not surprisingly, both Wilson and Smith were MVP picks at all-star games earlier in the summer.

This year the pride of the small school ranks might be at Valley Christian High, located in Chandler. State sprint champ Quinton McCloy can also play football. Real well, too. Will the Trojans' speed be too much for 2A foes to overcome? Time will tell.

One last note: If an all-time Arizona 2A squad was selected, 75% of the club would be players who later played in the National Football League. Honest. And this from schools with enrollment figures smaller than senior classes at schools in Mesa.

2A Metro

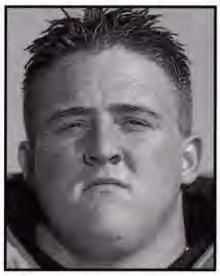
There's no doubt which school has the speed in this region. **Valley Christian**, always a track power, looks strong in the fall sport, with 18 holdovers from a 6-3 club which was one win shy of a playoff berth. In fact, for the past two years Sean Loomer's teams have missed the playoffs by one game. Look for them to break through this year. Especially if league foes can't find a way to stop Quinton McCoy, the Trojans all-state candidate. Last fall the speedy (10.82/21.61) McCoy gained 1,000 yards on 121 carries and scored 13 rushing touchdowns for a 6-3 club. He averaged 8.3 yards per catch. As a wide-out he caught just eight passes for 141 yards and another score. He scored two times on kick returns, including a 95-yard strike against Queen Creek. In the spring he won the long jump at the 2A state meet in (23-4), and the 100 meters in a wind-aided 10.53 seconds. Halfback Mark Smith (5-10, 180), with McCoy a member of the Trojans' sprint relay team, gained 460 yards on 54 carries. Both can be seen in the Trojans' secondary, making life miserable for opposing receivers. An improved line will be built around big Jason Voss (6-3, 235), the state shot put champ. He's also the Trojans' long snapper. Matt Bergsma and Cory Strozier join Voss in the trenches. Zane Miller and Ray Thelen are good skill position players. "Our defense did not play well until late in

the season," claims Loomer. "It should be much stronger."

Something happened to **Phoenix Christian** on their way to the 2A finals last year. The 10-1 Cougars were derailed by St. Johns in the semifinals. Look for Keith Brown's club to bounce back. In fact, the Cougars have won 10 or more games six of the last seven years, one of the best marks by any school in the state. Look for solid play on the line, both offense and defense. Center Russ Richardson (6-2, 265) and tackle Isaac LaVant (6-1, 260) are two of the best in the region. Brandon Isaac (5-10, 222) is an all-region linebacker. He has 295 tackles in two years. Two-way back Greg Bouten (6-0, 175) is an excellent punter. Zach Gings (6-0, 200), Brandon Winter (6-2, 260), Chris Dickerson (6-4, 225), Todd Bookout (6-1, 235) and Mike Bias (6-0, 220) make up the best front wall in the region. Skill players who should start include Chip Allison, Ryan House, Danny Davis, Eric Larson, Luke Bevans and Geoff Burns, a sophomore who could see action at quarterback. The Cougars open the season on the road against Horizon Christian in San Diego.

Good depth, lots of experience and outstanding skill players reside at **Northwest Community Christian**, which reached the semifinals last year. Throw in a good kicking game and the Crusaders (9-3) should be right in the thick of it come November. Charlie Bell returns 29 players, the most in the region, including all-league guard Adam Conovaloff (5-10, 175), a two-way player who doubles at linebacker. Wideout/deep back Jance Nave (6-1, 180) is an excellent kicker. Linebacker Jake Jones (5-9, 175) and safety Nick Wallace (6-2, 175) help Conovaloff strengthen the Crusaders' defense. Juniors who could play key roles include quarterback Ryan Hoffner, tackle Cameron Butler, and running backs Drew Bohannan and Matt Haney. "We could be very good this year," claims Bell, who has won 73% of his games at the school, including four years in 8-man ball. "We have lots of experience."

Not every school in the 2A Metro made the playoffs last year. It just seemed that way. One who did was **Bourgade Catholic**, where veteran coach Pat Lavin seems to have turned the corner with the program. His Eagles (8-2) won eight games before eventual state champ Thatcher knocked them out in the playoff's first round. Only 10 players return, and Lavin has to replace the entire line.



Russ Richardson
Phoenix Christian



Isaac LaVant
Phoenix Christian

The skill positions will be the Eagles' strength, led by junior tailback Quinton Bellamy (5-10, 175), who moves over from quarterback. Receiver Saul Rincon (5-10, 165), deep back Steven Ramirez (5-5, 150), fullback Kyle Reid (5-9, 175), tight end Pete Surman (5-11, 175) and wideout Matt Casas (5-7, 145) will be called upon to go both ways. They have the skill to do it. The Eagles get an early-season test when they play 3A power Show Low on the road.

Coach Doug Meyer and **Arizona Lutheran** expect to make the playoffs for the first time since the school joined the 2A ranks two years ago. The Coyotes (4-5) just might do it. Every skill player is back and the line looks improved. The best athlete starts at quarterback, 6-1, 175-pound senior Kevin Bauer, an all-region pick at safety. Five other seniors, guard/end Nathan Jaehnig (6-1, 185), halfback/safety John Bredo (6-2, 180), back Bjorn Bjerk (5-9, 150), corner Ben Schroder (5-9, 160) and center Steve Thorne (5-9, 170) give the Coyotes experienced play. Junior linemen Gavin Guzman (6-0, 225) and Reed Candler (6-0, 190) are solid defensive players. "We were young and too small last year," claims Meyer, who opens the season for the second year in a row against Orme in the Round Valley Classic in Eagar.

Scottsdale Christian, young at the skill positions, is another school in the 2A metro with a good line. Young skill players need to develop for Pete Wahlheim's squad to have a chance at a playoff berth. The Eagles (3-6) return 10 players who saw action, including all-region linebacker Nathan Day (6-2, 200), who doubles at running back. Guard Jim Dabina (6-0, 190) will be a four-year varsity starter. Juniors Joe Herrod (6-0, 185) and Brian Spencer (5-10, 185) join Day at linebacker, the strength of the defense. Two sophomores, John Matney (5-10, 215) and Anthony Schelstrate (6-2, 220), will start on the line. The Eagles open play Sept. 1 against Whiteriver Alchesay at the Round Valley Classic.

Last year **Valley Lutheran** hired former Arizona Cardinal Garth Jax to try and build a football program. It was a tough first step. The outmanned Flames managed one win, but scored just 13 points and gave up 304 during a nine-game schedule.

2A East

Struggling **Miami**, almost a playoff team last year, seems to improve with age. The Vandals (5-4) return 17 lettermen and welcomes help from an unbeaten JV squad. But the school will be searching for a new coach, since Scott Strenge took a job in North Dakota. Still, the Vandals have a chance for a playoff ticket with the likes of all-region tackle Adam Padilla (6-2, 25), center Jonathan White (6-2, 250) and wingback Ollie Talgo (5-11, 155) in the lineup. All three are seniors. Fullback Matt Bunney (5-9, 185), quarterback Anthony Castaneda (5-8, 155), tackle Reece Weaver (6-3, 200) and wideout Michael Tarango (6-0, 145) are tops among a strong junior class. Sophomore Robbie Pastor (5-8, 155) could start at tailback.

2A Copper

With only eight returning players, it's truly a rebuilding year in **Florence**. The Gophers reached the playoffs, only to be knocked out by Phoenix Christian in the first round. First-year coach Shawn Cluff has no skill players with experience. He hopes good line play will get them through the early schedule. Dan Ortega, a 5-10, 225-pound guard/linebacker, was an all-region pick and looks like the key guy. This will be his fourth year on the varsity. Two-way tackle Levi Moser (6-1, 205) is also a four-year letterman. Two juniors, end Mike Ulloa (6-0, 215) and linebacker Roland Tipton (5-9, 185) should see lots of playing time.

3A South

Curt LeBlanc, the former head coach at River Valley, takes over a **Queen Creek** playoff squad which finished 8-4 and returns top-flight quarterback Tony Chavez. The biggest adjustment will be the move to 3A competition. Only 14 lettermen return. But Chavez is the key. Last fall the three-year varsity player passed for 1,707 yards and 22 touchdowns. Along the way he led the Bulldogs to the semifinals, where state champ



Round Valley Classic

*Saturday, September 1st
Eagar, Arizona

THE LINEUP:
Wickenburg vs Chinle
(11:00 a.m.)
Arizona Lutheran vs Orme
(2:00 p.m.)
Scottsdale Christian vs Alchesay
(5:00 p.m.)
Round Valley vs Academia Juarez
(8:00 p.m.)

For ticket information call (928) 333-4315

Thatcher ended their season. Running back Marco Escalera gained over 800 yards, averaging 8.5 yards per carry. Junior wideout Cole Hamlett averaged 20 yards per catch. The line needs to be rebuilt. If players like Kevin Johnston (6-2, 235) and Matt Hubbard (6-0, 240) improve, the 'Dogs might do just fine.

Coolidge advanced one round into the playoffs with an inexperienced squad, especially on the line. Skill players were the backbone of the team. Second-year coach Carlo Hernandez returns one of the best quarterbacks in the league, four-year varsity letterman Randy Youtsey. The 5-11, 175-pound signal caller, also a good basketball player, hit 79 of 127 passes (62%) for 1,476 yards and 22 touchdowns. Only Shawn Jordan (11 catches, 290 yds.) returns from the receiving corps. Jordan and DeArriane Loggins (5-10, 145) start at cornerback. Jacob Carpenter (6-1, 185) moves in at tight end, while Johnny Mosley (5-10, 210) gives the Bears a strong force on the line. Coolidge finished 7-3 last year after falling to Seton Catholic in the first round of the playoffs, 13-11.

Eloy Santa Cruz lasted one round into the playoffs also, where Parker ended their season on a sour note. Veteran coach Jay Denton has a good core coming back, with more depth. The Dust Devils (4-5-1) should get help from an unbeaten (8-0) junior varsity as well. Four-year varsity letterman Isreal Ibarra (5-8, 160), one of the smallest players on the all-state team, returns at two positions: running back and defensive end. He's tough. Quarterback Richie Reyes (5-9, 160) will run the Devils' wishbone, with tackle Elezar Hernandez (6-3, 245) and end K.G. Crumbaker (6-0, 160) good front line players. Marcus Williams (5-10, 160) doubles at end/safety. Sophomore J.D. Denton (5-11, 190) looks to contribute at halfback and linebacker.

Seton Catholic will have to go on the defensive this year. Graduation cleaned out 95% of the Sentinels' offense. Only fullback Adam Bullock, a 5-6, 155-pound scatback, returns. He gained 573 yards on 82 carries. In the playoffs, Seton (8-3) knocked out Coolidge in a close opening round game, then were steamrolled 55-6 by Blue Ridge in the quarterfinals.

3A West

Fans in **Wickenburg** have been treated to back-to-back nine-win seasons, so Tom McGoldrick and his staff are on the right track. Although graduation took a huge toll, look for the Wranglers (9-3) to be in the thick of the conference race. Overall, 12 lettermen return, including all-region guard Nick Pecora (6-3, 265) and quarterback/defensive back Will Sadowski (5-9, 178), two key players. Pecora also plays defensive end, as does Wes Davidson (6-4, 255), the team's center. Besides Sadowski, tailback Armando Gonzalez might be the only senior to log time in the backfield. Look for juniors Brett Melendez and David Alexander to get lots of playing time. The Wranglers open the season indoors against Chinle in the Round Valley Classic. "We had a good, solid season," claims McGoldrick. "We lost our entire backfield and two huge linemen, but we have some good players coming up."

One more win and **Fountain Hills** would have won a playoff ticket. The Falcons (5-4) look solid up front, with one of the biggest lines in the 3A West. In fact, graduation took only two starting linemen. Coach Jim Fairfield has three of the better players in the region, starting with quarterback Derek Martinson (5-11, 175), a senior with 4.7 speed. Flanker Todd Hadley (5-11, 185, 4.6) is one of the faster Falcons in camp, along with guard/linebacker Tim Polanco (6-0, 200). Jason Trulson (6-0, 175) and Jason Henslin (5-11, 180) are good two-way players. Junior Eric Swanson (6-4, 245) will start at center. Adam Butcher (6-0, 215) is a strong two-way tackle. Clarence Williams, a 6-0, 270-pound transfer from Globe, will be a welcome addition. Overall, 18 players return with varsity experience, plus Williams.

Much traveled Jim Beall, who won state championships at both Snowflake and Payson, has been hired to start the new program at **Higley**, located southeast of Phoenix. Beall won two 3A state titles at Snowflake, then later turned the same trick at Payson after a short stint in Oklahoma. It was his '98 Payson team which snapped Blue Ridge's state record winning streak at 63-straight games in the state finals. Higley, nicknamed the Knights, will start play in the 3A West. Beall has added two former East Valley head coaches to his staff. Mike Clark (Mesa Dobson) and Doc Holaday (Gilbert) have joined the mix.

The Orme School

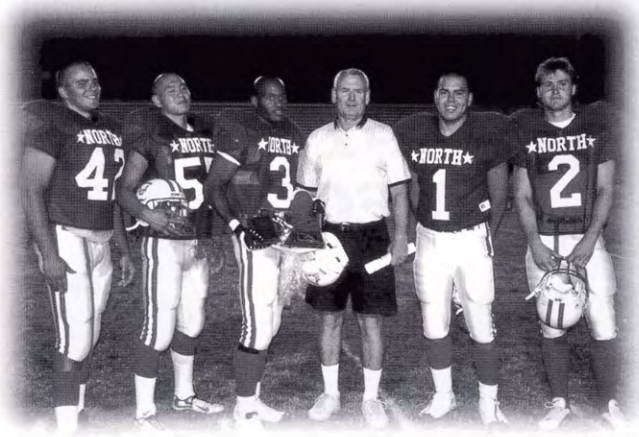
is a pristine gathering place
for teachers and students who share a passion
for academic excellence, adventure, and personal challenge.

Tradition,

"The great thing about the athletic program at Orme is that everybody gets to play. Young men and women who have little or no prior athletic experience can end up playing in state level play-off games. Experiences like these build a student's confidence, and that new-found confidence carries over into the classroom."

Bob Miller
Dean of Boys, Head Coach

Excellence,



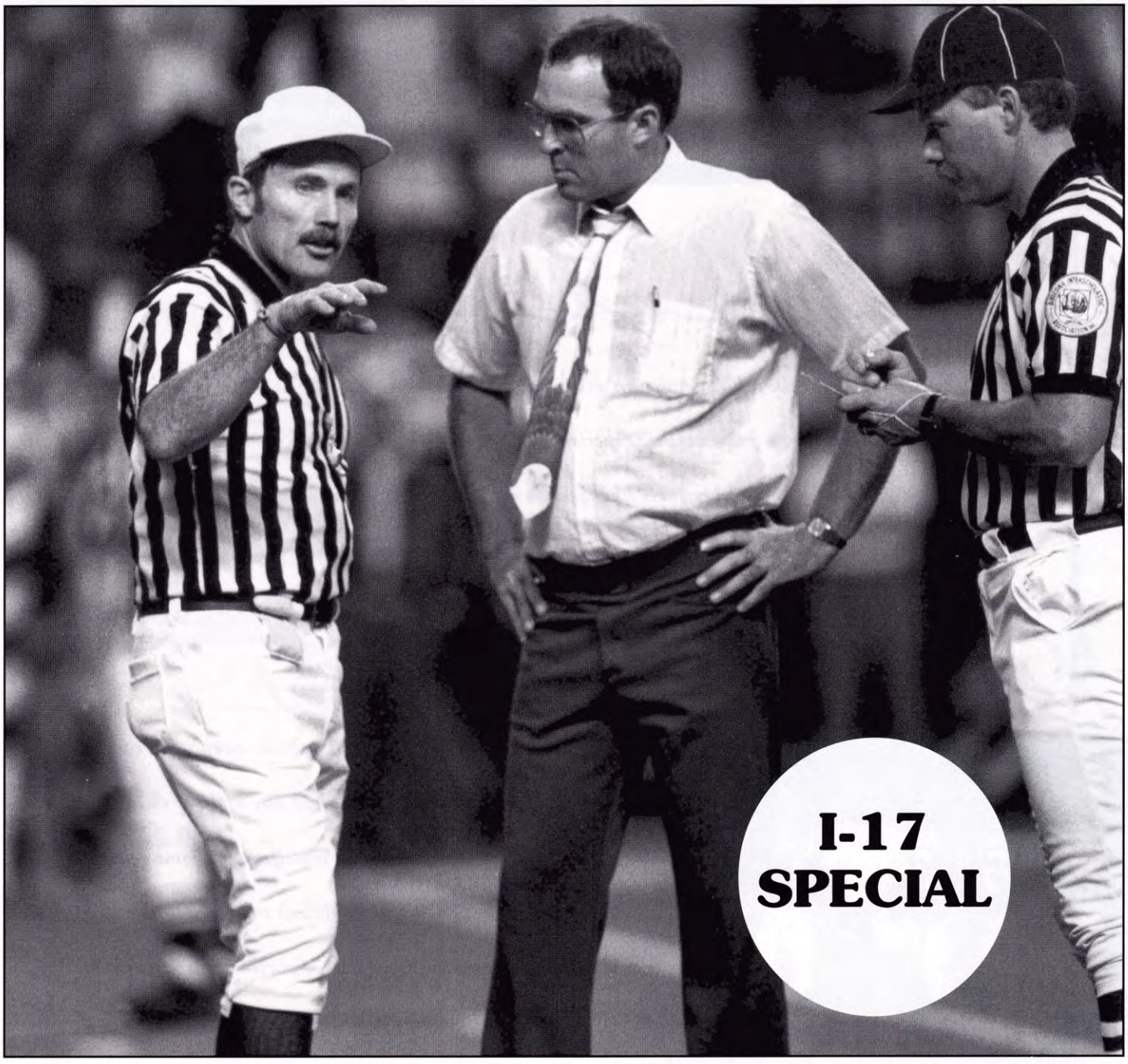
"Bob Miller is not only an exceptional coach, he is an even better man. On almost any night of the week, you can find students, including myself, at his home getting help in math or enjoying Mrs. Miller's snacks. Through his efforts, I am realizing my dream of playing college football. I have been very privileged to have had him as my coach and teacher, but especially as a friend."

Eli Smith #2
Class of '01

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Craig Holland, a long time assistant and head coach with the Eagles, is close to 100 wins at the Flagstaff school. (Arizona Daily Sun photo)

4A Flag's Tradition One of the Best

Grand Canyon

Craig Holland has seen a lot of changes during his long tenure at **Flagstaff High**. First as an assistant and now the head man, the former all-state basketball player enters the '01 campaign with a good stock of skill players, plus an improved defense. With this set the Eagles have a shot at the league crown and another playoff berth. Last year Tucson Sunnyside knocked their lights out in the playoff's first round. "We should be a solid defensive team," says Holland, who has won 82 games at the school. "We have good speed as always, but better size than usual." The Eagles (7-4) return three all-region players, defensive end Brian Buzzard (6-3, 230), linebacker Brian Skinner (5-10, 200) and deep back Jose Calleros (5-9, 165). Two-way tackle Colin Rice (6-3, 230) and little guard Brad Rainer (5-9, 160) reside on opposite sides of the scales, but start on the same line of scrimmage. Look for Sergio Rivera (5-10, 170) to get lots of action at tailback. The Eagles are deep at

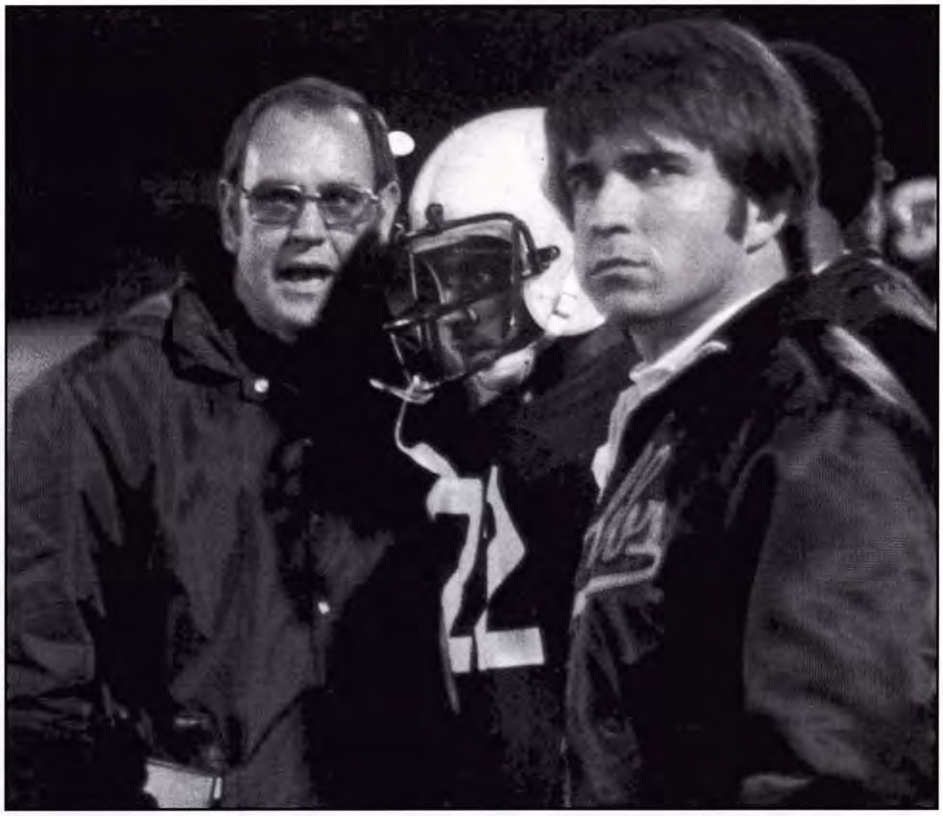
receiver, with Buzzard, sophomore Eric McCain (6-5, 180), junior Misha O'Connor (6-2, 175), and Richard Ranck (5-10, 165) in the lineup. Up front, sophomore Casey Modrell (6-0, 190) could start at center. Seniors Peter Van Wyck (5-10, 280) and Jeff Roensch (5-11, 305) take up lots of space. Since Flag High first fielded a varsity team in 1923, only one other northland team has won more games (401) than the Eagles. Winslow, which started the sport in 1915, leads the pack with 439 wins.

Flagstaff Coconino, with their quarterback and top running back returning, could be the team to beat. It's unusual for two Flagstaff schools to reach the playoffs, but Flag High and the Panthers pulled it off. Coach George Moate's strong club (10-2) lasted two rounds before Sunnyside ended their season. Two three-year lettermen at key positions, QB Brad Reber (6-2, 175) and center Pete Smith (6-2, 275), are back. But the "go to guy" at this school is junior tailback Robert Joyce (6-2, 205, 4.6), one of the top young prospects in the northland. Defensive back Trent Stingley (6-3, 205) is another three-time varsity player. Seniors Adam Callado, Cameron Jacobs, Mike Brockett, Tim Dodgen, Crayland Jelks, Dustin Burian and Carlos Conde give the Panthers a solid, experienced class. Two more juniors, fullback/linebacker Dan Villas and tackle Jacob Balderas, should start.

Flagstaff Sinagua hopes to bounce back from a winless season and be as competitive as two years ago. "The team played hard all season," says Ed Campos, the only football coach the school has had. "But a lack of experience and depth killed us." Still, the senior class looks thin. Only tackle Tanner Callan (6-2, 230), halfback Lee Stapley (5-10, 175) and linebacker Willis Morrison (5-11, 185), a transfer, are sure bets to start. The rest of the lineup is junior heavy, starting with wideout Kyle Pearson (6-3, 190) and halfback Andres Delgadillo (5-8, 170), two all-region picks. Delgadillo made the varsity as a freshman. Quarterback/safety Tim Brockwell (6-2, 185) made honorable mention.

4A Wells Fargo

One team with a solid senior class is **Prescott,** where Lou Beneitone returns 16 players from last year's playoff squad. Too bad it's not 17. All-region receiver, defensive back, kicker Jason Pridie, a good baseball player, might concentrate on that sport and miss the fall festivals. Still, the Badgers (7-4) look solid at several positions, with center Eric Folger (5-11, 260) and guard James Giggey (5-11, 255) all-region picks. Quarterback Jake Hanna (5-11, 150) is joined in the backfield by Brian Bonilla (5-11, 150) and Ryan Shipp (5-11, 170), good two-way players. End Spike Clatterbuck (6-0, 180) doubles in the secondary. Bryan Hoskins,



Jim Cromartie, who once coached at Hobbs, N.M. (above), hopes more fans will come to Sedona, and not just to view the red rocks (Hobbs News Sun).

Northern Arizona's Best

A look at some of the top players in Northern Arizona for the 2001 campaign, based on coaches' reports and post-season results:

QUARTERBACKS - Paul Thompson, Parker (6-0, 175); Matt Vigil, Chino Valley (5-11, 170); Brad Reber, Flagstaff Coconino (6-2, 175); Alex Moro, Blue Ridge (5-10, 160, jr); **BACKS** - Mike Montgomery, River Valley (5-10, 175); Jose Calleros, Flagstaff (5-9, 165); Sergio Rivera, Flagstaff (5-10, 170); Andres Del Gadillo, Flagstaff Sinagua (5-8, 170, jr.); Jon Ferris, Parker (5-9, 170); Will Sadowski, Wickenburg (5-9, 178); Tristan Green, Bullhead City Mohave (5-10, 175, jr.); Paul Ensman, Blue Ridge (5-11, 180); **LINEMEN** - Chaz Linscomb, St. Johns (6-5, 305); Eric Folger, Prescott (5-11, 260); James Griggey, Prescott (5-11, 255); Brian Buzzard, Flagstaff (6-3, 230); Pete Smith, Flagstaff coconino (6-2, 275); Scott Croff, Show Low (6-2, 290); Nick Pecora, Wickenburg (6-3, 265); Marc Johnston, Kingman (5-11, 190); E.J. Hurley, Kingman (6-3, 240); Brandon Ream, Camp Verde (6-5, 205); Cesar Felix, Sedona Red Rock (5-10, 195); Hayden Harper, Parker (6-5, 280); J.J. White, Parker (6-2, 275); **RECEIVERS** - Jason Pridie, Prescott (6-0, 170); Harrison Kush, Chino Valley (5-11, 165); Aaron Welly, Mingus Union (6-3, 190); Kyle Pearson, Flagstaff Coconino (6-3, 190); **LINEBACKERS** - Adam Moro, Blue Ridge (5-11, 180); Brian Skinner, Flagstaff (5-10, 200); Robert Joyce, Flagstaff Coconino (6-2, 205); Travis Lewis, Kingman (5-11, 185); **KICKERS** - Bryan Bonilla, Prescott (5-8, 160); Adam Moro, Blue Ridge (5-11, 180).

Congratulations Arizona State Champions!

2000 Chaparral FIREBIRDS



Coach Ron Estabrook's 2000 Firebirds finished with another 14-0 ledger, winning the East Sky Region for the fourth straight year and the 4A state championship for the second consecutive season.

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Scottsdale Chaparral



Randy Collett
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SALUTING ARIZONA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL CENTERS

2000.....Chris Palaia, Scottsdale Chaparral (6-2, 235)
1999.....Adrian Zvirgzdins, Glendale Cactus (6-3, 277)
1998.....Pat Walsh, Phoenix Brophy Prep (6-4, 260)
1997.....Scott Huff, Scottsdale Horizon (6-2, 250)
1996.....David McKane, Mesa (6-3, 215)
1995.....Eric Quackenbush, Show Low (6-4, 230)
1994.....Joey Horvat, Mesa Dobson (6-3, 245)
1993.....James Langston, Gilbert (6-1, 220)
1992.....Steve McKane, Mesa (6-2, 225)
1991.....Alvin Huff, Phoenix Maryvale (6-2, 232)
1990.....Rusty James, Mesa Mountain View (6-3, 235)
1989.....Jeff Wisch, Phoenix Moon Valley (6-1, 225)
1988.....Darian Mellon, Agua Fria (6-1, 211)
1987.....Andy Schultz, Tucson Amphi (6-2, 245)
1986.....Corey Suttles, Prescott (6-6, 230)
1985.....Dave Henderson, Phx. Alhambra (6-2, 220)
1984.....Jason Wisch, Moon Valley (6-2, 220)
1983.....Steve Spurling, Scottsdale Horizon (6-3, 230)
1982.....John Hoebee, Phoenix Maryvale (5-11, 200)
1981.....Tim Wyatt, Phoenix Moon Valley (6-1, 200)
1980.....Joe Williams, Apache Junction (6-1, 215)
1979.....Jim Polenske, Phoenix Maryvale (6-3, 255)
1978.....David Anders, Gilbert (6-2, 202)
1977.....Marty Van Gorder, Chandler (6-2, 220)
1976.....Pat Blakey, Scottsdale Coronado (6-2, 220)
1975.....Frank Collins, Phoenix Maryvale (6-1, 210)
1974.....Jim Flannery, Chandler (6-1, 190)
1973.....Nick Petrucci, Phoenix Camelback (6-2, 200)
1972.....Matt Smith, Phoenix St. Mary's (5-10, 190)
1971.....Mike Bailey, Tucson (6-3, 215)
1970.....Randy Collett, Tempe McClintock (6-0, 240)
1969.....Jeff Caldwell, Tucson Salpointe (5-11, 180)
1968.....Joe Flajnik, Prescott (6-3, 235)
1967.....Ken Hatcher, Mesa (6-1, 230)
1966.....Ken Hatcher, Mesa (6-1, 225)
1965.....Steve Pearson, Mesa Westwood (6-1, 225)
1964.....Mike Danielek, Glendale (6-0, 240)
1963.....Steve Sowders, Phoenix Camelback (6-1,185)
1962.....Walt Jones, Phoenix Union (6-1, 195)
1961.....Allen Thorn, Phoenix St. Mary's (5-10, 210)
1960.....Terry Cassady, Mesa (6-2, 230)
1959.....Tony Fletcher, Bisbee (6-2, 218)

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Homeless Cougars



"Junior" Tate

In all of Arizona it may be hard to find a school which has had more homes than **Casa Grande**. You name it and the Cougars have been there. From the days of the East Central Conference, to the Valley Conference, to the Class A South, 4A East Sky, the 5A Central, you name it.

Today the Cougars are off in search of another new adventure. This one is called the 5A Southern Region. For whatever reason - and there are many - the Cougars will travel to Tucson to knock heads with the likes of Amphitheater, Salpointe, Sabino and Sahuaro. Schools which probably will dominate them, just like their old rivals in Tempe.

Coach John Batina, who enters his fourth year at the helm, hopes last year's winless season is behind him. The varsity, loaded up with underclassmen, paid the price with an 0-10 record. To make matters worse, the junior varsity was winless also. Still, there's a small light of hope. Cougar fans hope it isn't that old train in the tunnel headed in their direction.

The offense will be built around fullback/linebacker Sidney Goodman (6-0, 225), one of the few quality seniors on the varsity. Classmates Brandon Roper, Rich Felix, Brandon Martinez, Kiel McWhirter, Seth Hollenbach and Zeon Sharp form a thin senior class. Juniors who could start include quarterback Mike Salazar, at 6-2, 180-pounds a slick passer, David Armenta, Tyrel Sinner, Steve Wilden and Tyronne James, to list a few.

Time usually goes by fast "when you are having fun". For Cougar fans recently it's been a slow process. The last winning season was in 1994, when "Stump" Mitchell, the former Cardinal running back, guided them through a 9-3 campaign and a berth in the 4A playoffs.

It didn't used to be so bleak. The potential is there. Legendary coaches like Howard "Chief" Wynn, Tom Black, Thomas "Shanty" Hogan and Al Van Hazel once roamed the Cougars' sidelines. In 1950, a Hogan-coached squad went unbeaten and scored more points (478) in three months than any Arizona school before them. To this day their 414.5 yards rushing per game is still a state record. During one season, three-fourths of Arizona State's starting backfield was from Casa Grande. In 1953, overaged sophomore James "Junior" Tate opened some eyes by averaging 20.3 yards per carry, a record which may never be broken. Later in the spring he set a state record in the long jump, sailing 23-feet, 10-inches.

For Cougar fans, those were the good old days.

Michael Alvarez, Cutterbuck and Shipp all play linebacker. Keep an eye on Chris Parker, a promising sophomore who could start both ways. "We didn't lose a home game and made the playoffs," adds Beneitone. "We played for the league championship, so this year we need to take it one step higher."

3A West

Sedona Red Rock moves into this revamped region with improvement the name of the game. Second-year coach Jim Cromartie, who took over the program late, gets a better start this time around. "We got a late start, but the kids improved as the season progressed," says the much traveled coach, who once was the head man at Hobbs, N.M. "We look forward to moving up to 3A. It will be a challenge." The Scorpions (3-6-1) look to senior Cesar Felix (5-10, 195) to build the offensive line around. He's also a linebacker and a three-year varsity player. Junior John Cunningham (6-0, 170) gets the nod at quarterback. He also starts in the secondary. But the key is the senior class. Besides Felix, the coaching staff looks to Fritz Nugent, Brian Sanders, Matt Lawler, Preston Tribble and Stuart Davis, to name a few, to carry the load.

The injury bug bit **Camp Verde** hard. If that problem is corrected, look for Luke Steege's club to improve. The Cowboys (4-5) return one dozen players, including all-region end Brandon Ream (6-5, 205), one of the better two-way players in the league. Classmates Ryan Anderson and Beau Franklin start on both sides of the ball also. Franklin is the team's center. The junior class will supply the quarterback, 6-0, 160-pound Chase Armstrong, and a good two-way back, David McDonald. Sophomore Charles Baca could start in the secondary. "We'll be young but aggressive," claims Steege, who enters his third year at the helm. "We lack size and have average speed. But if we stay healthy we'll be better."

It was a tough run at **Chino Valley**. Tracy Hunter took over the program and implanted a new system, one which should be vastly improved. The Cougars won one game with 18 underclassmen on the roster, and most of them played. The pass and catch combo of quarterback Matt Vigil (5-11, 170) throwing to Harrison Kush (5-11, 165) will draw some attention. In fact, mix in wideouts Dustin Lopez and Jackson Campbell to the Cougars' run & shoot offense, and Chino has the makings of an exciting club. "I'm excited about coaching the great kids we have here," says Hunter. "We have a lot of players returning that know our system now. We'll be better."

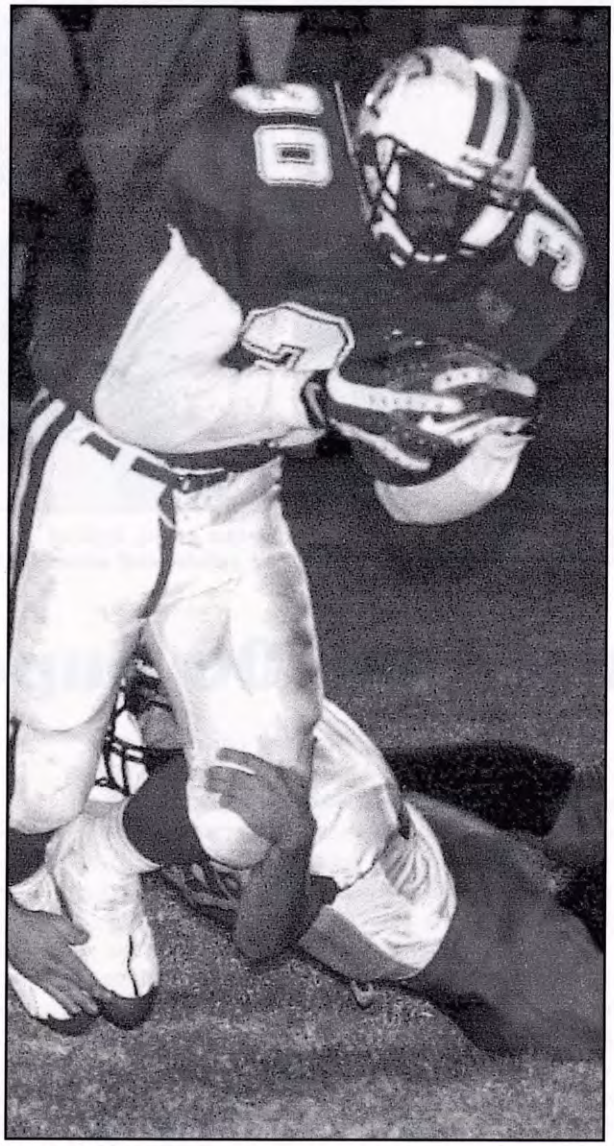
2A North Canyon

For the first time in several years, **The Orme School** will get a taste of life without Jabari Felton-Smith. This is good news for rival teams, but bad news for the Warriors. Smith, the Arizona 2A Player of the Year, picked up his diploma and headed off to college. Last year he gained 2,434 yards and scored 44 touchdowns, a state 2A record. He singlehandedly led his team into the state quarterfinals. How much will he be missed? During his career, which included games in both 8-man and 11-man, he rushed for 4,574 yards and scored 94 touchdowns. "We had a surprising good season," says veteran coach Bob Miller, whose team finished 8-3. "But this year we are slim. We hope to be competitive because of our line. We have some experience there." Only five regulars return: tackle Sean Fisher (5-9, 190), guard J.B. Kessler (5-9, 190), center Nich Tunnel (6-2, 160), end Landis Taylor (6-2, 195) and guard John Chilos (5-10, 195). Taylor and Chilos are the only seniors. The Warriors, for the second year in a row, open the season against Arizona Lutheran in the Round Valley Classic in Eagar.

ALL STAR SPORTS CENTER Salutes

The Yavapai County Players of the Year

2000 .....JABARI FELTON-SMITH
.....Orme School (RB/DB)
1999 .....TONY GRAY
.....Bradshaw Mtn. (RB) jr.
1998 .....LAYNE CAMPBELL
.....Prescott (LB)
1997 .....MIKE RHORER
.....Mingus Union (RB/DB)
1996 .....KEVIN LARSON
.....Prescott (RB)
1995 .....DAVID MORAN
.....Bradshaw Mtn. (QB)
1994 .....DAVID MORAN
.....Bradshaw Mtn. (QB) jr.
1993 .....HEATH MELTON
.....Mingus Union (RB)
1992 .....HAMILTON MEE
.....Mingus Union (DL)
1991 .....JIM RICHARDSON
.....Bradshaw Mtn. (QB) jr.
1990 .....JAKE BARNES
.....Mingus Union (OT)
1989 .....JAKE BARNES
.....Mingus Union (OT) jr.
1988 .....SAM AUSTRINO
.....Prescott (DL)
1987 .....GUY GROVER
.....Prescott (RB/DB)
1986 .....COREY SUTTLES
.....Prescott (C)
1985 .....TIM WEST
.....Prescott (DB)
1984 .....DAVID ANDERSON
.....Bradshaw Mtn. (RB)
1983 .....BRIAN SCHAR
.....Prescott (QB)
1982 .....MIKE REHMET
.....Orme School (C)
1981 .....DAVID MCELVAIN
.....Bradshaw Mtn. (QB)
1980 .....CURT DEVEREAUX
.....Prescott (DL)



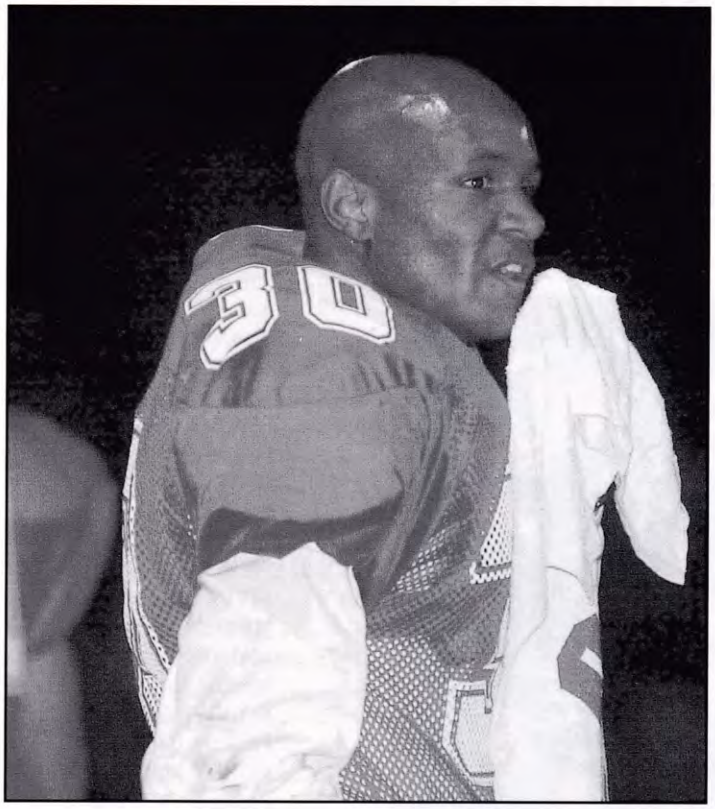
Jabari Felton-Smith rushed for 2,434 yards and scored 44 touchdowns. (Prescott Courier photo)

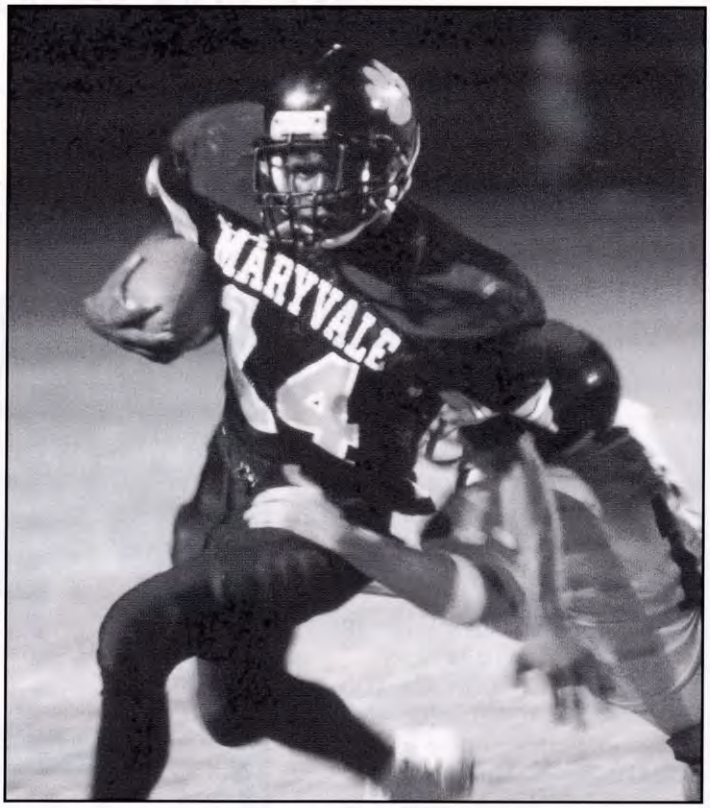
1979 .....JOE PRUZINA
.....Prescott (DL)
1978 .....ART MARTINEZ
.....Mingus Union (DB)
1977 .....DAVID SORIANO
.....Mayer (LB)
1976 .....JIM TATUM
.....Prescott (RB)
1975 .....RON LOTT
.....Prescott (OL)
1974 .....STEVE CORSON
.....Mingus Union (RB)
1973 .....MARVIN DOTSON
.....Mingus Union (E)
1972 .....BOBBY MANRIGUEZ
.....Prescott (WB/DB)
1971 .....BOBBY MANRIGUEZ
.....Prescott (WB/DB) jr.
1970 .....GEORGE KAGELE
.....Prescott (DL)
1969 .....MAX CASTILLO
.....Mingus Union (G)
1968 .....JOE FLAGNIK
.....Prescott (OC)
1967 ..... DENNIS KENDRICK
..... Prescott (DB)
1966 .....RAYMOND ACOSTA
.....Ash Fork (C)
1965 .....FRANK MURDOCK
.....Camp Verde (RB)
1964 .....JOHN PARKER
..... Mingus Union (G)
1963 .....CLIFFORD BIRD
..... Camp Verde (QB)
.....WAYNE HODGES
.....Camp Verde (WR)
1962 .....JOE RUDY
.....Camp Verde (RB)
1961 .....KENNETH FAIT
.....Orme School (RB)
1960 .....DON WILSON
.....Bagdad (C)

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Jabari Felton-Smith (left), one of the best two-way players in the state, scored 44 touchdowns and rushed for 2,434 yards. Arizona State-bound Daryl Lightfoot (14) gained 1,711 yards and scored 21 times (Prescott Courier photo).

Speed Galore on '00 Super All-State

By SAMMY WRIGHT

Speed, a key ingredient in Arizona schoolboy football for more than a century, was more than evident last fall. College recruiters hunting for speed need look no farther than the Grand Canyon State.

Football and track, for many years the state's premier major sports, was a friendly mix again, with more track stars playing football than ever before. When the dust cleared last spring, no less than 21 state track champions were star football players last fall, and the majority received college scholarships for football.

As usual, the quickest came from South Mountain, in the form of all-state defensive back **Jason Shivers**. An Arizona State signee, Shivers' sprint times of 10.67 and 21.57 were the best in Arizona, regardless of class. He and teammate **Joey Smith**, another ASU catch, were members of the Jaguars' speedy (41.6) 400 meter relay team. Shivers, along with Hamilton High safety **Chaz Scott**, an Oregon State signee, where arguably two of the best defensive backs in this part of the country. Throw in Agua Fria's **Lamar Baker**, another defensive ace, and the secondary appeared to be the strongest position in the Phoenix region. Baker, a 10.86 sprinter, is also an Arizona State signee.

Player of the Year **Mike Bell**, the pride of Tolleson, will take his state-leading 2,484 rushing yards and 39 touchdowns to the University of Arizona, along with enough speed to win the 4A intermediate hurdles in 38.5 seconds.

Sun Devil signee **Daryl Lightfoot**, a member of Maryvale's state leading (41.3) sprint relay team, earned 5A Player of the Year honors after rushing for 1,711 yards and scoring 21 touchdowns. It's no wonder most of the state's premier football programs are top-flight track schools.

When it came to breaking records, the latest king in this category was **Jabari Felton-Smith** of The Orme School. The state's 2A Player of the Year, who committed to Northern Arizona University, gained 2,434 yards and scored 44 touchdowns, both 2A single season records. A three-time state 100 meter dash champ, he averaged 11.1 yards per carry.

Last fall, in the half of three games, Smith scored eight touchdowns against Salome; seven against Williams and Joseph City. He rushed for 361 yards against Mayer in the mud, and during his varsity career (which included games in 8-man and 11-man), he rushed for 4,574 yards and scored 94 touchdowns, including eight on kick returns. An excellent defensive back, the former Luke Greenway 100 meter champ intercepted eight passes last fall, 15 during his career.

This year, Sunnyslope quarterback **Mike Nixon** has the potential to become the most prolific passer in Arizona history. Entering the '01 campaign, Nixon has passed for 5,455 career yards and 40 touchdowns, and is only the third junior QB selected to the *Super All-State Team* since 1982. The other two were Desert Vista signal caller **John Rattay** and Tucson Sahuaro's **Rodney Peete**.

Following last year's Fiesta Bowl, Tolleson's Mike Bell, along with head coach Dan Widmaier, were presented with



Jason Shivers
South Mountain



Cornell Canidate
Alhambra

*2000 Super All-State

OFFENSE

Pos.	Player / High School / Size	Head Coach
QB	Mike Nixon, Phoenix Sunnyslope, 6-2, 190 (jr)	Dallas Hickman
RB	Mike Bell, Tolleson, 6-2, 205	Dan Widmaier
RB	Daryl Lightfoot, Phoenix Maryvale, 5-9, 170	Tom Bruney
RB	Jimmy Wilson, Phoenix Christian, 6-2, 210	Keith Brown
WR	Junior Taylor, Mesa, 6-3, 190	Bill McKane
WR	Lynzell Jackson, Tempe Union, 6-3, 185	Tim McBurney
TE	Daniel White, Tolleson Westview, 6-2, 220	George Martinez
OL	Richie Incognito, Glendale Mountain Ridge, 6-4, 294	Jim Ewan
OL	Chris Palaia, Scottsdale Chaparral, 6-2, 235	Ron Estabrook
OL	Mark Standage, Scottsdale Desert Mountain, 6-4, 263	Steve Belles
OL	Travis Bright, Gilbert Highland, 6-5, 310	Mike Reardon
OL	Nate Gibbs, Phoenix Moon Valley, 6-4, 304	Roger Briston
PK	Ryan Slack, Tucson Salpointe, 6-1, 192	Pat Welchert
P	Derek McLaughlin, Mesa Mountain View, 6-2, 194	Bernie Busken

DEFENSE

DB	Jabari Felton-Smith, Orme School, 5-10, 180	Bob Miller
DB	Jason Shivers, Phoenix South Mountain, 6-1, 190	Cleveland Dansby
DB	Lamar Baker, Avondale Agua Fria, 5-10, 188	Mickey Bell
DB	Chaz Scott, Chandler Hamilton, 6-3, 215	John Wrenn
LB	David Coronado, Tucson Sunnyside, 5-10, 180	Richard Sanchez
LB	Steve Walker, Mesa Red Mountain, 5-11, 190	Jimmy Jones
LB	Bruce Branch, Flagstaff Coconino, 6-1, 205	George Moate
DL	Buck Leavitt, Mesa Red Mountain, 6-5, 230	Jimmy Jones
DL	James Robinson, Phoenix Brophy Prep, 6-2, 240	Tim Sanford
DL	Drew Severn, Phoenix Deer Valley, 6-2, 265	Rick Mey
DL	Nick Walag, Mesa Red Mountain, 6-3, 260	Jimmy Jones
DL	Luis Lujan, Phoenix Central, 6-3, 255	Tom Tucker
KR	Cornell Canidate, Phoenix Alhambra, 5-10, 170	Frank Lautt
KR	Jabari Felton-Smith, Orme School, 5-10, 180	Bob Miller

Selected annually be the editors & staff of* ***Phoenix Metro Football Magazine*

the **Vic Housholder Trophy** by the **Scottsdale Quarterback Club**, awarded annually to the state's premier player. Additional members of *Phoenix Metro Football Magazine's Super All-State Team* were recognized, including Mesa receiver **Junior Taylor** (UCLA), Mountain Ridge tackle **Richie Incognito** (Nebraska), Nixon and Smith.

Taylor, along with Tempe's **Lynzell Jackson**, were two of the best wideouts in the state. Taylor, a threat returning kicks as well, caught 49 passes for 689 yards and seven touchdowns in Mesa's run-oriented offense, which won the East Valley Region title, clobbering state finalist Westwood and Red Mountain in the process. Jackson, who is bound for Utah, caught 56 passes for 880 yards and 14 scores.

Scottsdale Chaparral's 28-14 win over Tucson Sunnyside in the 4A finals was the Firebirds' 28th consecutive win, best ever in that class. The previous 4A high belonged to Safford, which won 26 straight games before Agua Fria knocked their socks off in the 1970 finals, 48-26. The class leaders include 5A Mountain View (40), 3A Blue Ridge (63), 2A St. Johns (36), and Pima (33) in 8-man ball.

Coaching, team and individual milestones were reached by many. Mesa's 8-4 finish pushes the Jackrabbits closer to the magic 600 win mark. Since 1920, the school's Purple & Gold football legions have marched through a 584-246-37 football history. Their 37 ties is also believed to be a state record.

At Mountain Pointe, the Pride finished with a 5-6 mark, giving long-time mentor **Karl Kiefer** a 282-112-3 log as he moves closer to 300 wins. In Tucson, Amphitheater head coach **Vern Friedli** is close behind at 273-100-2. Friedli's 229 wins in Pantherville is the most ever at the same school, breaking the previous record of 227 set by Winslow's Emil Nasser. Overall, Friedli has coached at Morenci, Casa Grande, San Manuel and Amphi.

Class 3A champ Blue Ridge, coached by **Paul Moro**, has won 88 of their last 90 games. Both losses have been in the state finals, 29-20 to Payson in 1998, and 26-25 to Show Low one year later. Last fall Moro's undefeated club beat Parker 67-19 in the 3A finals at Mesa Community College, the eighth such title won by Moro. His .867 winning percentage at the Lakeside school is the second best in state history. Former Flagstaff mentor **Rick Smith** won 88% of his games and four state championships during a short stint with the Eagles.

2000 STATE-WIDE AWARDS

Coach of the Year
Jimmy Jones,
Red Mountain

5A Player of the Year
Daryl Lightfoot, Maryvale

4A Player of the Year
Mike Bell, Tolleson

3A Player of the Year
Tyler Maxwell,
Blue Ridge

2A Player of the Year
Jabari Felton-Smith,
Orme School

1A Player of the Year
Brent Trejo,
St. David

*2000 All-State Teams

CLASS 5A

Offense:

QB Chad Christensen, Desert Mountain, 6-2, 185
RB Daryl Lightfoot, Phoenix Maryvale, 5-9, 170
RB Steve Walker, Mesa Red Mountain, 5-11, 190
RB Cornell Canidate, Phoenix Alhambra, 5-10, 170
WR Junior Taylor, Mesa, 6-3, 190
WR Lee Resendes, Peoria, 6-1, 170 (jr)
TE Daniel White, Tolleson Westview, 6-2, 220
OC Brett Crandell, Mesa Mountain View, 6-3, 260
OL Mark Standage, Desert Mountain, 6-4, 263
OL Travis Bright, Gilbert Highland, 6-5, 310
OL Richie Incognito, Mountain Ridge, 6-4, 294
OL Brandon Hopkins, Mesa Westwood, 6-6, 270
PK Ryan Slack, Tucson Salpointe, 6-1, 192
P Derek McLaughlin, Mesa Mountain View, 6-2, 194

Defense:

DB Jason Shivers, Phoenix South Mountain, 6-1, 190
DB Chaz Scott, Chandler Hamilton, 6-3, 215
DB David Tafuna, Mesa, 6-2, 190
DB Ross Luna, Peoria, 5-11, 176
LB Steve Walker, Mesa Red Mountain, 5-11, 190
LB Jason Rodriguez, Chandler Hamilton, 6-1, 195
LB Dylan Lukens, Gilbert, 6-5, 215
DL James Robinson, Phoenix Brophy Prep, 6-2, 240
DL Buck Leavitt, Mesa Red Mountain, 6-5, 230
DL Luis Lujan, Phoenix Central, 6-3, 255
DL Drew Severn, Phoenix Deer Valley, 6-2, 265
DL Nick Walag, Mesa Red Mountain, 6-3, 260
KR Cornell Canidate, Phoenix Alhambra, 5-10, 170

CLASS 4A

Offense

QB Mike Nixon, Phoenix Sunnyslope, 6-2, 190 (jr)
RB Mike Bell, Tolleson, 6-2, 205
RB Frank Drew, Buckeye, 5-10, 215
RB C.R. Davis, Phoenix Moon Valley, 6-2, 180
TE Jacob Laikona, Tempe Union, 6-3, 225
WR Lynzell Jackson, Tempe Union, 6-3, 185
WR Ryan Jones, Scottsdale Saguaro, 6-0, 170
OC Chris Palaia, Scottsdale Chaparral, 6-2, 235
OL Nate Gibbs, Phoenix Moon Valley, 6-4, 304
OL Glenn Slivers, Flagstaff, 6-4, 300
OL Eddy Yauch, Marana Mountain View, 6-2, 265
OL Lance Robinson, Scottsdale Chaparral, 6-3, 295
PK Nagui Sabbagh, Scottsdale Saguaro, 5-9, 160

Defense

DB Lamar Baker, Avondale Agua Fria, 5-10, 188
DB Russhon Armstrong, Tucson Santa Rita, 6-1, 175
DB Chris Conner, Phoenix Greenway, 5-9, 155
DB Carl Marshall, Tolleson, 6-1, 185
DL Tyler Paytas, Scottsdale Chaparral, 6-3, 240
DL Loren Howard, Scottsdale Saguaro, 6-5, 255 (jr)
DL Kyle Caldwell, Scottsdale Saguaro, 6-2, 230 (so)
DL Lyle Sendlein, Scottsdale Chaparral, 6-4, 240 (jr)
LB David Coronado, Tucson Sunnyside, 5-10, 180
LB Bruce Branch, Flagstaff Coconino, 6-2, 205
LB Mike Wells, Tucson Sahuaro, 6-3, 210
KR Tony Gray, Bradshaw Mountain, 5-9, 175
KR Dustin Ireland, Scottsdale Chaparral, 5-8, 170

CLASS 3A

Offense

QB Chris Semore, Ganado, 5-10, 190
RB Mike Smith, Coolidge, 5-10, 175
RB Tyler Maxwell, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 5-8, 155
RB Mike Montgomery, River Valley, 5-8, 165 (jr)
WR Mike Hollowell, Chandler Seton Catholic, 6-3, 180
WR Corey Austin, Springerville Round Valley, 5-10, 172
TE Cody Mueller, Ganado, 6-3, 210
OC Scott Croff, Show Low, 6-2, 290 (jr)
OL J.J. White, Parker, 6-2, 275
OL David Russell, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 5-11, 185
OL D.J. Michael, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 6-2, 225
OL Jordan Merchant, Wickenburg, 6-3, 280
K Adam Moro, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 5-11, 180 (jr)

Defense

LB Adam Moro, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 5-11, 180 (jr)
LB Jason Semore, Ganado, 5-11, 190
LB Shane Fern, Wickenburg, 5-9, 168
LB Mitchell Willis, Queen Creek, 6-3, 215
DL Tony Qorri, Wickenburg, 6-5, 220
DL Seth Slade, Springerville Round Valley, 6-2, 225
DL Scott Croff, Show Low, 6-2, 290 (jr)
DL Isreal Ibarra, Eloy Santa Cruz, 5-8, 155 (jr)
DB Matt Belshe, Show Low, 6-2, 215
DB Tyler Maxwell, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 5-8, 155
DB Paul Ensman, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 5-11, 180
DB Buddy LeSueur, Springerville Round Valley, 6-0, 187
KR Tyler Maxwell, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 5-8, 155

CLASS 2A

Offense

QB Vince Morgan, St. Johns, 5-10, 164
RB Jabari Felton-Smith, Orme School, 5-10, 180
RB Jimmy Wilson, Phoenix Christian, 6-2, 210
RB Sean Hinton, Thatcher, 6-0, 195 (jr)
WR Jon Richardson, St. Johns, 5-10, 152
WR Jacob Coate, Chandler Valley Christian, 6-1, 180
OC Joey Titus, Thatcher, 6-0, 210
OL Kelly Huet, Arizona Lutheran Academy, 6-4, 275
OL Kris Pulsipher, St. Johns, 6-0, 230
OL Isaac LaVant, Phoenix Christian, 6-2, 255 (jr)
OL Greg Lockhart, Willcox, 6-4, 220
K Jacob Gamboa, Queen Creek, 5-8, 165

Defense

LB Mike Wilda, Phoenix Bourgade Catholic, 5-10, 180
LB Mitchell Willis, Queen Creek, 6-3, 215
LB Brandon Isaac, Phoenix Christian, 5-10, 220 (jr)
DL Matt Huffman, Maricopa, 6-2, 220 (jr)
DL Deven Dicus, Thatcher, 5-10, 200
DL Russ Richardson, Phoenix Christian, 6-2, 260 (jr)
DL Casey Woodall, Morenci, 5-11, 190 (jr)
DB Jabari Felton-Smith, Orme School, 5-10, 180
DB Michael Romney, Thatcher, 6-0, 180 (jr)
DB Eric Harper, Northwest Community Christian, 5-9, 150
DB Quinton McCoy, Chandler Valley Christian, 5-11,166 (jr)
KR Jabari Felton-Smith, Orme School, 5-10, 180

Selected by the editors and staff of* ***Phoenix Metro Football Magazine**, Barry Sollenberger, Publisher.*



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Sun Devil Preview

By Lonnie Collins

Arizona State, once a model of coaching consistency in the profession, enters the 2001 football campaign with its 7th head coach since 1979. This is a school which, prior to major internal changes, had the same head man (Frank Kush) for 22 years.

The new sheriff in town is young Dirk Koetter, until recently the head coach at Boise State. Koetter replaces Bruce Snyder, the keeper of the Sun Devils' house since 1992.

During Snyder's tenure the Devils had their moments, most notable the 1996 Pac-10 championship season. That ended with a runnerup finish in the Rose Bowl. During Snyder's' eight season in Tempe, ASU won 56% of its games and played in four bowls, winning two.

But somebody wanted more, and Koetter is now the guy. Boise State was his first head job, following stints at San Francisco State, Missouri, Boston College and Oregon as an assistant. He is the Sun Devils' 21st head coach.

With 50 returning lettermen, including eight starters on both offense and defense, the cupboard is not bare. For Koetter and quarterback coach Mark Helfrich, the job of finding a field general is top priority. Sophomore Jeff Krohn (6-2, 185) started 10 games and set a school single-game record for a freshman with 432 yards and five touchdowns during a 56-55 double overtime loss to Oregon. Overall, the former Scottsdale Horizon star passed for 1,751 yards and 12 touchdowns. Matt Cooper, Lance Rhodes, Andrew Walter and incoming freshman Chad Christensen, a product of Desert Mountain High in Scottsdale, will give Krohn a run for the job. The position looks deep, but green.

The case is different at tailback, where the Devils are stocked with good, experienced players. At the top of the chart is Delvon Flowers (5-11, 196) and Tommy Pace (5-10, 190), both seniors. It was Flowers who missed all of last year with a torn ACL in his left knee. He scored six touchdowns and rushed for 512 yards in a backup role as a junior.

Pace, a former Mesa High quarterback, was the surprise of the season. A walk-on who earned a scholarship midway through the season, he led the team in rushing, carrying the ball 180 times for 720 yards. He averaged 21.3 yards per catch coming out of the backfield. Sophomore Mike Williams (6-0, 193) started three games as a true freshman. He finished second on the team in rushing, gaining 514 yards and scoring five times. His 143-yard game against nationally ranked Colorado State was the first 100-yard day for an ASU freshman in nine years.

"I think tailback is probably the deepest position on our offense," claims Koetter. "We have three guys who have started at different times. I think we can win with any of these three."

Flowers was not quit 100 percent in the spring, but close to it. Pace can do everything well. He runs, catches and blocks. Williams has gotten stronger and faster in the offseason, as expected from young players. Sophomore Mike Karney (6-0, 260) has the edge at fullback going into the season. He played in 11 games last year.

Since Koetter's wide-open offense highlights the receiving corps, the Devils are fortunate to be battle tested here. Gone from the program is tight end Todd Heap and wideout Richard Williams, but a fleet good pass catchers return. Look for Donnie O'Neal (6-2, 180) and Shaun McDonald (5-9, 168) to pick up the slack. O'Neal caught 39 passes for 661 yards, while McDonald, a former sprint champ at Shadow Mountain High, snared 22 passes for 358 yards. Justin Taplin (6-0, 190), a former state player of the year, will figure heavy into the mix, while Ryan Dennard (6-4, 218), who caught the first touchdown pass of his career in the Aloha Bowl, turned in a strong performance in the spring.

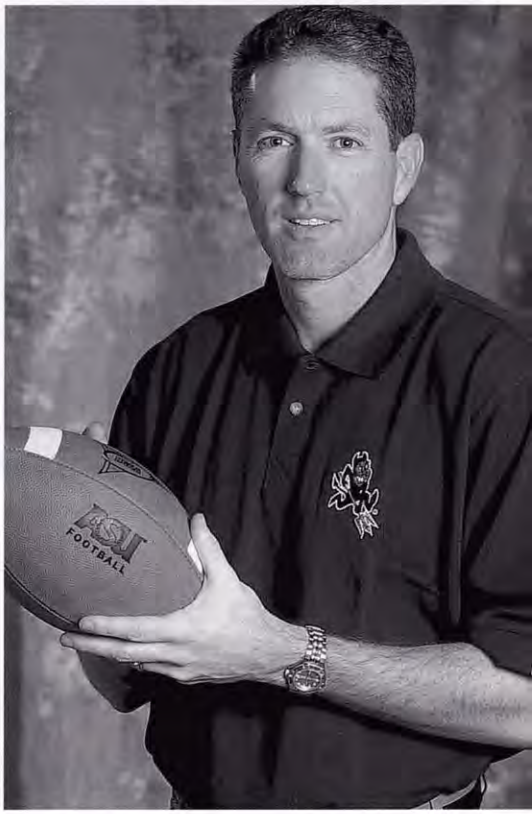
Taplin, a product of nearby Tempe High, has play-making ability. He is a good blocker, catches well in a crowd and will be used (along with McDonald) to return kicks. Mike Pinkard, a 6-5, 260-pound junior from Thornton, Colorado, has the inside track to start at tight end.

One of the strongest positions on the team is offensive line. Here the Devils are set. Scott Peters (6-4, 293), Kyle Kosier (6-6, 290), Levi Jones (6-6, 316) and Marquis Muldrow (6-3, 320) all started. Sophomore Regis Crawford (6-3, 320) will move in at right guard. Kosier (Glendale Cactus), Jones (Eloy Santa Cruz) and Muldrow (Maryvale) are former local schoolboy standouts.

Defensively, players who played a lot of snaps include linemen Kurt Wallin (6-2, 270), Tommie Townsend (6-3, 294), Paul Glass (6-6, 335) and Danny Masaniai (6-2, 315), all seniors. Throw in sophomore defensive end Terrell Suggs (6-3, 232), the Pac-10 Freshman of the Year, and the Devils look tough. Linebackers Solomon Bates (6-2, 257), Eric fields (6-3, 235) and Mason Unck (6-2, 235) also return.

Senior Willie Daniel (6-0, 205) and junior Alfred Williams (6-1, 200) are veteran safeties. Redshirt freshmen R.J. Oliver (5-9, 168) and Emmanuel Franklin (5-11, 184) have emerged as the leading contenders to start at cornerback.

The surprise newcomer here could be incoming freshman Jason Shivers (6-1, 190), the state 5A sprint champ (10.67/21.57) from South Mountain High. Shivers and Chandler Hamilton grad Chaz Scott, an Oregon State signee (see Super All-State), were rated by *Phoenix Metro Football Magazine* as the two best defensive backs in Arizona last year.

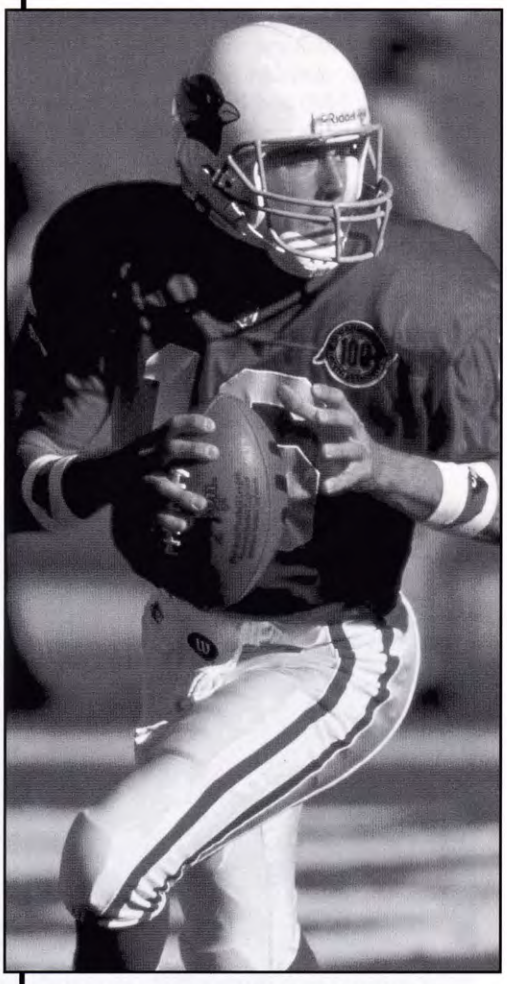


New Sun Devil mentor Dirk Koetter is the 7th different head coach at the school since 1979.

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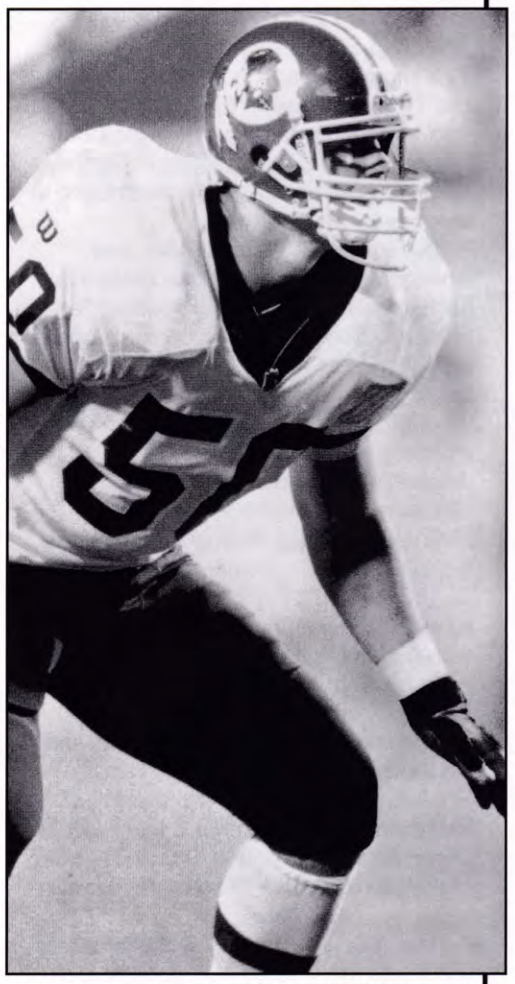
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Glendale Tops in NJCAA

By Jeff Krider



The bounces went their way. All season long. Near-perfect **Glendale Community College** ended a near-perfect season with a close, down-to-the wire contest with top-ranked Garden City, Kansas, 13-7, in the Valley of the Sun Bowl last December.

Coach Mike Grossner was a happy man, to say the least. His Gauchos used a suffocating defense to corral visiting quarterback Corey Jenkins, his team's most valuable player, and forced the run-happy Kansas club (11-1) to pass. They were 0 for 15 on third-down attempts.

Before the game, Garden City had not allowed more than 17 points in any game, including a dramatic four-overtime win over Butler which propelled them into the Valley of the Sun. The bowl game was played in Glendale.

In spite of the low scoring, there were several big plays. But the biggest of all came late in the third quarter when freshman quarterback Steve Cota hit wideout Mark Marcos, one of the fastest players on the field, with a 73-yard touchdown pass and run. "He (Marcos) can't be caught in the open field," claimed Grossner.

The win propelled the Gauchos to the top of the final NJCAA poll, and capped a near-perfect 10-1 campaign. It was the school's second NJCAA football crown, and a much happier ending to the season than the previous year, when they were thumped by Hutchinson (Kansas) in the same bowl.

"We had everything fall into place, to say the least," said Grossner. "When you win the national championship there's not much more you can say. We look forward to defending it. We have a great nucleus of players returning."

Glendale entered the game ranked No. 3 in the nation, while the visitors owned the top spot. Four Western States Football League teams played in bowls last year. Besides the Valley of the Sun Bowl, the Real Dairy Bowl in Pocatello, Idaho, featured rivals Ricks against Snow in a rematch from a regular season game.

The Rotary Bowl in St. George, Utah, had home favorite Dixie against William Rainey Harper from Illinois. Left out of the bowl picture was a strong Arizona Western team, which despite its 7-2 record and second-place tie in the league was not invited to a bowl. Two years ago the Matadors went bowling in New York.

Glendale landed three first-team members on the Western States Football League all-star team: linebacker Keith Drunasky, kicker Sergio Sausedo and defensive back Eric Blackwell, who returns for one more season. The 6-1, 215-pound safety is one of several big time returning players. He runs 40 yards in 4.5 seconds.

With Cota, a 6-4, 205-pounder, back at quarterback, plus offensive linemen Ryan Van Wave (6-2, 265) and Brent Bridges (6-3, 275), the Gauchos have a good nucleus to work with. Throw in tailback Anthony Tharrington (5-10, 185, 4.5) and the running game is set. He averaged 8.9 yards per carry and gained 1,100 yards in the process. Matt Mason, a 6-4, 250-pound defensive end, might be one of the best in the region. Eric Boyles (6-2, 315), Pete Harris (6-4, 305), Martin Lopez (6-6, 320) and Matt Schwander (6-4, 320) are the biggest Gauchos on the farm.

Although Glendale returns a wealth of talent (40 lettermen overall), few schools in the state are going to run and hide. They start defense of their title on the road in Tucson, with a date at the University of Arizona against the newest member of the league, Pima Community College.

At **Mesa Community College**, David Rice is trying to erase the memory of one of the school's worst-ever seasons. It should be easy to do. There wasn't much to remember about a one-win campaign. Especially at Mesa. "It was a disaster," says Rice. "That's all I have to say. But we'll rebound. We have an excellent quarterback, two big time receivers and a much improved defense. No matter what league you play in, at what level, you have to play defense."

Newcomer Matt McAdams (6-3, 215) is the key guy. He has two top-flight receivers to throw to in Jay Williams (6-4, 190, 4.5) and Roger Moore (5-10, 185, 4.4). Williams caught six touchdown passes last year. Ashton Holbrook (6-4, 310), a transfer from Ricks College, gives the Thunderbirds a solid figure up front. Safety Matt Porr (6-4, 190) and defensive end Dan Law (6-2, 230) are two excellent players. Law is from Mountain View.

First-year **Pima Community College** coach Jeff Scurran, the former Tucson Sabino coach, will get his baptism into the league against a tough foe. Pima opens the season against Glendale at the University of Arizona.

Scurran, known for turning Sabino High into a statewide powerhouse, was named the school's first football coach last year. The school board approved the sport and citizen groups have pledged to raise money to help fund the program.

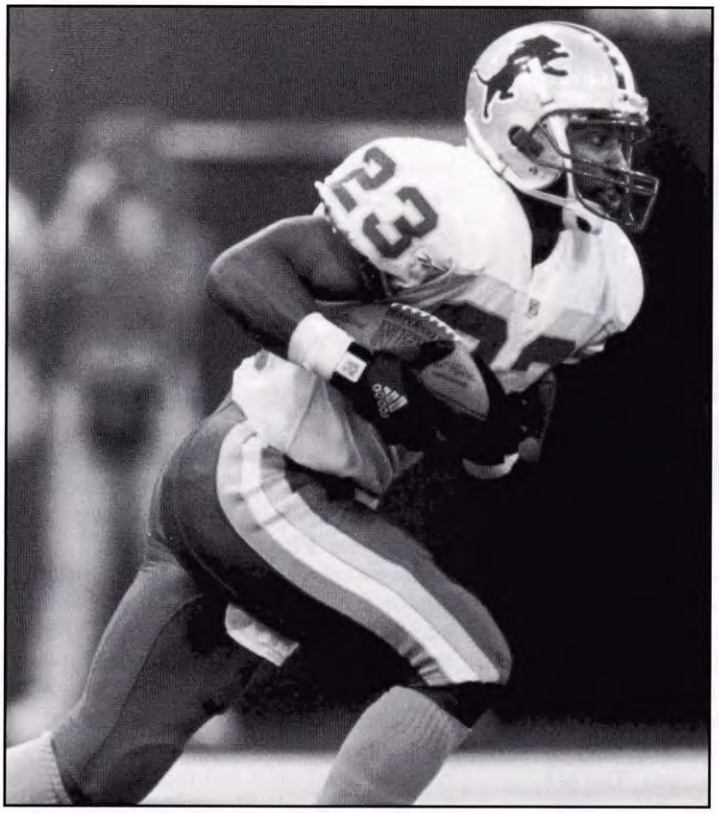
"To be able to stay in Tucson and have a college coaching job is everything I could have ever wanted," Scurran said after accepting the job. "Our first job will be to get the interest of Pima County's vast crop of high school talent. There's a lot of good kids who might be on the bubble, who before didn't have a local junior college program to attend. Now we have one."

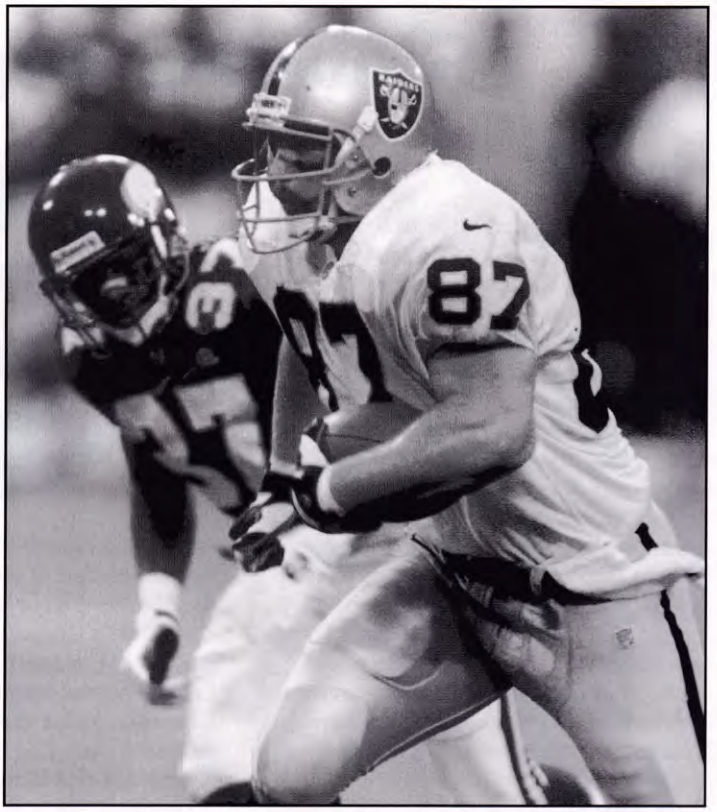
One school in a city the size of Tucson playing football has the potential to become a real threat. Also, it's in the University of Arizona's backyard.

Historically, Tucson has produced lots of talented football players down through the years. But the closest JC with a program was in Thatcher, at Eastern Arizona College. Tucson graduates have shown up on the rosters at Phoenix, Mesa and Arizona Western. That might change.

"Sometimes, a good kid might not want to leave Tucson so he gives up on the sport," added Scurran. "Having a team in Tucson will help keep players' careers alive. It will allow some to get scholarships, and eventually move on to a major college program."

In addition, having a football-playing JC in Tucson solves scheduling problems for existing programs throughout the state. Overall, seven different Arizona Community Colleges now play football.





South Mountain product Terry Fair (left) of the Detroit Lions, and former Saguaro tight end Jerry Brigham are two of nearly 100 Arizona high school products who have played in the National Football League since 1990.

Peete, Hellestrae Two of a Kind

By SAMMY WRIGHT

Determining the difference between Rodney Peete and Dale Hellestrae is an easy task. Trying to figure out which high school they attended can be a problem. Even for local fans. Those from outside Arizona will never figure it out.

Peete, the 1982 Arizona Player of the Years as a junior, attended Tucson Sahuaro High School, then broke a lot of hearts and moved to Shawnee Mission, Kansas, where he graduated.

Hellestrae stayed put for four years, at Scottsdale Saguaro High, where he earned all-city honors in both football and basketball, before moving on to a higher level of education at Scottsdale Community College. Surprisingly, the big offensive lineman ended up at SMU, located in Dallas. Today, 16 years later, he is the long snapper for the local pro team, the Dallas Cowboys. You remember the Cowboys. They used to be called "America's Team."

Hellestrae and Peete are good examples of longevity. Last year was the third decade Hellestrae had spent in the NFL. Dad, let your boys grow up to be centers. Especially on speciality teams.

Hellestrae's pro career started in 1985 in Buffalo. He played one year with the Los Angeles Raiders, and has been in Dallas ever since.

Peete, who almost won the Heisman Trophy at USC, has bounced all around the league. But he still has a job, doing what he does best. Playing football. Since being drafted by Detroit in 1989, Peete has played for Dallas, Philadelphia, Washington and now Oakland. At USC, Peete twice led the Trojans to the Rose Bowl.

At Tucson Sahuaro High, he was the best all-round athlete in the state. An all-state receiver as a sophomore, he was switched to quarterback the next year and passed for 1,885 yards and 15 touchdowns in nine games.

"College coaches came in to look at tapes of our other players," Sahuaro assistant Bob Vielledent recalls. "But they couldn't take their eyes off Rodney. We had to run the tapes over again so they would look at the other players."

Before Peete packed his bags and joined his family in Kansas, where his father had landed a job with the Kansas City Chiefs, he started at guard on Sahuaro's state championship basketball team, and was on the mound when the Cougars won the 5A state championship in baseball.

Peete was one of four quarterbacks from the Grand Canyon State on NFL rosters last year, all in backup roles. Jeff Lewis, the former Scottsdale Horizon star, Mountain View's Joe Germaine and Phoenix Christian's Tim Rattay were the others.

If you count what Rattay did his senior year at Phoenix Christian (2,646 yards/40 touchdowns), tack on one fall at Scottsdale Community College and three at Louisiana Tech, he probably passed for enough yards to tape measure the globe. Today is toils in the Bay Area with the San Francisco 49ers.

Germaine, like Rattay an SCC alum, was the MVP of the 1997 Rose Bowl for Ohio State. He helped beat Arizona State



Dale Hellestrae
Saguaro



Phillippi Sparks
Maryvale

in the closing seconds to earn the award.

Not to be overlooked when it comes to longevity is all-pro guard Randall McDaniel, today a member of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The former Minnesota Viking Pro Bowl star, a member of Arizona State's 1987 Rose Bowl champions, has been at it for 13 years. Surprisingly, McDaniel was a tight end in high school, at Agua Fria High in Avondale.

Like Peete, former Tempe High running back Darnell Autry rated high in the Heisman race. It was Autry who was the talk of the Big-10 in 1995, when he led Northwestern to the conference title and a date with USC in the Rose Bowl. The Trojans beat the Wildcats 41-32, with Autry scoring three time in a losing effort.

The St. Louis Rams, just two years removed from the Super Bowl, have two running backs from the Arizona prep ranks, fullback Robert Holcombe and tailback Trung Canidate.

Holcombe, a Mesa High grad, set a school record by averaging a whopping 12.0 yards per carry for the Jackrabbits in 1993. When he finished at the University of Illinois he was the school's all-time career rushing leader.

Canidate, a Phoenix Central product, turned on the afterburners during his final two years at Arizona, and found himself in the pro ranks because of it. During the 1998 collegiate season, Canidate rushed for 1,321 yards and a nation-leading 7.3 yards per carry. During a 50-42 win over Arizona State, he gained a school record 288 yards on 18 carries and scored three touchdowns.

This year's Arizona pro list is heavy with defensive backs. The group might be the most talented ever. Detroit's Terry Fair (South Mountain), the Bears' Mike Brown (Scottsdale Saguaro), plus most of the Dallas Cowboys' secondary, including Kenny Wheaton (McClintock) and former Maryvale standouts Darren Woodson and Phillippi Sparks, form an impressive list.

2000 Pro Parade

The 29 former Arizona schoolboy products on active NFL rosters last year, the high schools they came from, colleges they attended, and their pro teams:

OFFENSE:

Pos	Player / High School / College	Pro Team
QB	Rodney Peete, Tucson Sahuaro (USC)	Oakland Raiders
QB	Tim Rattay, Phoenix Christian (Louisiana Tech)	San Francisco 49ers
QB	Jeff Lewis, Scottsdale Horizon (NAU)	Carolina Panthers
QB	Joe Germaine, Mesa Mountain View (Ohio State)	St. Louis Rams
RB	Darnell Autry, Tempe (Northwestern)	Philadelphia Eagles
RB	Trung Canidate, Phoenix Central (Arizona)	St. Louis Rams
RB	Robert Holcombe, Mesa (Illinois)	St. Louis Rams
RB	Mario Bates, Tucson Amphitheater (Arizona State)	Detroit Lions
TE	Jeremy Brigham, Scottsdale Saguaro (Washington)	Oakland Raiders
TE	Steve Bush, Paradise Valley (Arizona State)	Cincinnati Bengals
TE	Richard Griffith, Tucson Catalina (Arizona)	Jacksonville Jaguars
TE	Paul Shields, Paradise Valley (Arizona)	Tennessee Titans
OL	Dale Hellestra, Scottsdale Saguaro (SMU)	Dallas Cowboys
OL	Randall McDaniel, Agua Fria (Arizona State)	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
OL	John Tait, Tempe McClintock (BYU)	Kansas City Chiefs
OL	Frank Garcia, Phoenix Maryvale (Washington)	Carolina Panthers
OL	John Fina, Tucson Salpointe (Arizona)	Buffalo Bills
OL	Brian Jennings, Red Mountain (Arizona State)	San Francisco 49ers
P	Jeff Feagles, Phoenix Gerard (Miami, Fla.)	Seattle Seahawks

DEFENSE:

DB	Darren Woodson, Phoenix Maryvale (Arizona State)	Dallas Cowboys
DB	Phillippi Sparks, Phoenix Maryvale (Arizona State)	Dallas Cowboys
DB	Terry Fair, South Mountain (Tennessee)	Detroit Lions
DB	Kenny Wheaton, Tempe McClintock (Oregon)	Dallas Cowboys
DB	Mike Brown, Scottsdale Saguaro (Nebraska)	Chicago Bears
LB	Sean Harris, Tucson (Arizona)	Chicago Bears
LB	Marcus Bell, St. Johns (Arizona)	Seattle Seahawks
DL	Shawn Swayda, Phoenix Brophy (Arizona State)	Atlanta Falcons
DL	Ty Parten, Scottsdale Horizon (Arizona)	Kansas City Chiefs
KR	Michael Bates, Tucson Amphitheater (Arizona)	Carolina Panthers

DRAFTED NEWCOMERS:

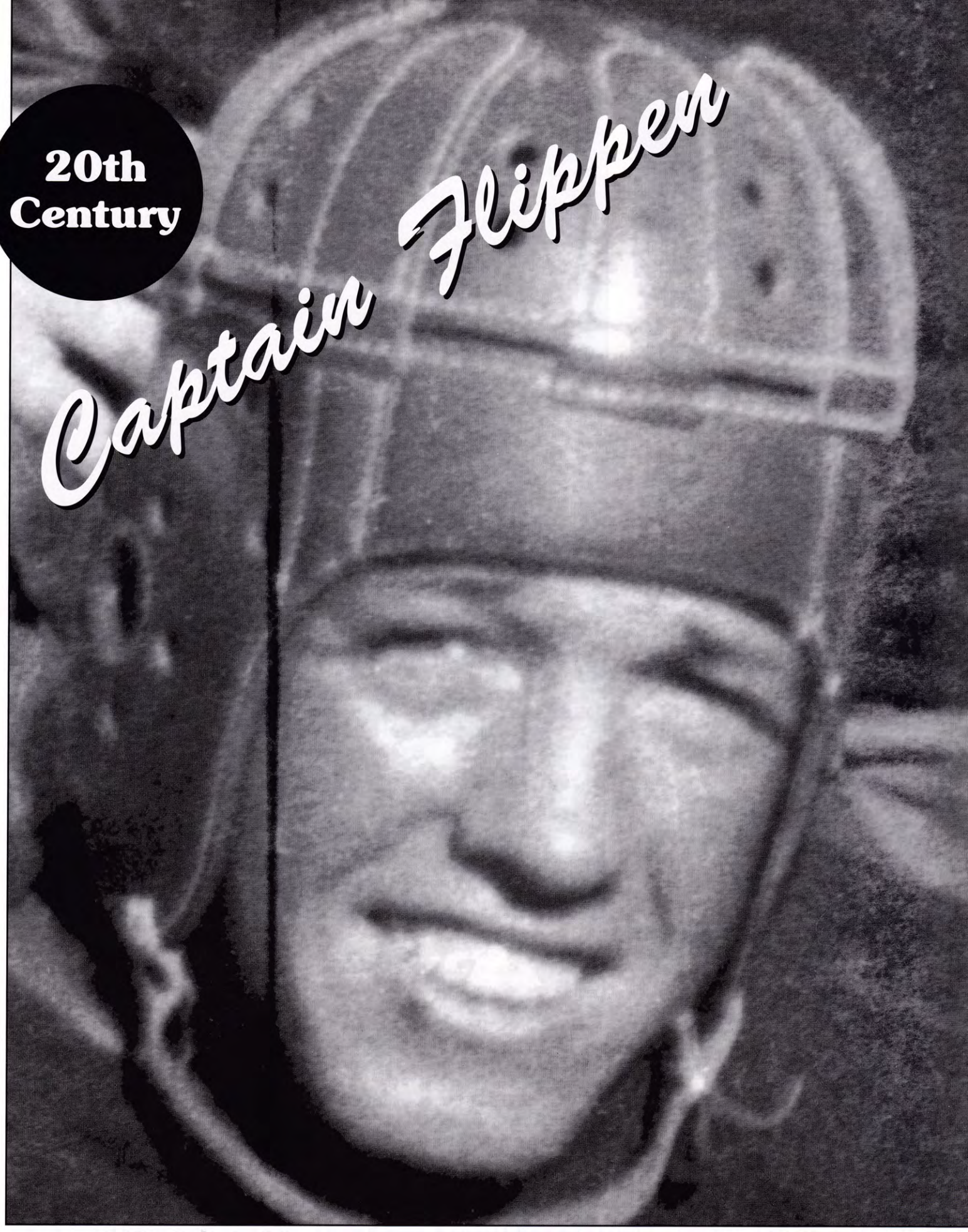
TE	Todd Heap, Mesa Mountain View (Arizona State)	Baltimore Ravans
LB	Adam Archuleta, Chandler (Arizona State)	St. Louis Rams
DB	Raymond Perryman, South Mountain (NAU)	Oakland Raiders
P	Nick Harris, Tolleson Westview (California)	Denver Broncos

Brown, the one-time state player of the year at Saguaro, took his 2,023 yards and 35 touchdowns to Nebraska and became an All-American safety. His performance in the 1995 Class 4A championship game, a 42-7 win over Glendale Ironwood, was one of the best individual performances in playoff history.

Woodson and Sparks, teammates at Arizona State as well as Maryvale, join a long list of former Panthers who have played the sport at a higher level. In fact, no high school region of the state has sent more players into the professional ranks than the Phoenix Metro, which has included such historic schools as Phoenix Union, South Mountain, Carver, Alhambra and Maryvale, to list just a few.

Since 1990, close to 100 athletes from the Arizona prep ranks have landed spots on NFL rosters. This does not include the countless list of players who have played in the CFL, and recently the fast growing Arena Football League. In fact, during that same span, more youngsters from the local high school ranks have made NFL rosters than from Arizona State University.

It's no wonder that Arizona, the third best high school sports state west of the Mississippi, has become such a happy hunting ground for college football recruiters, with its storied history of outstanding players, coaches and programs.



By BARRY SOLLENBERGER and THOMAS MOORE

Nearly 70 years ago Conrad Flippen, the best player of the best high school team in the country, helped put Arizona high school football on the map.

It was a warm Saturday afternoon in Phoenix, October 24, 1930. Montgomery Stadium was the site. A crowd of 7,000 came to witness a classic high school matchup, featuring the local Phoenix Union Coyote, with their all-everything back Conrad Flippen, and the visitor's Cotton Warburton, the pride of San Diego High.

The Cavemen, also known as the Hilltoppers, had been a Southern California powerhouse for years. Phoenix, a relatively newcomer on the national scene, was in its second decade under R.R. "Robby" Robinson, the former Colorado State star.

The game was truly a classic. Phoenix prevailed 22-20, with big name players making all the big plays. Flippen scored on a short run to start things off. Harry Tompkins, a track star who would later lead USC to a national championship, scored on an end around play. Then Eddie "Red" Horne sprinted 69 yards for the longest scoring play of the day. A safety ended the Coyotes' scoring.

Warburton, who would go on to earn All-America honors at USC, followed by a professional career with Walt Disney Productions, was everything he was billed to be. And more. San Diego, which fell to Phoenix in the 1927 stadium dedication game, played hard to the end.

Besides competing as an Arizona Interscholastic Association member, Phoenix Union, with 4,000 students on its 7th Street campus, competed in the Southwest Interscholastic League also, along with Mesa, Tucson, Las Cruces, Albuquerque and El Paso, Texas.

They buried Conrad Flippen on December 10, 1983, in Phoenix. Flippen, considered by many one of the greatest all-around athletes to come out of Arizona, died in his sleep at his Phoenix home. He was 71.

Less than 50 people attended his memorial service. Not out of a lack of respect, but there weren't many Coyotes left by then. There's even less today. But there used to be a time when crowds of 10,000 watched him play. Today, there's not 10,000 people who every heard of him.

THE LINEUP

Coach R.R. Robinson

QB ..Conrad Flippen
FB .. Ed "Red" Horne
HB .. Ted Miller
HB .. Jim Rosen
E .. Harry Tompkins
E .. Paul Guthrie
T .. Don Pace
T .. John "Bull" Harrell
G .. Leslie Greer
G .. Herman Kroloff
C .. Zack Adams

They called him "Captain" Flippen. His real name was Conrad and he was the best back on the best high school team in the country. The year was 1930, and at the conclusion of the season the *National Sports News Service*, located in Minneapolis, ranked "Robby" Robinson's "Wonder Team" the best in the land.

Better than Texas state champ Tyler, or national powers Ashland, Kentucky; Miami Senior, Florida; Little Rock, Arkansas or Chicago Lindbloom. They were rated higher than Williamsport, Pa., Berkeley, Ca., Shreveport Byrd, La., and Ohio toughies Lorain and Dayton Steele.

Flippen, born in Missouri, moved to Phoenix with his mother and family in 1927, after his father died of tuberculosis. After high school he enrolled at Notre Dame, the nation's collegiate football power.

But things didn't work out as planned. Because of personal problems he left the midwest school and enrolled at Phoenix College, where he continued to play. Soon afterward he signed a professional baseball contract with the Chicago White Sox. He spent nine years in the minors, then managed in the Evangelize League in Louisiana before World War II. He enlisted in the Navy, and ended his athletic career after the war playing fast-pitch softball in Phoenix with the famous Funk Jewels. He retired in 1977 from the Arizona Department of Transportation after 18 years.

As a schoolboy in Phoenix, Flippen played for two legendary coaches, Robinson in football, basketball and track, and Jesse McComb, a former Stanford player, in baseball.

Paul Guthrie, and end on the '30 "Wonder Team", claimed partial credit for discovering Flippen. "Three or four of the football players were out on the field before practice," said Guthrie. "We saw this barefoot kid in school pants drop-kicking field goal after field goal. We ran and told Coach Robinson. Coach watched for a while, then went over and talked to him. Connie told the coach he didn't have any football shoes. The coach told him not to worry about that. The next day he had a uniform."

Longtime friend Joe Hunt recalled, "When Flippen was at baseball practice once he learned that the track team was going to Albuquerque. The trip appealed to him. So he went over and tried out for the long jump. He out-jumped the school champion and got to go to Albuquerque."

As a quarterback in 1930, Flippen scored 23 touchdowns and a state-record (at the time) 148 points. He gained 303 yards and scored on an 80-yard sprint with a fake punt during a 59-13 win over Tucson. He intercepted a state record five passes during a 41-0 win over Albuquerque.

During a post-season game to determine the champion of the Rocky Mountain region, Flippen (who was sick all week) came off the bench to lead the Coyotes to a come-from-behind win over undefeated Ft. Collins, Colorado.

"I've no alibis to offer," said Ft. Collins coach George Scott afterwards. "Phoenix is the best high school team I've seen, and deserved the victory. The best team won, and my congratulations to them. That Flippen kid is great."

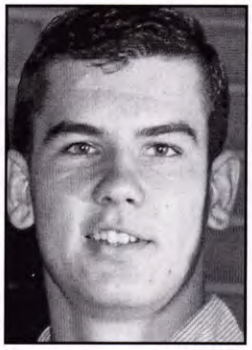
For the Coyotes, the season got off to a good start. In a preseason game Flippen, the 5-foot, 10-inch field general

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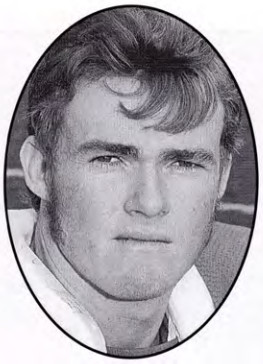
BRIAN MURRAY AWARD WINNERS



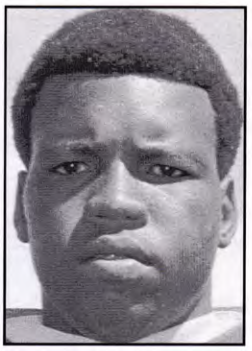
Curley Culp
Yuma



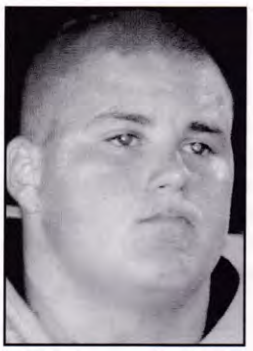
Bob Bertelsen
Arcadia



Brian Murray
Salpointe



Glen Gresham
Phoenix Union



Richie Incognito
Mountain Ridge

HONORING ARIZONA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL LINEMAN

2000 ..... Richie Incognito, Glendale Mountain Ridge (OT)
1999 ..... Josh Kirkwood, Phoenix Maryvale (DL)
1998 ..... Brandon Phillips, Tempe Corona del Sol (OT)
1997 ..... Mike Saffer, Tucson Sabino (OT)
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 (T)
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 Briehl, 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)

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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in Robinson's Single-wing attack, scored three times, one a 75-yard pass interception, as the varsity blasted (31-6) a star-stunned alumni squad loaded with former college players. He then tossed two scoring strikes to Fay Swingle during a 12-6 upset of a strong University of Arizona freshman squad. Over 6,000 people watched the first night game played in Phoenix, and the teams used a white ball as an experiment.

Flippen ran wild against out-manned Glendale, scoring four times during a 41-0 rout of the Cardinals, followed by a three-touchdown game during a 21-0 win over El Paso, played in ankle deep mud in the boarder city. "These boys from Phoenix, especially Mr. Flippen, looked stronger than Abilene," wrote the *El Paso Times*, referring to West Texas power Abilene High.

Prior to the Albuquerque game, an army of students, numbering close to 4,000, descended upon downtown Phoenix, shouting "Beat Albuquerque! Beat Albuquerque!"

The win clinched the SWIL crown, and one week later a 55-0 rout of Mesa earned Phoenix the state championship. After the Mesa win, played before a small contingent of 4,000 "freezing fans", an estimated 10,000 came out of their homes and marched down Central Avenue in one of the greatest displays of fan support for a high school in Arizona history."It was unbelievable," recalled Phoenix Mayor Franklin D. Lane later. "We all thought Lindbergh had landed again."

The traditional Thanksgiving Day game with the Phoenix Indian School ended with a 27-7 Coyote victory, played before 9,000 sun-baked fans. Flippen and Horne each scored twice.

For the benefit of the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, Phoenix met the unbeaten Lampkins from Colorado in mid-December. In 10 games Ft. Collins had scored 413 points against the best from Colorado and Wyoming. But they were no match for the Coyotes, who scored five touchdowns in the second half for the 38-7 win.

"When our scouts returned from Arizona they told us Phoenix had the best sports program they had ever seen in high school," Notre Dame head coach Knute Rockne told *The Arizona Republic*. "They could compete against the best anywhere, and that includes the East Coast."

"I've never really regretted the way my athletic career turned out," said Flippen in a 1975 interview. "We maybe took things for granted. Phoenix Union was a great school then. Every time we took the field we expected 8,000 or more fans to be there, and they always were.

"It was like going to college," he added. "But we were in high school. When we played El Paso or San Diego we rode the train. Other schools were traveling by bus or car. I went to Notre Dame because of Coach Rockne. He had a lot of nice things to say about our school. But he got killed in a plane crash before we graduated. Maybe I shouldn't have gone."

Not in the best of health, Flippen spent his last days taking care of the lawn at his home on 12th Street, several blocks south of North High.

Bill Kajikawa, a longtime Arizona State coach, was a sophomore understudy to Flippen in 1930. "He was probably one of the greatest all-around athletes in prep circles," said Kajikawa recently. "I recall Connie walked by the tennis courts one day, borrowed a racket and beat the best player on the team. I don't think he ever played tennis before."

"He was the greatest," insisted former teammate Fred Hyder, who later became a judge. "It's been a long time, but nobody who saw him play at Phoenix Union will ever forget Conrad Flippen."

"Flippen was one of the best high school athletes I've ever seen," insisted Senon "Baldy" Castello, a Phoenix Union alum and former track coach at Arizona State. "He also played in the best high school game I've ever seen. That game with San Diego High."

"Connie was the finest floor general I ever coached in basketball," said Robinson after the four-sports star graduated. "Athletes like Flippen were a dream come true for a high school coach."

Added Hunt, "I saw Whizzer White play, and he was good. I knew Gib Dawson (former Douglas and University of Texas star) and his family. I went down to Douglas to see him play against Tucson and Bisbee. Gib was great, but he wasn't the natural athlete Flippen was."

"He was something special," added Hyder. "He was a warm-hearted youngster who never bragged or talked about himself. He was a natural athlete who could play any sport."

Big days

Outstanding single game rushing performances recorded by Arizona high school backs prior to 1975:

Yards/Player/Opponent	Year
402 - Burton Belton, Winslow vs Prescott (jr)	1958
376 - Cippy Correa, Antelope vs St. Johns Indian School	1973
344 - Brian Pringle, Phoenix Sunnyslope vs Prescott	1970
339 - Ron Bonner, Mesa Westwood vs Scottsdale Arcadia (so)	1972
330 - Joe Spear, Snowflake vs Gallup Cathedral, N.M.	1958
314 - Jim Faulks, Tucson Flowing Wells vs Duncan	1958
309 - Joe Causey, Douglas vs Tombstone (jr)	1925
307 - Chuck Bishop, Scottsdale Judson vs Phoenix Bourgade	1964
307 - Nate Hickman, Bisbee vs Douglas	1955
306 - Bill Crabtree, Agua Fria vs St. Johns Indian School (so)	1952
304 - Tony Marquez, Apache Junction vs Maricopa	1971
303 - Conrad Flippen, Phoenix Union vs Tucson	**1930**
303 - Joe Petroshus, Tucson vs Tucson Pueblo	1968
301 - Hayzel Daniels, Tucson vs Bisbee (jr)	1925
300 - Hayzel Daniels, Tucson vs Nogales	1926
300 - Cotton Reiman, Phoenix Union vs Miami	1928
300 - Bobby Morrison, Tucson vs Tucson Sunnyside	1967

SOURCE: Arizona Football Record Book



Harry Tompkins
Phoenix



Knute Rockne
Notre Dame

Best by decades:

A look at the top teams in Arizona in each decade, based on success, talent, coaching and strength of program at the time:

'20s - Phoenix Union, 1923 (9-1-1)

First great Arizona schoolboy team, sent half the starting lineup to Tucson to college, was deep, talented and loaded with track stars. Close behind: Phoenix Union 1924, Phoenix Union 1927.

'30s - Phoenix Union, 1930 (12-0)

Mythical national champs featured blue-chip recruits Conrad Flippen and Harry Tompkins, plus five additional major college prospects. Close behind: Mesa 1933, Glendale 1936, Phoenix Union 1939.

'40s - Tucson, 1945 (11-0)

Nationally ranked Badgers rolled through state with all-star backfield and 32-straight wins. Close behind: Glendale 1943, Tucson 1944, Mesa 1947, Phoenix Union 1948.

'50s - Mesa, 1950 (9-0-1)

Best team in Mesa's historic past beat West Coast schools Pasadena Muir (41-6) and Covina (49-20). Close behind: Tucson 1952, North 1953, Mesa 1954, Phoenix Union 1954.

'60s - Scottsdale Arcadia, 1962 (10-1)

All-star backfield of John Propstra, Dana Woudenberg, "Moose" Rollins and Pat McGinty beat Tucson 40-7 in finals. Close behind: Mesa 1960, Tucson 1965, Tucson 1966, St. Mary's 1967.

'70s - Tucson, 1970 (12-0)

Best team in "modern era" featured 3,000-yard backfield of Allistaire Heartfield (1,408), Mark Simon (1,122) and Derral Davis (1,055), plus two Parade Magazine All-Americans. Beat Sunnyslope 54-16 in finals.

'80s - Mountain View, 1983 (14-0)

Jesse Parker's best team blitzed young McClintock 34-14 in state finals. Running of Paul Kasprzyk and Toro defense dominated. Close behind: Moon Valley 1982, St. Mary's 1985, McClintock 1989, Tempe 1989.

'90s - Phoenix St. Mary's, 1995 (14-0)

Quarterback Ryan Kealy, receiver Tariq McDonald and kicker Jim Sanson helped Knights score 550 points, second best in 5A history. Close behind: Mt. View 1993, Saguaro 1995, Mt. View 1997, Desert Vista 1998.

Decade-by-decade, here's a rundown of great Arizona high school teams from the 20th Century, teams which would do the state proud playing opponents from anywhere in the country.

The Roaring '20s

The Great Depression was right around the corner, but there was no financial woes at Phoenix Union, where young R.R.Robinson was building a powerhouse. The 1923 Coyotes, called the school's best ever at the time, lost to one college team and tied San Diego High. The other nine opponents were ground into the dust. Stars were plenty, including quarterback Ted Diebold, fullback James Oldham and end Murl Huff. Oldham, who would later play in the NFL, scored 21 touchdowns, including four in a 77-0 win over Miami. Coyotes outscored their opponents 375 points to 37.

In 1924, Phoenix continued its dominance of Arizona and Southwest foes. In 12 games Robinson's high scoring machine ran up 388 points and beat El Paso High 23-20 before 20,000 fans on the road. The Coyotes were beaten by Arizona State and San Diego High in close games, and tied Albuquerque. Future college players like Murl Huff, Eddie Baker, Greer Thompson and Hiram Kennedy dotted the roster.

In 1927, a 7-0 post season win over San Diego climaxed a 9-1-2 season for Don Coyote, who beat the Cavemen with Joe Woodbridge's four pass interceptions. The game dedicated the city's new 10,000-seat stadium, located at 7th Street & Van Buren.. The lone Phoenix loss was a 19-13 setback to Arizona's freshmen. Woodbridge, guard Wilber Caldwell, end Howard Joslin and tackle Cecil "Brute" Mulleneaux were the stars. Mulleneaux, after a career at Northern Arizona University, would later play with the New York Giants, Pittsburgh Steelers and Green Bay Packers.

The War-Torn '40s

Every school in the country felt the financial crunch of World War II. Schools were asked to cut back on travel and out-of-state competition. It was worse in the West, where distance was a major factor. Playing schools from the "Big 5" twice each year, Tucson High's mighty Badgers dominated the decade. Only Phoenix, Mesa and Glendale managed to slip in a state championship. Little St. Mary's claimed the 1949 crown, although the Knights were not an accepted member of the A.I.A. When the dust had cleared in December of '45, more than the war was over. Tucson had whipped out the state again, winning all 11 games and 32 in a



Oscar Carrillo
Tucson



Lee "Legs" Carey
Tucson

row. Badger fans thought they had witnessed a great team the year before, then along came this crew. Halfbacks Oscar Carrillo and Cay Morrison, fullback Karl Eller and quarterback Lee "Legs" Carey started the opener, a 15-0 win at Phoenix Union, before 8,500 fans. But Carey broke his wrist and the offense took a hit. In 11 games the Badgers recorded seven shutouts, and beat Mesa and "Whizzer" White 9-0 for the state championship. The game was played before an overflow crowd of 7,500 in Mesa.

"That was the toughest win for Tucson during its three-year 32 victory span," wrote Bill Nixon in the *Arizona Daily Star*.

"Lee Carey's presence in the Tucson backfield is the difference between a real good football club and a great one," added Bill Lucas of *The Tucson Citizen*.

With Carey back in the lineup, Tucson stuffed Phoenix Union 35-7, with Carey rushing for 192 yards and scoring three times. One was a 90-yard kickoff return and another was a 51-yard punt return. In 11 games, Tucson drew 82,700 fans to their games, an averaged of 7,518 per game.

But Tucson sports historians give just as much credit to Rollin T. Gridley's '44 club, whose star-stunned backfield featured Sol Ahee, Joe Goff, Armando Carrillo and Carey, who was just a sophomore. And it wasn't the backs who did the damage, if you were to ask Mesa skipper Steve Coutchie. "They have a great high school line," said the coach after a 20-7 loss to the Badgers.

During the war years the players came and went, but Gridley kept Tucson's machine well oiled.

Not to be overlooked in this era is the 1943 Glendale Cardinals, coached by Edgar "Mutt" Ford. Ford, who would later coach at Mesa, had a star-stunned squad of his own, including halfback Lowell McDonald, end Jimmy Coppinger and tackle Ken Crow. But the catalyst was blue-chip center/linebacker Bill Yeoman, soon to be a star at Army, and later the head coach at the University of Houston.

One year earlier Phoenix Union beat all three West Coast schools on their schedule. But the Coyotes were upset by rival North High 27-6 in their annual Turkey Day game. This Larry Rouble-coached team beat Bakersfield 13-7, Alhambra 18-0 and Long Beach Poly 13-6. They finished the season with a 32-13 win over Mesa to earn a share of the state crown. The loss to North kept the Coyotes from winning it outright.

The Bitter Rivalry Gets Worse



Tombstone halfback Hascall Henshaw

Those collegiate football fans who reside in Tucson and Phoenix are no different than any others from around the country. They don't like each other.

In fact, they haven't liked each other for a long, long time. The bitter feelings between Arizona and what today is Arizona State University go way back, but they reached a boiling point in 1938.

Arizona State had just hired Millard "Dixie" Howell as its new football coach. He came to the right place at the right time. An excellent crop of schoolboy talent had congregated on the campus, and the Tempe college was beginning to show signs of supporting a top-flight football program.

Best of all was the school's phenomenal '37 freshman team. They were unbeaten (6-0), untested and easy victors over the University of Arizona. An all-out, no holds bared recruiting drive had paid off with more local blue-chip prospects on the Tempe campus than ever before. High school football in the state had boomed, and lots of it, for whatever reason, was showing up in Tempe. Tombstone's Hascall Henshaw, Scottsdale's Bill "Dub" Davis, and four members of Glendale's state championship team, Walt "Cowboy" Ruth, Wayne "Ripper" Pitts, Rex Hopper and Fred Koory, already had fans excited.

Pitts and Ruth were to fuel Howell's explosive backfield for three years, while Hopper became a mainstay in the line. But the new coach could count among his blessings an historic foray into Tucson a year earlier. One night in August, 1937, Tempe graduate manager Tom Lillico snatched three prize Glendale freshman (Ruth, Pitts, Hopper), who were ready to enroll in Tucson, off the University of Arizona campus and enrolled them at Arizona State.

Arizona officials, obviously upset over the incident, were so irritated about the theft they severed football relations with Tempe until the three Glendale boys graduated. Ironically, during that span, A-State won two Border Conference championships and played in two bowl games.

The Fabulous '50s

Arizona schools, especially the "Big 5" (Phoenix Union, Tucson, Mesa, North, Glendale), were almost unbeatable against out-of-state competition, especially schools from the West Coast. From a recognition standpoint this decade was the most successful in the state's history.

The coach who set the tone was Edgar "Mutt" Ford, whose Jackrabbits went unbeaten against California schools during this span. Earlier, long train rides to El Paso filled in the schedule for the likes of Mesa, Phoenix Union, and even St. Mary's. But that changed.

In 1950, Ford's dynamite team faced a dynamite schedule. They were up for it. Trying to pick the best team in Mesa's proud history is no easy task. But from an historical standpoint, it's hard to match the '50 Jackrabbits, coached by Ford.

"It may have been the school's best ever," says longtime sports writer Skip Bryant, a Mesa alum. "Even by today's standards."

One week after posting a perfect league record and landing the mythical state championship, St. Mary's tied Ford's squad 14-14 in a bizarre season finale. But along the way the nationally-ranked 'Rabbits looked unbeatable.

Ford, who would go on to become the state's all-time winningest coach, was assisted by Ken Heywood and Hil Brady. They had a 206-pound forward wall, anchored by 6-foot, 1-inch, 235-pound Glenn Bowers, a *Sporting News All-American*. Halfback Don

Beasley and end John Allen joined Bowers on *The Arizona Republic* all-state team.

The season started in Tucson, where Beasley & Co. gained 439 yards and recorded 20 first downs during a 28-0 win over Amphitheater. One week later quarterback Eddie Harmon's two touchdown passes kept North High off guard during a hard-fought 21-13 win. Before the season was over this Mustang squad, featuring all-star back Gene Mitcham (Los Angeles Rams), would beat defending CIF champ Compton High 26-14, followed by a 48-28 pasting of Santa Barbara.

The Jackrabbits' forward wall was responsible for capturing a 41-6 win over Pasadena Muir, the first California team the 'Rabbits had ever faced. Playing in Pasadena, Ford's running game - so well oiled a book was written about it - caught the Colts off-guard in the first half, jumping to a 34-0 lead.

On the same night Mesa beat Muir, Phoenix Union beat two-time L.A. city champ Fremont, 12-6. Said Ford years later, recalling that evening and the week to come, "We knew we had a fight on our hands with Phoenix. On the same night we beat Muir, those guys were beating Los Angeles Fremont. It set the stage for a good matchup, a big crowd."



Glenn Bowers
Mesa



G. Greathouse
Phoenix Union

He was right. One week later, before 15,000 fans at Montgomery Stadium in Phoenix, the Purple & Gold clicked again, beating PU 20-14 in the marquee game of the week.

In Mesa's second interstate tilt against West Coast teams that year, Covina's Fred Knapp ran the opening kickoff back for a touchdown. But Beasley scored from 80 yards, Kent Mulleneaux scored with a blocked punt, Jay Smith scored on a pass interception and Mesa rolled to a 49-20 win.

Yes, the '50s were loaded with great talent, terrific coaching and quality teams. No less than five different Arizona high school teams were nationally ranked: Mesa in 1950 (9-0-1), Tucson in 1952 (10-0), Phoenix North of 1953 (9-0-1), and Phoenix Union (9-0-1) and Mesa (9-1), both in 1954.

Tucson quarterback Pat Flood, North tailback Kenny Aycock, Phoenix Union back George Greathouse and Mesa quarterback Ralph Hunsaker were high-profile players on those teams.

But it was Ford's teams which set the standard. During the '50s, his club's, besides a strong contingent of Arizona schools, faced California schools Pasadena Muir, Covina, Los Angeles Jefferson, San Diego St. Augustine, Compton Centennial, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles Garfield and Porterville, and beat them all.

"I'm not sure why, all of a sudden, Phoenix and Tucson schools quit playing in El Paso, and switched to the West Coast," says Skip Bryant. "I don't think anything bad happened. My guess is El Paso grew such after the war that the schools didn't have to go to Phoenix to find games. But Mesa's success against California was impressive."

The Pioneers

A look a some of the top blue-chip players in Arizona's high school ranks prior to Word War II, based on post-season recognition, as well as success at the collegiate and professional levels:

QUARTERBACKS -Joe Palmer Irvine, Phoenix Union; Johnny Cole, Bisbee; Teddy Diebold, Phoenix Union; Johnny Riggs, Mesa; Don Clark, Phoenix Union; Conrad Flippen, Phoenix Union; Bill Kajikawa, Phoenix Union; Vernon Clare, Gilbert; Horace Griffen, Mesa; **FULLBACKS** - Charles Gilleland, Phoenix Union; Jess Skousen, Mesa; James Oldham, Phoenix Union; Dick Peila, Jerome; Ernest Lincoln, Miami; Joe Woodbridge, Phoenix Union; George Beeler, Yuma; Eddie "Red" Horne, Phoenix Union; Ken Knox, Chandler; Clyde Phillips, Yuma; Wayne Pitts, Glendale; Bob Svob, Jerome; Bob Dixon, Phoenix Union; Sonny Karnofsky, Phoenix Union; **HALFBACKS** - Ned Newell, Mesa; Duncan Brown, Mesa; Hayzel Daniels, Tucson; Lawrence Bever, Phoenix Union; Elmer "Cotton" Reiman, Phoenix Union; Ted Bland, Tucson; Howard Hooten, Buckeye; George Jackson, Tucson; Mike Shafer, Bisbee; Bernard Magnusson, Mesa; Tom Hargis, Bisbee; Delbert Randall, Glendale; Walt Ruth, Glendale; Joe DeCorse, Yuma; Lorenzo Scott, Tucson; Dan Rogers, Buckeye; Joe Batiste, Tucson; Garner Barnett, Bisbee; Ted Olea, Phoenix Union; Cornell Fisher, Mesa; Frank Renteria, Miami; Johnny Wood, Tempe; Pat Higgins, St. Mary's; John Graham, Bisbee; Howard Moore, Phoenix North; Vernon Hare, St. Mary's; Norris Steverson, Mesa; Hascall Henshaw, Tombstone; **CENTERS** - Ken Harrison, Prescott; Jerry Tong, Bisbee; Bill Berkencamp, Mesa; Bob Moon, Mesa; Zach Adams, Phoenix Union; Loren La Prade, Phoenix Union; William Jones, Mesa; Dick Beck, Tucson; Don Corbitt, Prescott; **LINEMEN** - John Savage, St. Mary's; Thurman Shipley, Phoenix North; Ed Valenzuela, Tucson; James Potter, Tempe; Bernard Smith, Thatcher; Milton Webb, Globe; Nello Pozzobon, Jerome; Bob Weskamp, Buckeye; Charles Orme, Phoenix Union; Phil Sawaia, Superior; Alex Popoff, Glendale; Fred Koory, Glendale; Allen Young, Phoenix Union; Ed Ray, Phoenix Union; Mark Kalastro, Bisbee; John Steger, Tucson; Virgil Vance, Phoenix Union; Dale Beedle, Miami; John Harrell, Phoenix Union; Earl Nolan, Tucson; Don Pace, Phoenix Union; Buster Bentley, Clarkdale; Bill Riley, Phoenix Union; Albert Williams, Douglas; Cecil "Brute" Mulleneaux, Phoenix Union; John Harper, Superior; Wilber Caldwell, Phoenix Union; Frank Gentry, Tucson; Greer Thompson, Phoenix Union; George Stewart, Mesa; Frank Drachman, Tucson; Owen Phelps, Mesa; Martin Gentry, Tucson; George Sorenson, Mesa; Bill Doyle, Phoenix Union; Bill Friend, Phoenix Union; Tom Greenfield, Peoria; **ENDS** - John Black, Tucson; Auldric Imboden, Mesa; Junior Crum, Mesa; John Parker, Buckeye; Norris Enloe, Mesa; George French, Phoenix Union; Rodolfo Martinez, Bisbee; Martin Sanders, Douglas; Bid Parker, Jerome; Albert Freestone, Mesa; Carl Mulleneaux; Paul Guthrie, Phoenix Union; Nick Sunn, Tucson; Harry Tompkins, Phoenix Union; Howard Abbott, Tucson; W.W. "Skipper" Dick, Phoenix Union; Eddie Baker, Phoenix Union; Joe Causey, Douglas; Murl Huff, Phoenix Union; Lawson Smith, Tucson; Bill Smith, Mesa, Hank Stanton, Clifton.

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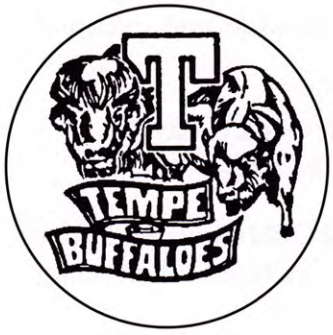
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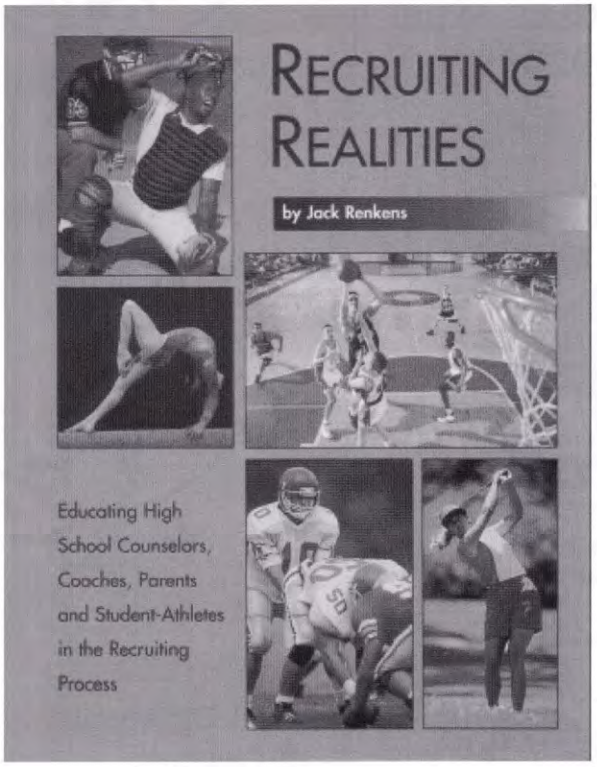
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Remember the '62 Titans

Remember the Titans? The Arcadia Titans. The second school in the Scottsdale District, but the one located in Phoenix, at 47th Street.

It may be hard to believe, but between 1960 and 1965, this school was a state powerhouse. They could play with anybody. And they did. Coached by Bob Hendricks, a former Arizona State quarterback, the young Titans won 70% of their games and two state championships. Their second title t was really impressive.

In 1962, talent-heavy Arcadia found themselves in the state finals against nationally-ranked Tucson High. This Badger club, with speed to burn, was averaging 400 yards and 35.7 points per game with their famed T-formation offense.

But Hendricks and his staff of Ben Anderson and Lou Hallman had a plan. Their strategy was to jam the Tucson center, alter and change the quarterback's timing. At the start of the game, Badger quarterback Delbert Salazar was stepped on as Arcadia's nose guard, 6-2, 210-pound Richard Gray, jammed the center. Tucson, one of the finest ball-handling teams anywhere, fumbled five center snaps.



Moose Rollins
Arcadia



Pat McGinty
Arcadia

"We noticed on film that their ball handling was so good it was hard to tell where the football was," said Hendricks afterwards. "But their quarterback turned his back to the defense. We've been jamming centers all year and tonight Richard Gray had it down to perfection."

"We knew they were a good team," Hendricks added after his team's 40-7 win. "But I guess Tucson didn't expect us to be as tough as we were."

Tucson's players left Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe shell-shocked. After running over 10 straight opponents, including an impressive 21-12 win over Phoenix Union (and All-American linebacker Fred Carr) in the semifinals, they were completely outclassed in the finals. In fact, they scored their lone touchdown in the last minute.

Arcadia's bruising running game of Pat McGinty, Dana Woudenberg and Everett "Moose" Rollins was unstoppable. Rollins, the state player of the year, scored three touchdowns and booted four extra points. McGinty scored the first two Titan touchdowns and intercepted two passes. Woudenberg, a 207-pound fullback who would later attend USC, scored on a 56-yard sprint in the final period. James "Nicky" Nichols, the state decathlon champ, raced 70 yards for another score but it was erased by a clip.

Hendrick's club stumbled only once in 11 games, dropping their regular season final in Yuma, 12-8, to a fired-up Criminal squad led by fullback/guard Curley Culp (later of the Kansas City Chiefs) and Gordon Vance.

After the season, the *National Sports News Service* ranked Arcadia No. 8 in the country, the highest national ranking by an Arizona school since Phoenix Union finished 7th in 1954. The Titans' defense intercepted 30 passes. Eight different players earned first team all-state honors, and seven seniors signed college football scholarships.

Tucson, coached by John Mallamo, regrouped and won consecutive crowns in 1965-66, with the '65 Badgers being one of the school's all-time best. They joined Arcadia, Mesa, Phoenix St. Mary's, Westwood and Phoenix Central as top Arizona teams of the '60s.

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Badgers, Toros & Knights to Remember

They may have been the best Arizona team ever. They were better than any Tucson High team before or since. That's saying a lot, since the school has won over 500 football games and 13 state championships.

They were coached by Ollie Mayfield. They were the Tucson Badgers of 1970, and they were awesome.

In Arizona, no team before or since has produced such speed, size or talent and put it all together. The Big Red went unscratched through one dozen foes, crushing outmanned Sunnyslope 54-16 in the state finals.

They averaged 39.6 points per game, rushed for 4,280 yards, passed for 1,038, sent over 20 players to college on athletic scholarships, and produced two *Parade Magazine* All-Americans.

Linebacker Marvin Lewis, a USC signee, and tackle Mike Dawson, who would later play with the St. Louis Cardinals, were both *Parade* picks, the first and only time two players from the same Arizona team were so honored. At the end of the season, the *National Sports News Service*, the first such organization to rank high school teams, rated Mayfield's club No. 3 in the land, behind Massillon, Ohio, and Austin Reagan, Texas. They were that good.

Prior to the state semifinals, an electrifying 39-34 win over Westwood, Warrior head coach Dave Gates said, "They may be the best high school team I've seen since I've been her, and that includes 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."

Bull Buck, head coach at Sunnyslope, saw it coming before his team took the field in the finals. "They are a team the state of Arizona can be proud of," he said before the loss.

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

All three running backs, Derral Davis, Allistaire Heartfield and Mark Simon, rushed for more than 1,000 yards. That had never happened before. Quarterbacks Anastacie Martinez and Frank Castro managed to pass for 1,000 yards in the Badgers' famed T-formation offense.

Tackle Mike Dawson (6-4, 240) anchored a big, swift line which included Mike Bailey (6-1, 205), Gilbert Ramos (6-2, 220), Al Lopez (6-2, 205), Jinx Johnson (6-4, 204) and Lonnie Williams (6-2, 180). All six received major college athletic scholarships.

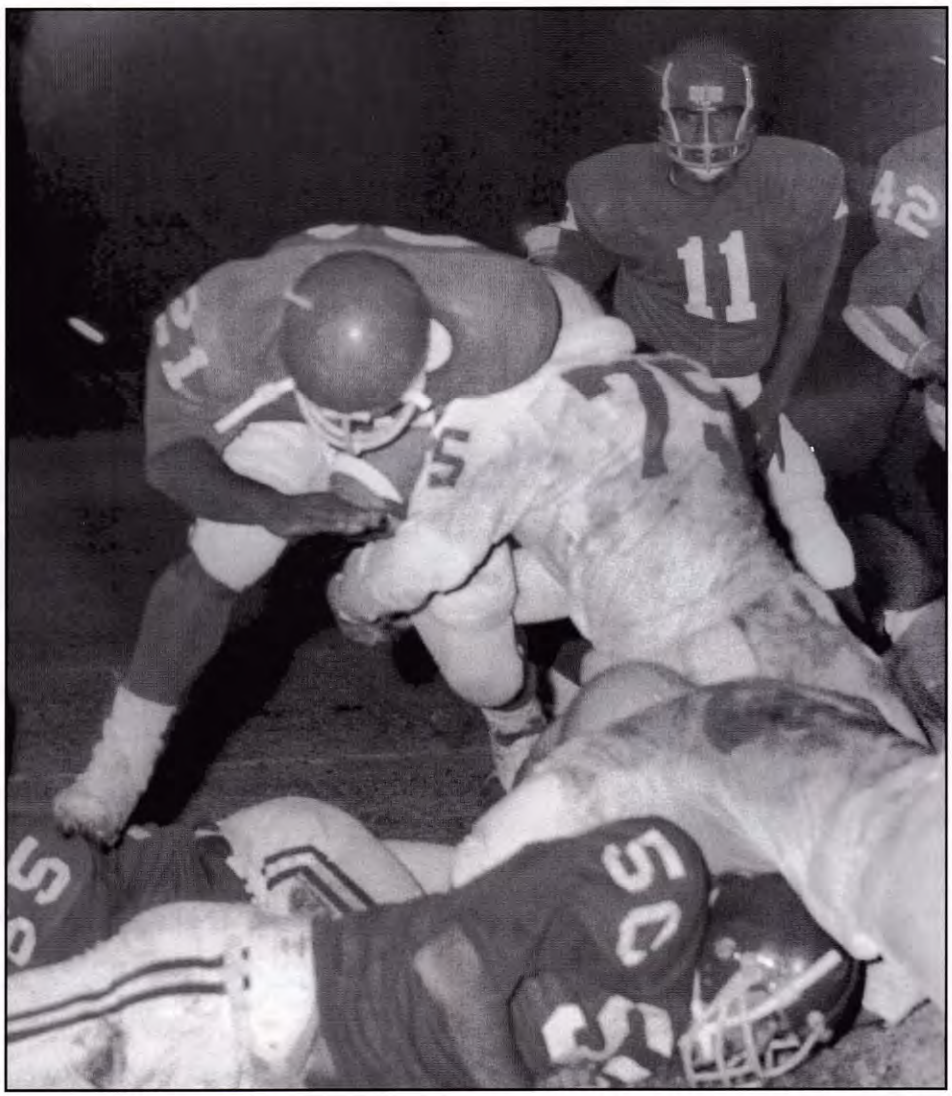
Lewis, a 6-3, 230-pound linebacker, was considered one of the best at that position in Tucson's history. Tragically, he never made it to USC, and eventually died from a neck injury suffered during a swimming accident.

"John McKay coached at Southern Cal then," said Mayfield later. "He told us we had one of the best teams they'd seen in the country that year. They were recruiting some of our players."

Ken Stites, a former coach at Maryvale and the Arizona junior college circles, might have said it best, "There was a period for several years when Tucson High had football teams that could play with anybody, anywhere. They were that good."

It was a different story during the '80s. The decade was so well balanced. Athletic programs at the state's enrollment-heavy innercity schools, like Tucson and Phoenix Union, had dried up. In fact, Phoenix Union, which had 6,320 students in 1963-64, closed.

But Mountain View can't get any better than it was in 1983. The Toros were perfect. Coach Jesse Parker's club finished 14-0. They blitzed Tempe McClintock 34-14 in the finals, before 19,000 fans at Sun Devil Stadium. Seven teams failed to score against them. Their defense tied an Arizona 5A state record with 34 pass interceptions. With linemen like Brad Tennison clearing the way for



Allistaire Heartfield, one of Tucson's famed "blast backs," scores against Palo Verde (Arizona Daily Star photo).



Derral Davis
Tucson



Paul Kasprzyk
Mountain View

backs like Paul Kasprzyk (1,640 yds./25 touchdowns), nobody played them close. They rushed and passed for 5,211 yards.

"We should have won it all that year," declared Parker later. "Since I arrived at Mountain View, that was the most talented group we had. Those kids were all good athletes. Down through the years, a lot of teams have had better material than us. But we play better defense. Our kids will hit you, too."

In 1989, McClintock's Chargers were almost perfect. But Karl Kiefer's club dropped an early-season thriller to Tempe, 25-24, and a late-season contest to Mesa, 28-27. During the remaining 13 games they looked like one of the best around.

The Chargers scored 51 points on Tucson Amphi, 46 and 35 against Mountain View, 49 against Red Mountain, 62 on Marcos de Niza, 65 against Glendale Apollo and 42 on Westwood in the state finals. They rushed and passed for 5,444 yards and scored 589 points.

Quarterback Dan Moore, tailback Brian Drew, kicker Kyle Bell, and defensive backs Chris Colter, David Matthews and Robby Wheaton were the stars. Defensive end Grady Stretz played later at UCLA.

McClintock and rival Tempe made history in their '89 opener. Never before had state champions from different classes met during the same year. Tempe, the eventual 4A co-champ, prevailed 25-24. They did it in spite of Brian Drew, who returned the opening kickoff 94 yards. Actually, McClintock returned two kickoffs for touchdowns and cashed in on a fumble for another. Then the Chargers, error-free for three quarters, fell apart. For the winners, Tempe's Jeff McDonald kicked two field goals and the game's only extra point.

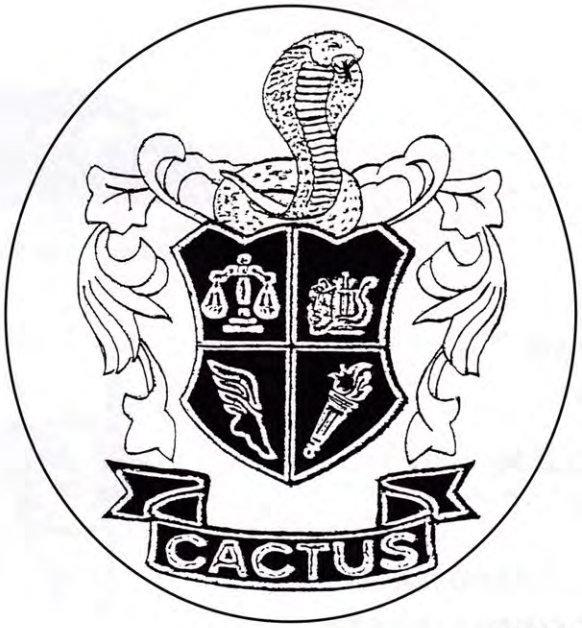
In 1995, Phoenix St. Mary's, coached by Pat Farrell, featured an all-star lineup of quarterback Ryan Kealy, wideout Tariq McDonald and place kicker/defensive back Jim Sanson, all blue-chip prospects. During the season Kealy, who along with McDonald would later play at Arizona State, passed for 2,683 yards and 41 touchdowns. McDonald caught 74 passes for 1,190 yards and 20 touchdowns. In 14 games the nationally ranked Knights scored 550 points and averaged 39.3 per contest.

The big game was the semifinals, a surprising 44-13 win over Mountain Pointe. Tailback Keith Brown, later a running back at UCLA, was the Pride's big gun that year. Their performance during the playoffs gives this St. Mary's team top billing in the '90s. In four weeks of play, Farrell's well oiled machine beat Phoenix Alhambra 48-0, Mesa Westwood 19-13, Mountain Pointe 44-13, and Scottsdale Horizon 33-7.

The win over Horizon in the 5A finals avenged the loss the previous year, when the Scottsdale school beat the Knights in the last seconds of the state championship game, played on the same turf at Sun Devil Stadium.

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Oct. 19 .....Bradshaw Mountain
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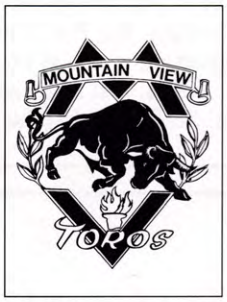
Nine graduates of Mesa Public Schools have received Arizona Interscholastic Association "Scholar-Athlete" Scholarships since 1990.

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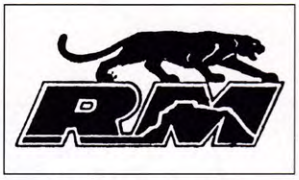
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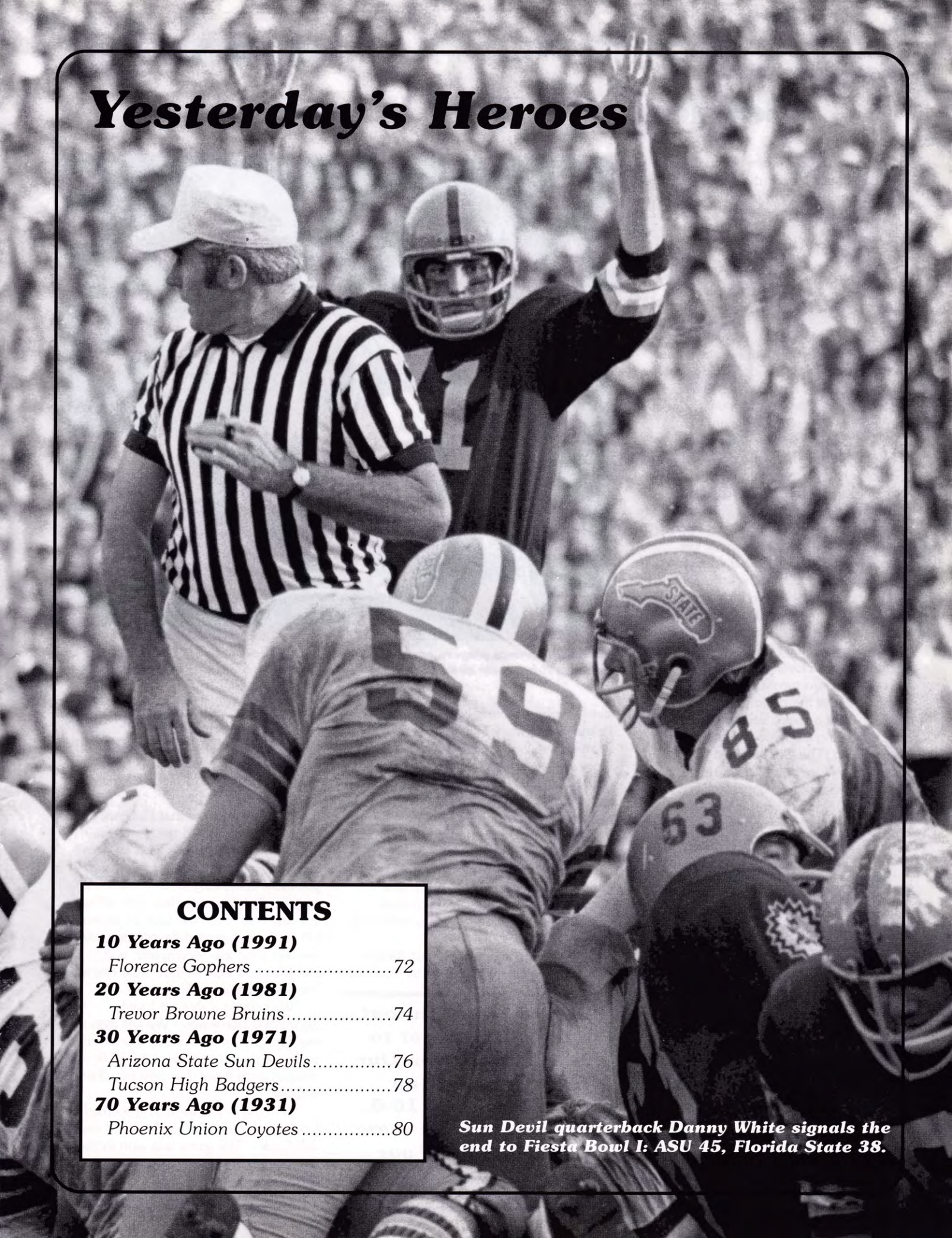
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Westwood HS

Yesterday's Heroes



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Sun Devil quarterback Danny White signals the end to Fiesta Bowl I: ASU 45, Florida State 38.

10 years ago (1991)

Gophers '91 Final Was Golden

Determining fact from fiction is sometimes a difficult task. If the rumor mill is right, it's interesting to note how Florence High came up with a Gopher as its school mascot.

When young Vince Killerlain took over the school's first team in 1928, the athletic teams had no mascot. So he convinced the school to use the same critter used by his college alma mater, the University of Minnesota. Killerlain, a Minnesota transplant, got his wish, and the mascot became a Gopher. However, the local football fans got very little in return. During his short four-year stint at the school, FHS won only eight games. The 1928 squad was winless.

But a lot has changed since then. The Gophers have won more than their share of games, conference crowns and state titles, in several sports. In 1989, their state championship football team produced three 1,000-yard rushers: Bill Burris, Ken Neal and Darrel Jordan.

But the football title the school landed 10 years ago might have been the sweetest. Coached by Tom Shoemake, the Gophers didn't even win the league. The crown went to Ray High after the Kearny school nipped Florence 14-12 in the season finale. Unfortunately for Ray, both teams went to the playoffs.

Still, after a shaky September start, it was surprising that Florence was still in the running. The Gophers tied nearby Coolidge 7-7 in their opener, then dropped their second game to Eloy Santa Cruz, 12-0. In the first two weeks the only score the offense could muster was a short touchdown pass from Robert Ramirez to Chris George.

But for the next nine weeks Shoemake's forces improved with age, and the two point loss to Ray was the only setback. Along the way, Ramirez scored 16 touchdowns, including three on punt returns. He rushed for 1,066 yards on 132 carries. Clay Cordova, Ned Osborn, Eddie Perez and sophomore Andrew Ramirez contributed to the scoring column. On defense, Cordova and Perez were the leading tacklers. James Cartwright intercepted seven passes.

After coming off an near-perfect win over Superior, the 14-12 loss to Ray was a heartbreaker. The only highlight for Gopher fans was the 96-yard punt return by the older Ramirez.

In the first round of the 2A playoffs Florence faced Camp Verde and the state's highest scoring back, Travis Palmer. The Gopher's defense held Palmer, who would gain 4,985 yards and score 70 touchdowns during his career, to 51 yards on 22 carries. Andrew Ramirez threw two touchdown passes and Florence prevailed, 15-6.



Jubilant Florence players carry head coach Tom Shoemake off the field after the Gophers third state championship in five years (Casa Grande Dispatch photo).

Clay Cordova and Robert Ramirez took care of the scoring, and the defense did the rest in a 21-7 semifinal win over a good Willcox club. That win set up a rematch with Ray, which steamrolled through most of the playoffs to reach the finals.

With a short score by Robert Ramirez, plus the only field goal kicked by Cordova all season, the Gophers turned the tables on Ray in the rematch to win the title game, 10-6. The more than 4,000 fans in attendance at Marcos de Niza High in Tempe were treated to a thrilling defensive game.

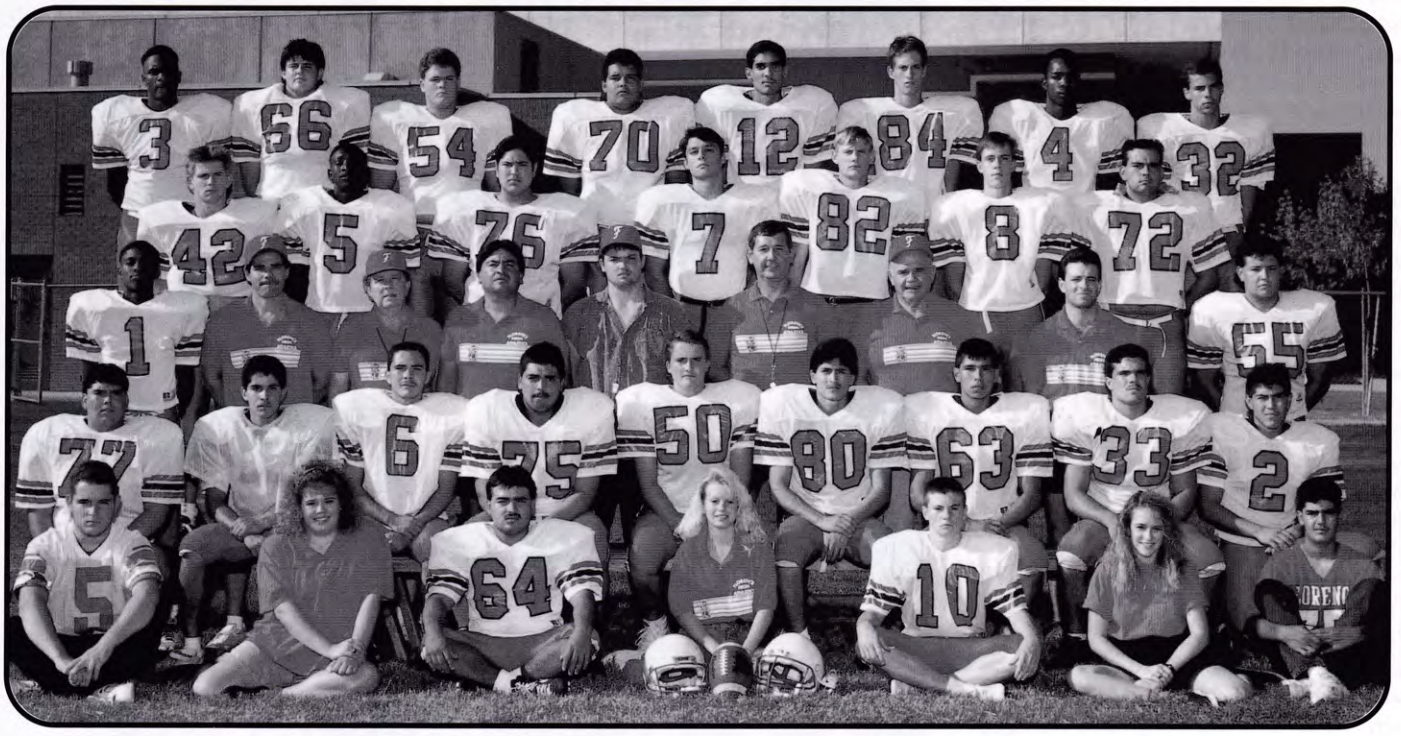
"We wanted a shutout. We just didn't want to give up a turnover. Our offense sucked it up after we went up 10-0, and coasted from there. I'm very proud of our defense."

When it appeared that Florence had completely dominated the game, Ray drove 86 yards with less than four minutes remaining to make it interesting. It got more interesting when Florence failed to get a first down on their own 45-yard line and Ray took over with 14 seconds left. But a last second desperation pass in the end zone was incomplete, and Florence had won its third state title in five years, all under Shoemake.

"We wanted a shutout," said Shoemake afterwards. "We just didn't want to give up a turnover. Our offense sucked it up after we went up 10-0, and coasted from there. I'm very proud of our defense."

"Nothing in the beginning seemed to work for us," concluded Ray head coach Jeff Cude. "The game was won in the first quarter. Florence had a super defensive effort."

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Gophers 0	Eloy Santa Cruz 12
Gophers 25	Winkelman Hayden 0
Gophers 28	Queen Creek 7
Gophers 46	Seton Catholic 7
Gophers 35	Valley Christian 13
Gophers 42	Scottsdale Judson 0
Gophers 46	Superior 0
Gophers 12	Kearny Ray 14

PLAYOFFS:

Gophers 15	Camp Verde 6
Gophers 21	Willcox 7
Gophers 10	Kearny Ray 6

20 years ago (1981)

Big, Bad Bruins Finally Rule Roost

The season belonged to Trevor Browne High. From start to finish, when everyone was in the lineup, the Bruins were almost unbeatable.

During the third week of the 1981 season, the Mesa Jackrabbits ran TB right out of town. During a 32-19 loss on the road, blue chip linebacker Darin Tupper, a University of Oklahoma signee, was ejected from the game. It was a preview of things to come. At least for that night.

"From that point on it was all down hill," said Trevor Browne coach Bill Mitton after the season. "But afterwards, when we got back to school and prepared for Alhambra, our defense regrouped and made a complete turnaround."

Indeed they did. Eight of the remaining teams on their schedule scored one touchdown or less. In the state finals in Tucson, Salpointe Catholic, coached by Ed Doherty, failed to score. It was a fitting conclusion, since the Bruins were humiliated by Tempe McClintock in the 1980 finals, 34-7.

But 20 years ago, in the playoff run, Trevor Browne was hot. Scottsdale fell 28-0 in the first round. Then the Bruins gained a small amount of revenge by knocking out McClintock in the quarterfinals, 16-9. The defending state champs, coached by Karl Kiefer, entered the contest with a 7-4 record.

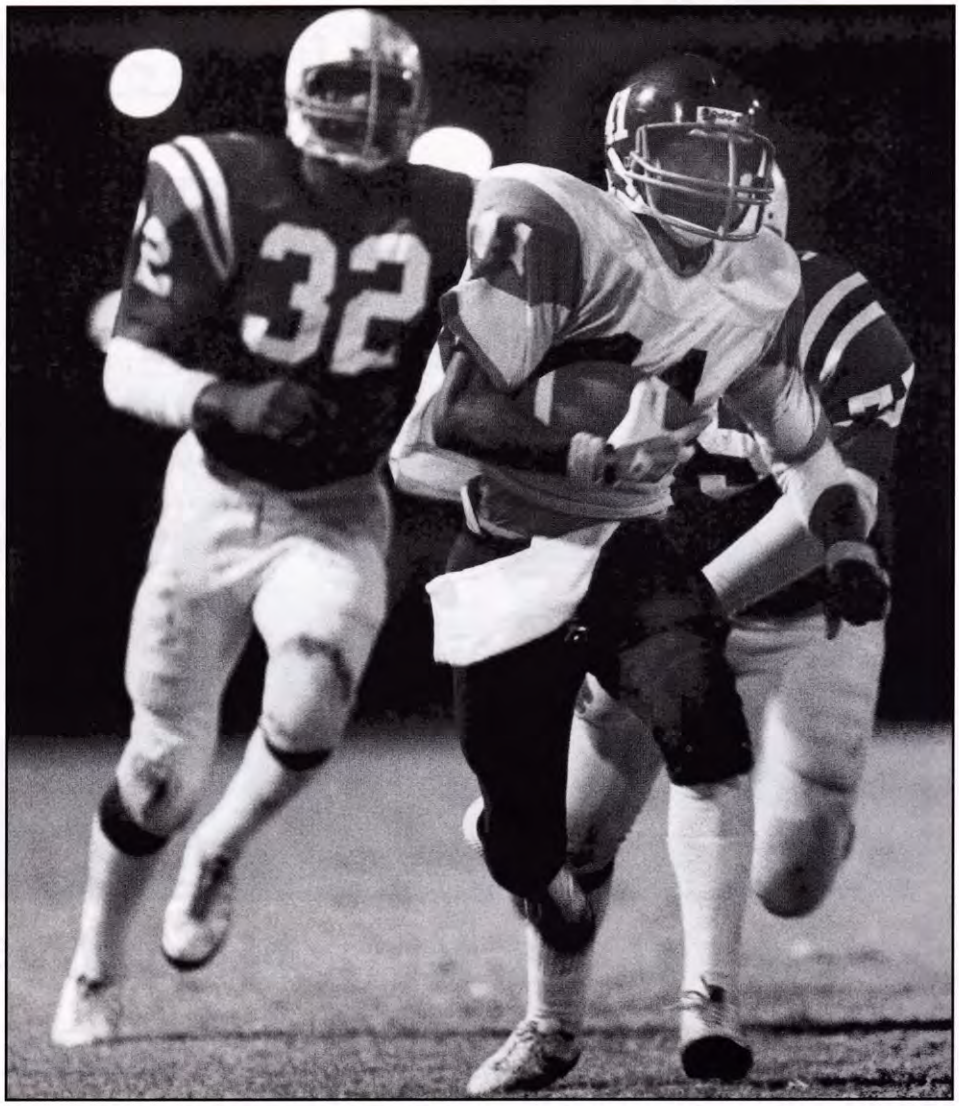
Then, the state's two strongest parochial schools, Phoenix St. Mary's and Tucson Salpointe, fell on consecutive weekends.

"We beat St. Mary's in a great game," Mitton later said. "One of the best games I've ever been involved with. When we won that one I knew we could go all the way. It was just a matter of us not beating ourselves."

That game was the semifinals, played at Phoenix College. The Bruins prevailed 29-28 in overtime. It was a classic high school contest, one which could have gone either way. It was probably the best played game in Arizona that fall, one in which both Trevor Browne and St. Mary's fans got their monies worth.

One week later the Bruins crushed Salpointe 20-0 for all the marbles, played before 15,000 fans at the University of Arizona in Tucson. It was a physical mismatch.

Trevor Browne, known for its big, physical line and almost as big fullbacks, wore down the Lancers in the second half. The crown was only the second to go to a 5A school west of Central Avenue since West High won the 1957 mythical state title. In 1959, South Mountain and Yuma tied.



Trevor Browne's Edrick Moreland scoots down the sidelines and outruns St. Mary's Joe Sells during a 64-yard scoring play (Arizona Republic photo).

"Salpointe had six kids going both ways," added Mitton. "That was an advantage to us in the third and fourth quarter. I think we really wore them down."

"Salpointe had six kids going both ways. That was an advantage to us in the third and fourth quarter. I think we really wore them down."

It was a scoreless tie at halftime. Then the TB assistant coaches regrouped the Bruins' linemen and the second half was a blowout. Salpointe had beaten Mesa 15-13 one week earlier with its passing game. But in the finals the Bruins shut everything down.

Mike Tressler scored on two short runs and Edrick Moreland scooted in from 20 yards out. "It felt like after we scored that first touchdown, their defense didn't know what we were doing," said tackle Mike Pomeroy afterwards. "We took advantage of it."

Tupper, the "large school" player of the year, was joined on the *Super All-State Team* by Pomeroy, a 6-3, 240-pound senior, with guard Ralph Federico also receiving post season recognition.

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THE CHAMPIONSHIP RUN:

BRUINS 14	Phoenix Cortez 0
BRUINS 14	Moon Valley 10
BRUINS19	Mesa 32
BRUINS 31	Phoenix Alhambra 0
BRUINS 14	Phoenix Maryvale 0
BRUINS 39	Phoenix Carl Hayden 7
BRUINS 13	South Mountain 6
BRUINS 28	Phoenix Camelback 12
BRUINS 46	Phoenix West 6
BRUINS 22	Phoenix Central 28
BRUINS 28	Scottsdale 8
BRUINS 16	Tempe McClintock 9
BRUINS 29	St. Mary's 28 (OT)
BRUINS 20	Tucson Salpointe 0

30 years ago (1971)

Fiesta Bowl I Was a Blast

It started off with a bang. The founders of the Fiesta Bowl couldn't have asked for a better start. Or finish. It was Fiesta Bowl I and Arizona State, coached by Frank Kush, would beat Florida State 45-38 in the last minute.

That helped jump-start the bowl. But major bowl games don't become financial success stories overnight. In 1968, an ambitious group of nine community-minded fans set out to develop a post season bowl for the Valley of the Sun.

The fruit of their efforts was the Fiesta Bowl - a name picked by the public - with the NCAA giving its approval on April 16, 1971. From the very first game, thanks in first to Kush and his mighty Devils, the bowl has been a tremendous success.

The nine original members of the Fiesta's Board of Directors were Karl Eller, Don Dupont, Glenn Hawkins, George Taylor, George Isbell, Jim Meyer, Don Meyers, Bill Shover and Jack Stewart. The original meeting was called by Hawkins, and Stewart was called on to serve as its first president.

Several years of hard work payed off with the first-ever game, played on December 27, 1971. Arizona State, champions of the Western Athletic Conference, came away the winners, played before a sellout crowd of 51,098 afternoon fans.

Many followers have called the initial game the best in the bowl's history. It was the third highest scoring bowl game at the time, and featured a tremendous passing dual between Florida State quarterback Gary Huff and A-State's Danny White, who was just a sophomore.

Huff completed 25 of 46 passes for 347 yards and three touchdowns. Sun Devil receiver Calvin Demery, a product of South Mountain High, scored the first-ever Fiesta Bowl touchdown, a 21-yard scoring strike from White, a Westwood High product. Woody Green scored the last, a one-yard burst with 34 seconds left to give ASU the win.

A record $168,237 was paid out to the teams, at the time the best payoff ever at a first-year bowl game. Said Florida State head coach Larry Jones afterwards, "They will have a hard time making a better game next year. In all my years of being associated with football, I've never seen such speed on a football field. We just couldn't contain it. It's one thing to watch it on film, it's a lot different playing against it. Film does no justice for speed."



Sun Devil halfback Benny Malone, from Santa Cruz High in Eloy, is pulled down by Florida State defenders (Tempe Daily News photo).

This Sun Devil team, like those before and after coached by Kush, was loaded with speed merchants, quick linemen and quality quarterbacks. The nationally-ranked Devils lost only once, a 24-18 setback at Oregon State, a game which ASU played without White, who was bothered by a shoulder injury. He returned to action one week later in grand form.

In Albuquerque Kush played a hunch, and it netted the young White national AP Back of the Week honors. White was sitting on the bench, expecting to handle only the punting, even though his separated shoulder had healed. Two minutes before game time Kush walked up and said, "You take the team for the first two series or so."

"They will have a hard time making a better game next year. In all my years of being associated with football, I've never seen such speed on a football field. We just couldn't contain it"

Before Kush could get White out, the Devils slick signal caller had thrown six touchdown passes - four in the first 18 minutes. Ironically, Florida State's Huff hit on five scoring bombs against South Carolina on the same day.

At the skill positions, ASU featured Demery, Steve Holden and Joe Petty at the receiving corps, with Green, Ben Malone and Brent McClanahan the running backs. The defense was led by ends Junior Ah You, MVP of the Fiesta Bowl, and Larry Shorty, like Malone a product of Santa Cruz High in Eloy. Guard George Endres (Scottsdale), guard Steve Matlock (Alhambra), linebacker Larry Delbridge (Coolidge) and safety Mike Clupper (Maryvale) were several local products who started for one of the Devils all-time best teams.

Little did Florida State's Jones know how wrong his prediction would be. One year later ASU beat Missouri 49-35 in Fiesta Bowl II, and gained 718 yards in the process. Some things never seem to change.

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THE 1971 SUN DEVILS:
(11-1-0)

Devils 18	Houston 17
Devils 41	Utah 21
Devils 24	Texas El Paso 7
Devils 42	Colorado State 24
Devils 18	Oregon State 24 (L)
Devils 60	New Mexico 28
Devils 44	Air Force 28
Devils 38	BYU 13
Devils 52	Wyoming 19
Devils 49	San Jose State 6
Devils 31	Arizona 0

FIESTA BOWL

Devils 45	Florida State 38

30 years ago (1971)

One Last Title for the Big Red

At the time, who would have ever guessed. Tucson High's mighty Badgers had just stagged a dramatic come-from-behind rally to beat Tempe in the state finals. Nobody knew it then, but it may have been the Badgers' last.

Tucson, known for their bruising running game, took a few pages from Tempe's playbook and went to the air. They struck for a pair of fourth quarter scores to nip the Buffaloes 20-14, played before 15,000 fans at Arizona Stadium in Tucson.

It may have been the most thrilling finish to a state title game ever. In one of the wildest plays in playoff history, Badger quarterback Frank Castro, a pitcher on the school's state championship baseball team, hit all-state end Jinx Johnson with an 80-yard bomb on third down with 4:07 left in the game.

But Tempe didn't quit. Quarterback Fred Mortensen, the state player of the year, hit Rick Molina with a 50-yard scoring strike and the Buffs were back on top. And it looked like Tempe would win. But on third-and-11, with only one timeout left, Castro found Lonnie Williams open at the goal for the winning score.

For the night Castro, who started in the Badgers' secondary, completed nine of 14 passes for 188 yards and two scores. This in Tucson's famed T-formation offense, one which they had been running since World War II. Mortensen was 15 of 33 for 229 yards, two scores and three interceptions.

The difference in this championship bout was the running game. Although Tucson would win with the pass, the Badgers rolled for 165 net yards, while Tempe managed just 12. Still, the tough Tempe defense, led by little Terry Trinidad, contained most of the vaunted Badger running backs, especially Kelly Langford, one of the school's all-time single season rushing leaders.

Unlike the previous year, when Tucson's nationally ranked club steamrolled its playoff opponents, these Badgers had an uphill fight all the way. Although Tucson Pueblo was eliminated in the quarterfinals, 28-0, Tucson was taken to the limit in the semis, a 15-12 win over Phoenix Union.

"They call the game football, but as played last night it was wholesale mayhem," wrote Hardy Price in *The Arizona Republic*. In a tough, hard hitting contest, the crowd of 13,000 in Arizona Stadium was treated to an outstanding display of high school football."



Kelly Langford, who was blind in one eye, was one of Tucson's all-time single season rushing leaders, with 1,515 yards (Arizona Daily Star photo).

The Badgers pushed across the go-ahead score with 2:57 left in the game. Little Gary Dixon carried the ball in for the win. In between Dixon's score and an opening play 70-yard dash by Phoenix Union's Manuel Jones, the fans watched one of the most talented semfinal battles in state history.

The game produced no less than 10 major college football signees, including *Parade Magazine* All-American Mike Dawson, Tucson's star tackle. Jones, a University of New Mexico signee, was one of many gifted Coyotes on this night, including future all-pro linebacker Larry Gordon.

"The seniors stayed together four years to make it to this point. They worked hard for it. We had a great effort. Let me tell you, it's really an honor to win the state title two years in a row."

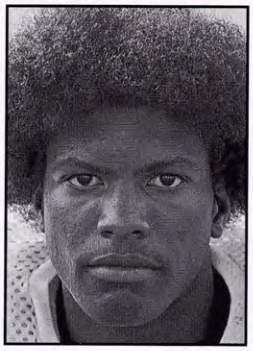
The game also featured two long-time Arizona coaching figures, Tucson's Ollie Mayfield and Phoenix Union's Bill Saunders. The championship would be the second and last for Mayfield, who would retire from the Badgers' program five years later with a .774 winning percentage.

Tucson's only setback was an early October loss to Salpointe, played before a standing-room crowd at Tucson High. It was this Lancer team which featured quarterback Ray Wild, halfback Victor Deal and all-state tackle Brian Murray, later a star at Arizona. In fact, it was during this era that high school football in Tucson - from top to bottom - was arguably the strongest in the city's history.

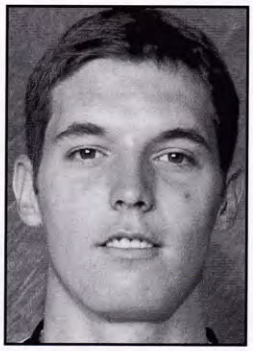
"The seniors stayed together four years to make it to this point," added Mayfield. "They worked hard for it. We had a great effort. Let me tell you, it's really an honor to win the state title two years in a row."

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Rodney Peete
Sahuaro



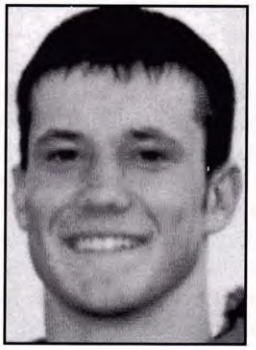
John Rattay
Desert Vista



Fred Enke, Jr.
Tucson



Grady Benton
Mesa



Mike Nixon
Sunnyslope

HONORING ARIZONA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL QUARTERBACK

2000 ..... Mike Nixon, Phoenix Sunnyslope (jr)
1999 ..... John Beck, Mesa Mountain View
1998 ..... John Rattay, Tempe Desert Vista (jr)
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 ..... Cary Palmer, Mesa
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 ..... Tim 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 ..... Jim Mason, Phoenix West
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

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).*

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"Good luck to all coaches and players in 2001!"

70 years ago (1931)

Phoenix Hangs on for a Repeat

One year removed from the greatest season in Phoenix Union history, the defending champs made ready for the 1931 campaign with a raw but big turnout for R.R. Robinson's 12th edition at the school.

With an enrollment base of more than 4,000 students, the Coyotes were never short for football talent. They had short players, but never too few of them.

"Once you win the championship you get greedy and want to win it again," said Robinson at the time. "We would like to, but it will be harder this time around. We don't have a Flippen or Tompkins on the team this year. Everybody will be shooting for us."

The players in reference were Conrad Flippen, who took his player of the year skills to Notre Dame, and Harry Tompkins, the sprint sensation who was now in Los Angeles at USC.

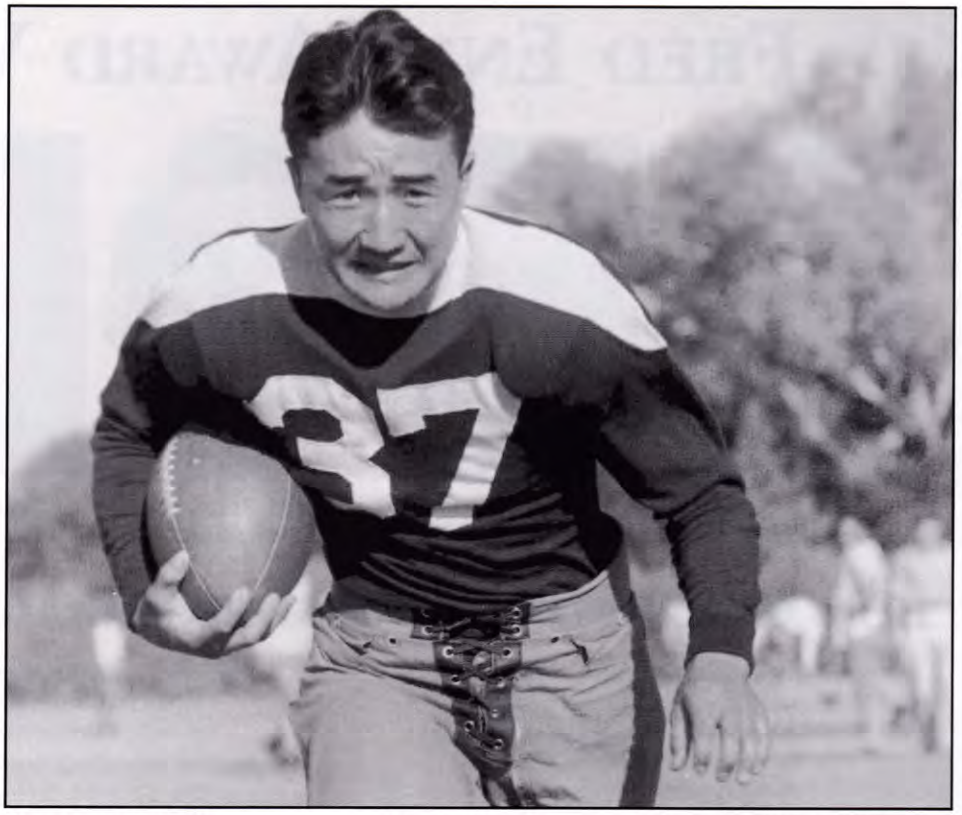
Playing "up and down" ball all season, as their coach would later say, the Coyotes managed to scrape out enough conference victories to win the state and Southwestern titles for the second consecutive year. Tackle John Harrell, the team's captain, was easily the star player of the season. Harrell joined teammates Dean Duke, Paul Guthrie and Bill Kajikawa on the all-state team, picked by *The Arizona Republican*.

In the season opener, played under the lights in Phoenix, 3,500 fans watched the Coyotes pound a lighter Yuma team into the dust, 36-0. Four blocked punts, two by future Green Bay Packer end Carl Mullenaux, highlighted the performance.

Phoenix dropped their first game one week later, to the college freshmen from Flagstaff. A two-touchdown performance by the Coyotes' Ed McKinney was not enough in a close, hard fought contest. One week later Phoenix took it out on Glendale, crushing the farm boys 59-6. It was in this game that Kajikawa, a junior quarterback, stamped himself as a star, scoring three times, including a 60-yard punt return.

"I first got the opportunity to play varsity when I was a sophomore," says Kajikawa, who today resides in Tempe. "We had a great team, one of the best ever, with Flippen and the boys. But I broke my collarbone and missed half the season. The worst thing about it was I missed the photo shoot. I couldn't come to picture day."

Before his high school career was over, Kajikawa would earn two all-state certificates, then play and coach almost every sport at Arizona State.



Junior Bill Kajikawa, who would later play and coach at Arizona State, scored three touchdowns against Glendale, including a 60 yard punt return.

The first loss to a high school team came in San Diego, where the Hilltoppers overpowered the Coyotes, 9-6. Bill Hyder's second quarter pass to Bill Gohring accounted for the lone Phoenix score.

One week later Charley Soper, a substitute fullback, was the star, scoring three times during a 20-7 win over bitter rival Tucson. The game drew 6,000 fans to Montgomery Stadium in Phoenix, and featured a classic matchup between two all-state linemen, Harrel and the Badgers' Earl Nolan, a 6-2, 205-pound guard who would later play for the NFL Chicago Cardinals.

"We had a great team, one of the best ever ... But I broke my collarbone and missed half the season. The worst thing about it was I missed the photo shoot. I couldn't get to picture day."

In consecutive weeks the Coyotes clinched the SWIL crown, beating Albuquerque 13-6 on the road, then El Paso 13-0 in Phoenix. Mike Gregory's 40-yard pass interception for a score doomed Albuquerque. Robinson's young squad played their best defensive ball of the season.

Then the state crown became the Coyotes after a 25-0 win over Mesa, played before 5,000 at Montgomery. Martin Spalding and Kajikawa were the offensive stars, with Paul Blanton's booming punts an additional weapon.

As usual, the largest crowd of the season arrived on Thanksgiving Day, with the Phoenix Indian School the traditional opponent. PLayed before 8,000 sun-baked fans, the Braves were ground into the dirt, 33-0. It was the Coyotes third straight win in the annual rivalry.

The season ended on a sour note one week later, when Jordan High near Salt Lake City edged the Coyotes 12-7 in a post-season game to determine the champion of the Rocky Mountain region.



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THE 1931 PHOENIX UNION COYOTES (7-3-1)

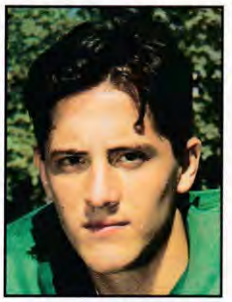
COYOTES 36	Yuma 0
COYOTES 13	NAU Frosh 18
COYOTES 59	Glendale 6
COYOTES 13	Arizona Frosh 13
COYOTES 6	San Diego, Ca. 9
COYOTES 20	Tucson 7
COYOTES 13	Albuquerque 6
COYOTES 13	El Paso, Tx. 0
COYOTES 25	Mesa 0
COYOTES 33	Phoenix Indians 0
COYOTES 7	Salt Lake Jordan 12



Paul Shields
Paradise Valley

All-Time Phoenix Metro Football Records

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Ryan Kealy
St. Mary's

TOUCHDOWNS (GAME)
8.....C.R. Davis, Moon Valley, 2000
7.....Coury Hankins, South Mountain, 1994
7.....Mike Brown, Saguaro, 1995
7.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1996 (jr)
6.....Cotton Reiman, Phoenix Union, 1928
6.....Art Halbrook, Glendale, 1936
6.....Bill Crabtree, Agua Fria, 1952 (so)
6.....Phil Smith, Cortez, 1967
6.....Glenn Rogers, Agua Fria, 1982
6.....Anthony Parker, McClintock, 1983
6.....Art Greathouse, McClintock, 1984 (jr)
6.....Darren Woodson, Maryvale, 1986
6.....Andrew McCormick, McClintock, '90
6.....Mike Mitchell, Brophy Prep, 1990 (so)
6.....Skeeter Brown, Mtn. Pointe, 1994
6.....Tim Vining, Cactus, 1994
6.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1996 (jr)
6.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1996 (jr)
6.....Cornell Canidate, Alhambra, 2000
6.....Mike Bell, Tolleson, 2000

TOUCHDOWNS (SEASON)
41.....Bobby Wade, Desert Vista, 1998
39.....Mike Bell, Tolleson, 2000
38.....Brian Drew, McClintock, 1989
37.....Tavon Cooper, Peoria, 1994
35.....Mike Brown, Saguaro, 1995
34.....Derrick Ray, Cactus, 1988
34.. ....Paul Shields, Paradise Valley, 1993
34.....Micah Barton, Phoenix Christian, 1996
34.....Travis Gammage, Cortez, 1998
33.....Coury Hankins, South Mountain, 1994
32.....Danny Reynolds, VCHS, 1996
32.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1996 (jr)
32.....Josh Griffin, Chaparral, 1999
31.....Derrick Ray, Cactus, 1987 (jr)
31.....Keith Huckaby, Agua Fria, 1989
31.....Keith Brown, Mountain Pointe, 1995

TOUCHDOWNS (CAREER)
83.....Josh Griffin, Chaparral, 1997-99
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
63.....George Greathouse, Carver/
.....Phoenix Union, 1952-55
63.....Sean Reeder, Cave Creek, 1985-88
61.....Jerry Bridgman, Buckeye, 1955-58
60.....Tim Smith, St. Mary's, 1964-67
59.....Daryl Lightfoot, Maryvale, 1998-00
54.....Anthony Parker, McClintock, 1981-83

POINTS (GAME)
50.....C.R. Davis, Moon Valley, 2000
42.....Coury Hankins, South Mountain, 1994
42.....Mike Brown, Saguaro, 1995
42.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1996 (jr)

POINTS (SEASON)
246.....Bobby Wade, Desert Vista, 1998
236.....Mike Bell, Tolleson, 2000
228.....Brian Drew, McClintock, 1989
222.....Tavon Cooper, Peoria, 1994
216.....Paul Shields, Paradise Valley, 1993
213.....Cleveland Colter, McClintock, 1985
210.....Mike Brown, Saguaro, 1995
204.....Derrick Ray, Cactus, 1988
204.....Micah Barton, Phoenix Christian, 1996
204.....Travis Gammage, Cortez, 1998

POINTS (CAREER)
517.....Josh Griffin, Chaparral, 1997-99
460.....Derrick Ray, Cactus, 1986-88
456.....Mike Mitchell, Brophy Prep, 1990-92
440.....Paul Shields, Paradise Valley, 1991-93
434.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1995-97
386.....Sean Reeder, Cave Creek, 1985-88
383.....George Greathouse, Carver/
.....Phoenix Union, 1952-55
378.....Jerry Bridgman, Buckeye, 1955-58
376.....Ronnie Bonner, Westwood, 1972-74

RUSHING YARDS (GAME)
388.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1996 (jr)
367.....Terrell Suggs, Hamilton, 1999
358.....Glenn Rogers, Agua Fria, 1982
353.....Brian Galbreath, Cortez, 1991
352.....Joel Huerta, Coronado, 1995 (so)
344.....Brian Pringle, Sunnyslope, 1970
341.....Daryl Lightfoot, Maryvale, 1999 (jr)
339.....Ronnie Bonner, Westwood, 1972 (so)
334.....Paul Fichera, Coronado, 1990 (jr)
333.....Mike Bell, Tolleson, 1999 (jr)
331.....Darnell Autry, Tempe, 1993
331.....Mike Bell, Tolleson, 2000

RUSHING YARDS (SEASON)
2,601...Keith Brown, Mountain Pointe, 1995
2,484...Mike Bell, Tolleson, 2000
2,274...Terrell Suggs, Hamilton, 1999
2,230...Tim Vining, Cactus, 1994
2,224...Micah Barton, Phoenix Christian, 1996
2,201...Mike Mitchell, Brophy Prep, 1992
2,149...Travis Gammage, Cortez, 1998
2,094...Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1996 (jr)
2,036...Mike Mantle, Coronado, 1996
2,030...Tavon Cooper, Peoria, 1994
2,027...Coury Hankins, South Mountain, 1994
2,023...Mike Brown, Saguaro, 1995

RUSHING YARDS (CAREER)
5,669...Mike Mitchell, Brophy Prep, 1990-92
5,204...Sean Reeder, Cave Creek, 1985-88
4,597...Josh Griffin, Chaparral, 1997-99
4,551...George Greathouse, Carver/
.....Phoenix Union, 1952-55
4,417...Jerry Bridgman, Buckeye, 1955-58
4,341...Daryl Lightfoot, Maryvale, 1998-00
4,307...Whizzer White, Mesa, 1944-46
4,252...Cornell Canidate, Alhambra, 1998-00
4,240...Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1995-97
4,128...Derrick Ray, Cactus, 1986-88
4,119...Mike Brown, Saguaro, 1993-95
4,050...Ronnie Bonner, Westwood, 1972-74

CARRIES (GAME)
51.....C.R. Davis, Moon Valley, 1999 (jr)
50.....C.R. Davis, Moon Valley, 2000
46.....Bud Norman, Tolleson, 1995
45.....Jose Valenzuela, Apache Jct., 1989
44.....Forrest Valora, Trevor Browne, 1975
44.....Carlos Cochrane, Ironwood, 1991 (jr)

AVERAGE YARDS PER CARRY (SEASON)
12.6.....Jerry Bridgman, Buckeye, 1955 (fr)
12.5.....Jerry Bridgman, Buckeye, 1957 (jr)
12.3.....Rick Kelton, Gilbert, 1974
12.0.....Jerry Bridgman, Buckeye, 1956 (so)
12.0.....Robert Holcombe, Mesa, 1993
11.9.....Jerry Bridgman, Buckeye, 1958
11.9.....Sean Reeder, Cave Creek, 1987 (jr)
11.8.....Mike Mitchell, Brophy Prep, 1990 (so)

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN RUN
99.....Sammy Johnson, Mesa, 1952
99.....Craig Poncziak, Gerard, 1964
99.....Wayne Jones, Dysart, 1972
99.....Jerry Harper, Chaparral, 1980

Yes you can afford health insurance.



Last year, Tolleson tailback Mike Bell, a University of Arizona signee, rushed for 2,484 yards and scored 39 touchdowns (Steve Paynter photo).

99.....Tom Collins, Apollo, 1985
99.....Randy Carr, Central, 1986
99.....Phil Hayward, Deer Valley, 1993 (jr)
99.....Trung Canidate, Central, 1994
99.....Phil Hayward, Deer Valley, 1994
98.....Marvin Davis, Tempe, 1950
98.....Jim Rawlins, Tempe, 1950
98.....Danny Arredondo, Tempe, 1952
98.....Paul Fichera, Coronado, 1990 (jr)
98.....Craig Brown, Westview, 1994
98.....Mike Bell, Tolleson, 2000

PASSING YARDS (GAME)
511.....Scott Martinez, Westview, 2000
480.....Mike Strack, Centennial, 1997 (jr)
479.....Marty Rincon, Westview, 1993
429.....Mark Tefteller, Phoenix Christian, 1998
418.....John Beck, Mountain View, 1999
404.....Mike Makings, Scottsdale, 1971
403.....Rick Johnson, Paradise Valley, 1983
402.....Richard Lucero, South Mountain, 1997
396.....Jonathan Beasley, Cactus, 1994 (jr)
385.....Rick Savale, Arcadia, 1966
380.....Bob Pitre, Arcadia, 1975

PASSING YARDS (SEASON)
3,462...Marty Rincon, Westview, 1993
3,146...Jon Stoner, Cactus, 1999
3,094...John Rattay, Desert Vista, 1998 (jr)
3,009...Chris Snyder, Sunnyslope, 1994
2,768...Mark Brooks, Greenway, 1995
2,683...Ryan Kealy, St. Mary's, 1995
2,669...John Beck, Mountain View, 1999
2,646...Tim Rattay, Phoenix Christian, 1994
2,566...Jonathan Beasley, Cactus, 1994 (jr)
2,539...Kent Kiefer, McClintock, 1985
2,507...Kevin Stephens, Cactus, 1991
2,507...Dennis Gile, Cortez, 1998
2,486...Mark Tefteller, Phx.Christian, 1998 (jr)
2,486...Mark Tefteller, Phoenix Christian, 1999
2,442...Todd Mortensen, Tempe, 1996
2,405...Richard Lucero, South Mountain, 1997
2,402...Marco Burruel, Maryvale, 1997
2,372...Justin Echols, Greenway, 1998

PASSING YARDS (CAREER)
7,239...Jon Stoner, Cactus, 1997-99
7,089...John Rattay, Desert Vista, 1997-99
6,441...Mark Brooks, Greenway, 1993-95
6,350...Ryan Kealy, St. Mary's, 1993-95
6,346...Kent Kiefer, McClintock, 1983-85
6,142...Mark Tefteller, Phx. Christian, 1997-99
6,064...Marty Rincon, Westview, 1991-93
5,455...Mike Nixon, Sunnyslope, 1998-active
5,139...Jonathan Beasley, Cactus, 1933-95

TOUCHDOWN PASSES (GAME)
7.....Tommy Scott, Gilbert, 1926
7.....Tim Rattay, Phoenix Christian, 1994
6.....Duncan Brown, Mesa, 1924 (jr)
6.....Charlie Beal, Mesa, 1943
6.....Gary Carpenter, North, 1968
6.....Chris Snyder, Sunnyslope, 1994
6.....Marco Burruel. Maryvale, 1997
6.....John Beck, Mountain view, 1999
6.....John Rattay, Desert Vista, 1999

TOUCHDOWN PASSES (SEASON)
42.....John Beck, Mountain View, 1999
41.....Ryan Kealy, St. Mary's, 1995
40.....Tim Rattay, Phoenix Christian, 1994
37.....Marty Rincon, Westview, 1993
36.....John Rattay, Desert Vista, 1998 (jr)
36.....Jon Stoner, Cactus, 1999
33.....Justin Echols, Greenway. 1998
32.....Todd Mortensen, Tempe, 1996
31.....Mark Brooks, Greenway, 1995
31.....Marco Burruel, Maryvale, 1997
31.....Mark Tefteller, Phoenix Christian, 1999
30.....Chris Snyder, Sunnyslope, 1994

TOUCHDOWN PASSES (CAREER)
83.....Ryan Kealy, St. Mary's, 1993-95
82.....John Rattay, Desert Vista, 1997-99
78.....Jon Stoner, Cactus, 1997-99
73.....Mark Tefteller, Phx. Christian, 1997-99
60.....Todd Mortensen, Tempe, 1994-96
58.....Marty Rincon, Westview, 1991-93
58.....Mark Brooks, Greenway, 1993-95

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN PASS
99.....Frank Zellner to Gloyes Lemons, ...Buckeye, 1955
99.....Doug Stitler to Curt Reiman, ...Brophy Prep, 1978
98.....Ken Butler to Ralph Flores, ...Sunnyslope, 1960
98.....Matt Saxe to Colin Fuel, ...Washington, 1993
98.....Ryan Leyba to DeRonn Finley, ...Marcos de Niza, 1994

RECEPTIONS (GAME)
17.....Sean Bowman, Phx. Christian, 1999
16.....Mickey Hatcher, Mesa, 1973
14.....Willie Haefs, Tempe, 1998
13.....Jason Birdsong, 1989 (jr)
13.....David Stephens, Glendale, '90 (jr)
12.....Brad Anderson, Alhambra, 1978
12.....Adam Mesa, Gilbert, 1982
12.....Pat Schabel, Westwood, 1984
12.....Pat Schabel, Westwood, 1984
12.....Shelby Hill, Central, 1988
12.....Rick Huisman, Phx. Christian, 1998
12.....Ryan Jones, Saguaro, 1999 (jr)

RECEPTIONS (SEASON)
84.....Travis Brun, Deer Valley, 1996
76.....Jason Birdsong, Cactus, 1989 (jr)
76.....Damian Segovia, Greenway, 1995
75.....Justin Taplin, Tempe, 1996
74.....Tariq McDonald, St. Mary's, 1995
68.....Chris Baniszewski, McClintock, 1985
66.....Brant Williams, Independence, 1986
66.....Tony Vining, Cactus, 1991
66.....Matt Nixon, Sunnyslope, 1996 (jr)
66.....Sean Bowman, Phx. Christian, 1999
65.....Tim Kohner, Phx. Christian, 1994

RECEPTIONS (CAREER)
166.....Justin Taplin, Tempe, 1993-96
157.....Elton Johnson, Desert Vista, 1997-99
152.....Ernie Salazar, Paradise Valley, 1985-87
148.....Jason Birdsong, Cactus, 1988-90
138.....Damian Segovia, Greenway, 1993-95
126.....Matt Allen, Cactus, 1997-99
123.....Sean Bowman, Phx.Christian, 1997-99
122.....Wayman Westbrooks, M'vale, 1995-97
120.....Roger Aguilar, St. Mary's, 1992-94

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RECEIVING YARDS (GAME)
340.....Sean Bowman, Phx. Christian, 1999
335.....Ruck Huisman, Phx. Christian, 1998
315.....Mark Marcos, Centennial, 1997
302.....Pete Klaass, Paradise Valley, 1983 (jr)
296.....Larry Bandura, Scottsdale, 1971
263.....Ryan Jones, Saguaro, 1999 (jr)
258.....Jimmy Conner, Greenway, 1998
255.....Brian Ruede, Brophy Prep, 1989
247.....Ryan Jones, Saguaro, 1999 (jr)
240.....Shelby Hill, Central, 1988
234.....Murl Huff, Phoenix Union, 1924
226.....Larry Bandura, Scottsdale, 1971
225.....Jim Palmer, Scottsdale, 1962
225.....Craig Brown, Westview, 1993 (jr)

RECEIVING YARDS (SEASON)
1,760...Damian Segovia, Greenway, 1995
1,662...Jimmy Connor, Greenway, 1998
1,298...Justin Taplin, Tempe, 1996
1,226...Mickey Hatcher, Mesa, 1973
1,208...Sean Bowman, Phx. Christian, 1999
1,201...Jason Birdsong, Cactus, 1989
1,190...Tariq McDonald, St. Mary's, 1995
1,188...Tony Vining, Cactus, 1991
1,183...David O'Hara, Cortez, 1998
1,180...Tim Kohner, Phoenix Christian, 1994

RECEIVING YARDS (CAREER)
3,333...Damian Segovia, Greenway, 1993-95
2,724...Justin Taplin, Tempe, 1993-96
2,508...Jason Birdsong, Cactus, 1988-90
2,266...Matt Allen, Cactus, 1997-99
2,239...Wayman Westbrooks, M'vale, 1995-97
2,183...Sean Bowman, Phx.Christian, 1997-99
2,172...Speedy Hart, St. Mary's, 1973-75

TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS (GAME)
5.....Dwight Bennett, Glendale, 1966
4.....Murl Huff, Phoenix Union, 1924
4.....Merrill Brookings, Gilbert, 1926
4.....Cecil Crouch, Mesa, 1943
4.....Jim Palmer, Scottsdale, 1961 (jr)
4.....Jim Palmer, Scottsdale, 1962
4.....Mike Bowling, Agua Fria, 1966
4.....Dan White, West, 1967
4.....Dick Harris, Westwood, 1969 (jr)
4.....Jesus Tirado, Marcos de Niza, 1974
4.....Shawn Harris, Tempe, 1988
4.....Scott Mettham, Chaparral, 1988
4.....Mike Collins, Mt. Pointe, 1993 (jr)
4.....Tim Kohner, Phoenix Christian, 1994
4.....Mike Allen, Cactus, 1994
4.....David Tefteller, Phoenix Christian, 1995
4.....Elton Johnson, Desert Vista, 1999
4.....Sammy Moore, Westwood, 1999

TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS (SEASON)
23.....Jimmy Connor, Greenway, 1998
21.....Damian Segovia, Greenway, 1995
21.....Sean Bowman, Phx. Christian, 1999
20.....Tariq McDonald, St. Mary's, 1995
17.....Tim Kohner, Phoenix Christian, 1994
17.....David O'Hara, Cortez, 1998
16.....Justin Taplin, Tempe, 1996
15.....Jason Birdsong, Cactus, 1989 (jr)
15.....Wayman Westbrooks, Maryvale, 1997
15.....Todd Heap, Mountain View, 1997
15.....Bristol Olomua, Red Mountain, 1998
15.....Elton Johnson, Desert Vista, 1998 (jr)
15.....Ed Grigsby, Cactus, 1998 (jr)
15.....Elton Johnson, Desert Vista, 1999

TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS (CAREER)
35.....Damian Segovia, Greenway, 1993-95
34.....Elton Johnson, Desert Vista, 1997-99
33.....Sean Bowman, Phx.Christian, 1997-99
32.....David Tefteller, Phx. Christian, 1993-95
31.....Justin Taplin, Tempe, 1993-96

INTERCEPTIONS (GAME)
5.....Conrad Flippen, Phoenix Union, 1930
5.....Dick Gwinn, Judson, 1964
4.....Ned Newell, Mesa, 1921
4.....Albert Guthrie, Mesa, 1921
4.....Seth Williams, Glendale, 1958
4.....Jack Meck, Buckeye, 1958
4.....Craig Cardon, Mesa, 1966
4.....Ralph Quintero, Gilbert, 1966
4.....Pat Farrell, St. Mary's, 1969
4.....Dick Harris, Westwood, 1970
4.....Mark Oligschlaeger, Bourgade, 1972
4.....Bret Baker, Saguaro, 1974 (jr)
4.....Vince Martinez, Tempe, 1981
4.....Steve McDowell, Gilbert, 1983
4.....Rich Henkel, Horizon, 1984
4.....Ty Hawkinson, Valley Christian, '90

INTERCEPTIONS (SEASON)
15.....Mike Vere, Bourgade, 1972
14.....Mickey Bell, Cactus, 1979
14.....Andy Zwingle, Peoria, 1979
13.....Shawn Benson, Mesa, 1981
13.....Scotty Malm, Phoenix Christian, 1986
12.....Phil Havens, North, 1962
12.....Bill Dipley, Arcadia, 1965 (jr)
12.....Scott Hutson, Mountain View, 1983
12.....Rhon McKinney, North, 1986
12.....Andrae Thurman, Westview, 1997

INTERCEPTIONS (CAREER)
26.....Phillip Echeverria, Buckeye, '85-87
24.....Carlos Artis, Washington, 1988-90
20.....Rhon McKinney, North, 1985-86
20.....Keith Miller, Mountain View, 1977-78

LONGEST RETURN (INTERCEPTION)
105.....T.C. Richmond, Agua Fria, 1985 (jr)
103.....John Heffton, Moon Valley, 1980
103.....Armando Bernasconi, Seton, 1991 (jr)
102.....Quincy Fowler, St. Mary's, 1941
102.....Elby Bushong, Washington, 1961
102.....Chris Enos, Cortez, 1982
102.....Ty-Juan Swasey, Carl Hayden, 1996
100.....Benny Garcia, Agua Fria, 1962
100.....Mike Smith, Phoenix Christian, 1962
100.....David Given, McClintock, 1975
100.....Scott Lubow, Shadow Mt., 1984
100.....Brian Fair, South Mountain, 1988 (so)
100.....Jerry Ingram, Independence, 1988
100.....Al Sparks, Maryvale, 1990 (jr)

FIELD GOALS (GAME)
5.....Jeremy Kelley, Mountain View, 1996
4.....Lawrence Bever, Phoenix Union, 1925
4.....Phil Insalaco, Phx. Christian, 1984
4.....Joe Ackie, Carl Hayden, 1990
4.....Marcus Williams, McClintock, 1992
4.....Andy Schiesl, Chaparral, 1993 (so)
4.....Terry Wood, Brophy Prep, 1995 (so)
4.....Eric Oldenkamp, McClintock, 2000

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, Mountain View, 1994-96
26.....Quin Rodriguez, Dobson, 1984-86

LONGEST FIELD GOAL
62.....Kyle Pooler, Cactus, 1989
60.....Ramey Peru, Dobson, 1998
58.....Jim Sanson, St. Mary's, 1994 (jr)
57.....Mike Johnson, Centennial, 1995
57.....Todd Purdin, Saguaro, 1995
56.....Lucas Coelho, Dobson, 1996
55.....Marcus Williams, McClintock, 1992
55.....Marcus Williams, McClintock, 1992
55.....Don Gallardo, Cactus, 1995
55.....Nagui Sabbagh, Saguaro, 1999 (jr)

PATS (GAME)
11.....Ed Brooks, Phoenix Union, 1914
10.....Danny White, Westwood, 1969
10.....Cleveland Colter, McClintock, 1985
10.....Darin Madrigal, Mesa, 1993
10.....Chris Nelson, North Canyon, 1997

PATS (SEASON)
78.....Sergi Sausedo, Agua Fria, 1998 (jr)
70.....Don Gallardo, Cactus, 1994 (jr)
69.....Tony Camino, Peoria, 1987
66.....Kyle Bell, McClintock, 1989
63.....Frank Coen, McClintock, 1980
63.....Brian Golladay, Mountain View, 1999
63.....Scott Lane, Chaparral, 1999

PATS (CAREER)
169.....Josh Lane, Phoenix Christian, 1994-97
142.....Kyle Pooler, Cactus, 1987-89
142.....Jim Sanson, St. Mary's, 1993-95
135.....Derek Lay, Maryvale, 1991-93
134.....Rich Groppenbacher, McC., 1982-84
128.....Don Gallardo, Cactus, 1993-95
115.....Frank Coen, McClintock, 1979-80
115.....Tony Camino, Peoria, 1985-87

PUNTING AVERAGE (SEASON)
47.6.....Matt Belden, Glendale, 1992 (jr)
47.5.....Jess Skousen, Mesa, 1922

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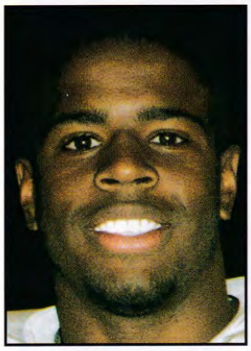
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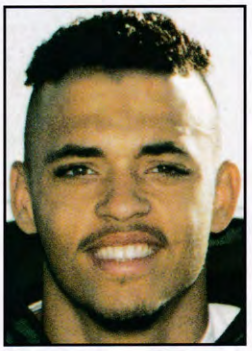
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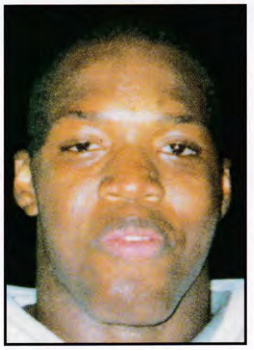
NATHAN WIZE
Tucson Sabino



TAVON COOPER
Peoria



MIKE BELL
Tolleson



TERRELL SUGGS
Hamilton



ROBERT HOLCOMBE
Mesa

HONORING ARIZONA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL BACK

2000.....Mike Bell, Tolleson
1999.....Terrell Suggs, Chandler Hamilton
1998.....Bobby Wade, Tempe Desert Vista
1997.....Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino
1996.....Kyran Jones, Peoria (jr)
1995.....Mike Brown, Scottsdale Saguaro
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.....Allistaire Heartfield, Tucson
1969.....Benny Malone, Eloy Santa Cruz
1968.....Joe Petroshus, 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

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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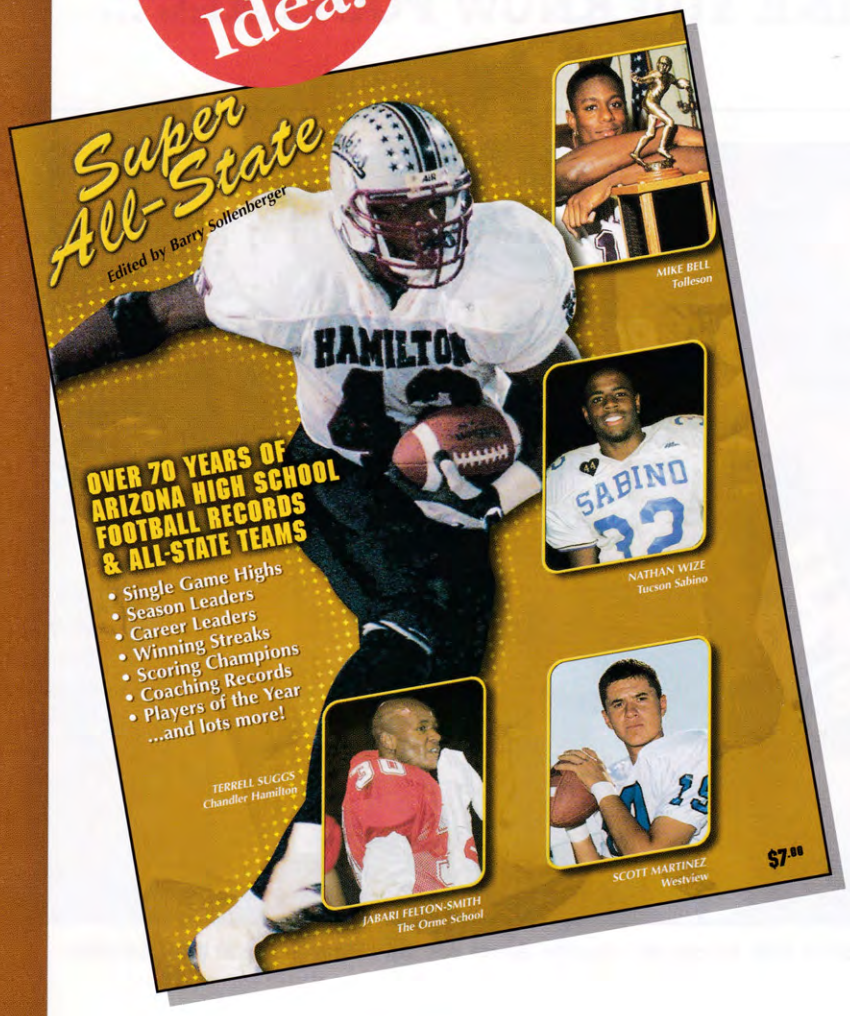
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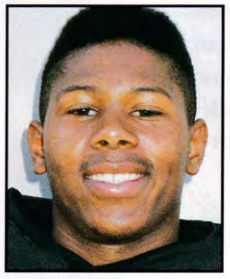
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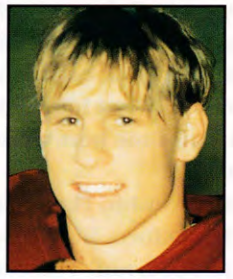
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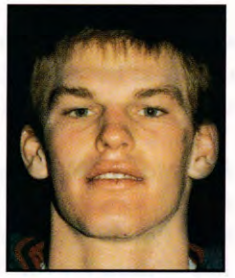
Mike Mitchell
Brophy Prep



Marcus Bell
St. Johns



Jimmy Sprotte
Blue Ridge



Kent Kiefer
McClintock

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SPORTS QUIZ

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW FOOTBALL ...

1) This former Phoenix high school alum (photo at right), a three-sport star, was the No. 1 pick by the defending Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers in 1968. Who was he?



This former Phoenix high school star was the Green Bay Packers first pick in the 1968 draft.

2) Mountain Pointe's Karl Kiefer has won more football games (282) than any high school, college or pro coach in Arizona. What high school coach has the all-time best winning percentage at .881?

a) Rick Smith, Flagstaff
b) Paul Moro, Blue Ridge
c) Jeff Scurran, Tucson Sabino
d) Ron Estabrook, Chaparral
e) Pat Farrell, Phoenix St. Mary's

3) Last year this Arizona coach won his 229th game at his present location, a state record for coaching wins at the same school:

a) Paul Moro, Blue Ridge
b) Doug Clapp, Peoria
c) Vern Friedli, Tucson Amphi
d) Bill Mitton, Trevor Browne
e) Karl Kiefer, Mountain Pointe

4) During the Decade of the '90s, this Arizona school won 114 games, the most by a high school team in a single decade:

a) Blue Ridge
b) Phoenix St. Mary's
c) Tucson Sabino
d) Mesa Mountain View
e) Mesa

5) This is the only Arizona high school team to be ranked No. 1 in the nation at the conclusion of the football season:

a) Phoenix Union, 1930
b) Phoenix North, 1953
c) Mesa, 1960
d) Scottsdale Arcadia, 1962
e) Tucson, 1970

6) With 584 overall wins in high school football, Mesa is the state's all-time leader. What high school has the second most wins at 505?

a) Tucson
b) Safford
c) Phoenix St. Mary's
d) Winslow
e) Round Valley

ANSWERS:
1) Fred Carr, Phoenix Union
2) Rick Smith, Flagstaff
3) Vern Friedli, Amphi
4) Mountain View
5) Phoenix Union, 1930
6) Tucson

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2000 .....MIKE BELL
.....Tolleson (RB)
1999 .....TERRELL SUGGS
.....Chandler Hamilton (RB)
1998 .....BOBBY WADE
.....Desert Vista (RB/DB)
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)



Tolleson tailback Mike Bell rushed for 2484 yards and scored 39 touchdowns. (Todd Lillard photo)

1977 .....(TIE) ALVIN MOORE
.....Coolidge (TB)
.....RIKI GRAY
.....Tucson Amphi (LB)
1976 .....GREG BRADY
.....Coronado (QB)
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 .....MOOSE 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)

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