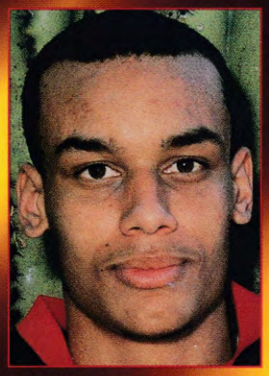
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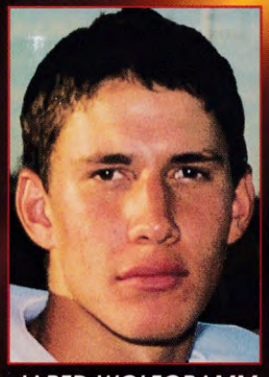
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FOOTBALL

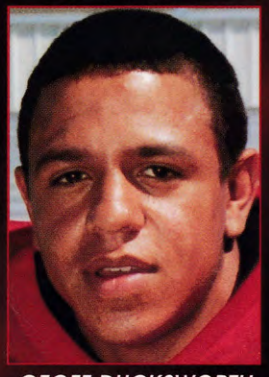
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Tucson Sahuaro



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Tempe Union

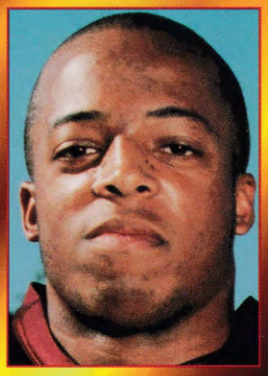


GEOFF DUCKSWORTH
Paradise Valley

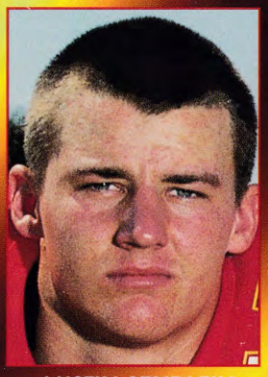


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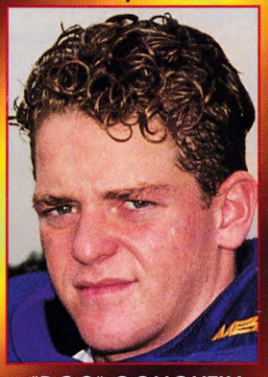
ONE LAST SHOT AT THE HEISMAN



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Mountain Pointe



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Chaparral



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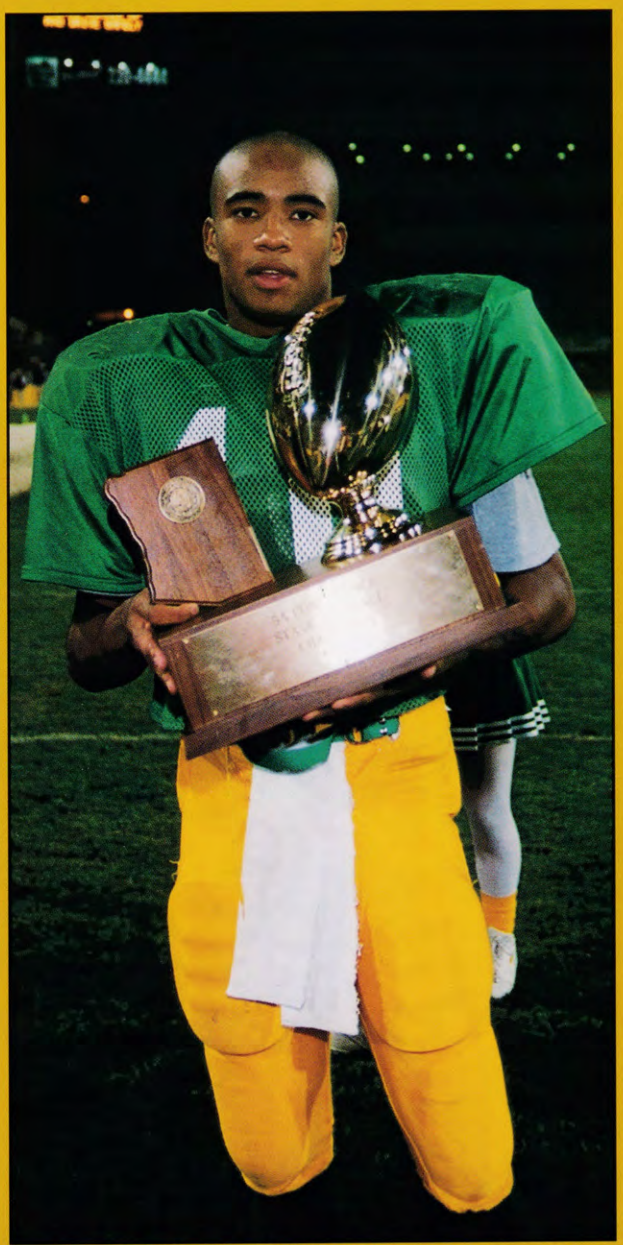
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- Best Players • Coaching Leaders
- Best Programs • All-Time Records

29th Annual Edition

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Arizona's Best High School Receiver

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
1978.....JUNIOR SOLOMON
.....Coolidge
1977.....CHARLES COBBS
.....Florence



Tariq McDonald caught 74 passes for 1,190 yards and 20 touchdowns.

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
1956.....GORDON SMITH
.....Phoenix West
1955.....WILLIE PEETE
.....Mesa

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1999
WILDCAT FOOTBALL
SCHEDULE
Coach Dick Tomey

Aug. 28 at Penn State
Sept. 4 at Texas Christian
Sept. 11 Middle Tennessee St.
Sept. 18 Stanford
Sept. 25 at Washington State
Oct. 9 Southern California
Oct. 16 Texas-El Paso
Oct. 23 Oregon
Oct. 30 at UCLA
Nov. 6 Washington
Nov. 13 at Oregon State
Nov. 27 at Arizona State

1999
SUN DEVIL FOOTBALL
SCHEDULE
Coach Bruce Snyder

Sept. 6 Texas Tech
Sept. 18 New Mexico State
Sept. 25 at California
Sept. 26 Oregon State
Oct. 2 UCLA
Oct. 9 at Notre Dame
Oct. 16 at Washington
Oct. 23 Washington State
Oct. 30 at Oregon
Nov. 6 at USC
Nov. 13 Stanford
Nov. 27 Arizona

1999
LUMBERJACK FOOTBALL
SCHEDULE
Coach Jerome Souers

Sept. 11 Cal Poly
Sept. 18 at New Mexico
Sept. 25 at Southwest Texas
Oct. 2 Eastern Washington
Oct. 9 at Idaho State
Oct. 16 Montana
Oct. 23 at Cal State Sacramento
Oct. 30 Montana State
Nov. 6 at Weber State
Nov. 13 Portland State
Nov. 20 at Cal State Northridge

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
David Kukulski
Joseph Barry Sollenberger
Lonnie Collins
Jeff Krider
Bart Conley

ALSO CONTRIBUTING
Dan Kukulski
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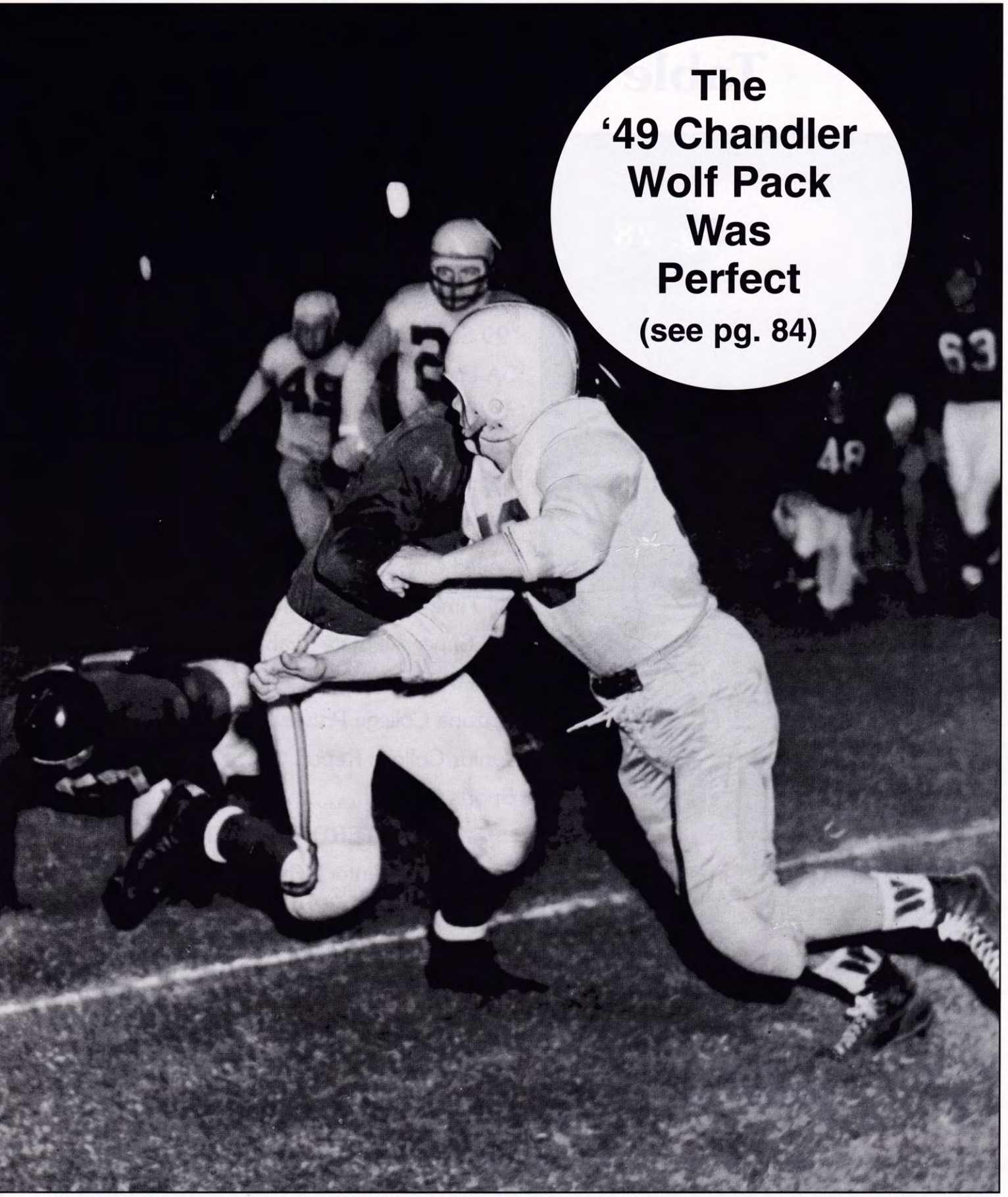


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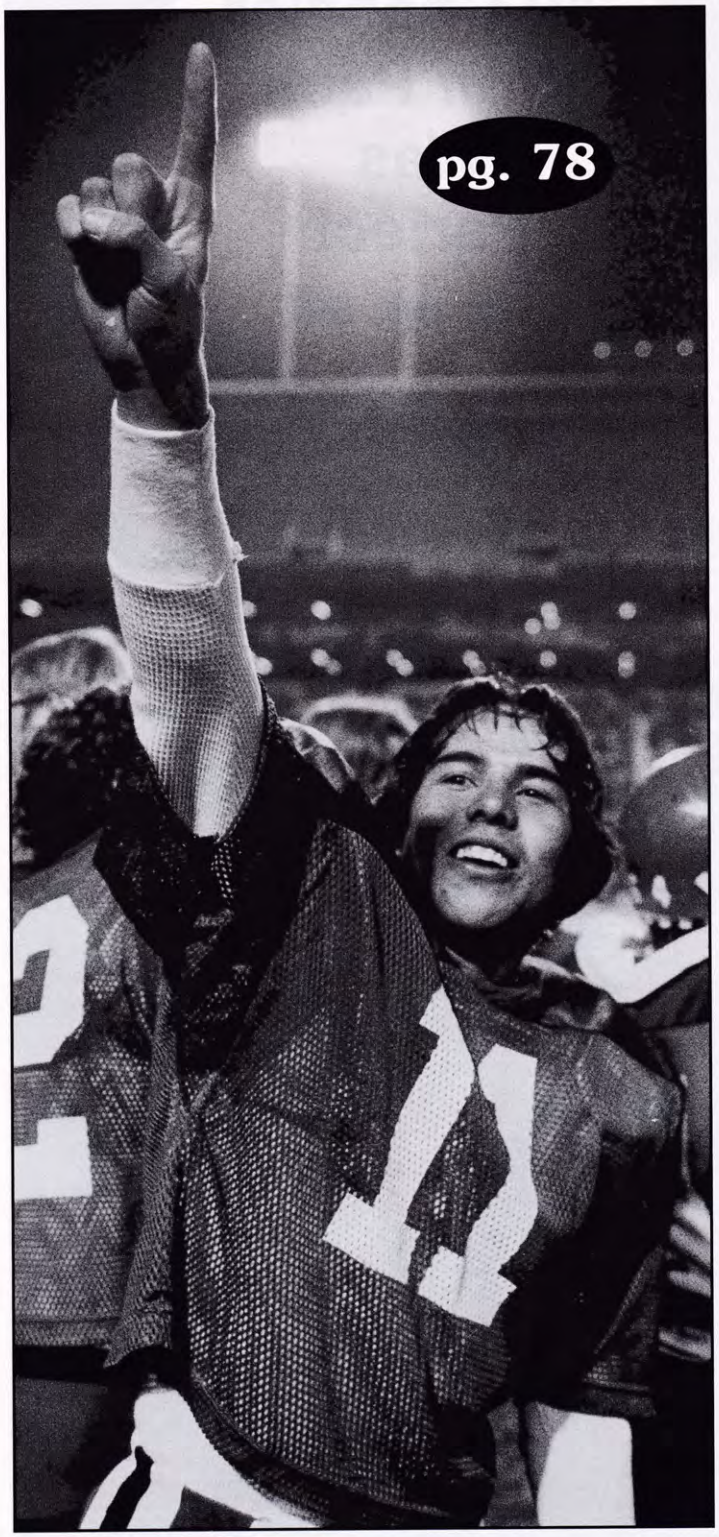
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Fifty years ago this fall, Chandler High School's mighty Wolves, with future Arizona State halfback Bob Tarwater (35) in the backfield, ran roughshod through Arizona's small school ranks (See Yesterday's Heroes).

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Paul Moro
Blue Ridge



Bil McKane
Mesa



Vern Friedli
Tucson Amphi



Jim Ewan
Mountain Ridge

Winning Pct./Coach/School/Record

.916 .. Jim Hughes, Thatcher (22-2-0)
.852 .. Paul Moro, Lakeside Blue Ridge (144-25-0)
.821 .. Mike Morgan, St. Johns (92-20-1)
.816 .. Keith Brown, Phoenix Christian (62-14-0)
.806 .. Ron Estabrook, Scottsdale Chaparral (83-20-0)
.805 .. Rim Rattay, Phoenix Desert Vista (177-43-4)
.800 .. Bryan Munoz, Superior (27-7-0)
.777 .. Jeff Scurran, Tucson Sabino (178-51-2)
.771 .. Rick Shipley, Williams (74-22-1)
.769 .. Pat Farrell, Phoenix St. Mary's (197-59-2)
.768 .. Doug Clapp, Peoria (119-36-6)
.765 .. Bill McKane, Mesa (52-16-0)
.759 .. Larry Fetkenhier, Glendale Cactus (136-43-3)
.748 .. Ken Guzik, Safford (113-38-0)
.741 .. Charlie Bell, Northwest Christian (43-15-0)
.736 .. Vern Friedli, Tucson Amphitheater (259-93-2)
.728 .. Jesse Parker, Gilbert (244-91-4)
.720 .. Karl Kiefer, Mountain Pointe (268-104-3)
.700 .. Kelly Moore, Morenci (7-3-0)
.689 .. Doug Shaffer, Horizon (115-52-2)
.688 .. Vince Cahill, Mayer (84-38-1)
.686 .. Mike Epperson, Mingus Union (46-21-0)

Winning Pct./Coach/School/Record

.679 .. Bill Morgan, Show Low (36-17-0)
.672 .. Neil Westover, Snowflake (45-22-0)
.666 .. Tom Bruney, Phoenix Maryvale (38-19-0)
.666 .. Mickey Bell, Agua Fria (16-8-0)
.666 .. Nemer Hassey, Tucson Sahuaro (8-4-0)
.654 .. Steve Chisman, Phx. Washington (85-45-4)
.645 .. Jay Denton, Eloy Santa Cruz (98-54-1)
.642 .. Greg Parrish, Glendale Apollo (102-57-4)
.642 .. Bill Mitton, Trevor Browne (194-108-2)
.636 .. Bob Young, Mesa Westwood (28-16-1)
.635 .. Tom Joseph, Marcos de Niza (47-27-0)
.627 .. Jim Ewan, Mountain Ridge (32-19-0)
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.619 .. Tim Sanford, Phoenix Brophy (101-62-2)
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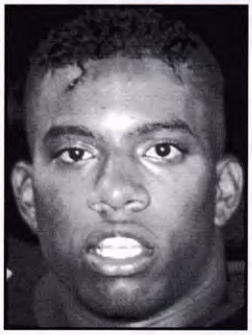


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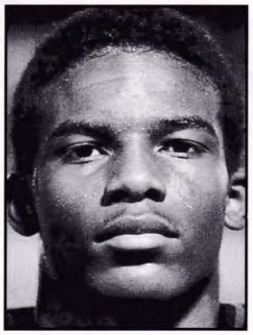
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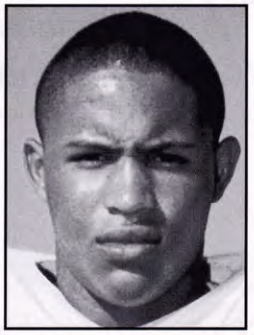
Corey Hill
Tucson Sabino



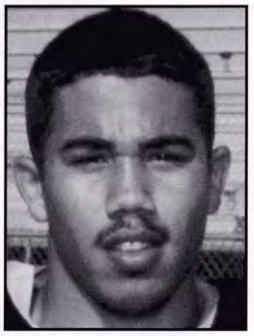
Anthony Parker
McClintock



Tyrone Byrd
Chandler



Mike Brown
Saguaro



Bobby Wade
Desert Vista

HONORING THE STATE'S BEST DEFENSIVE BACK:

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 Mountain View
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..... Steve Vaughn, Phoenix North
1956..... Warren Livingston, Mesa
1955..... Warren Livingston, Mesa (jr)
1954..... Eddie Mitchell, Phoenix North
1953..... Charles Christopher, Phoenix Carver
1952..... Joel Favara, Tucson
1951..... Hadley Hicks, Bisbee

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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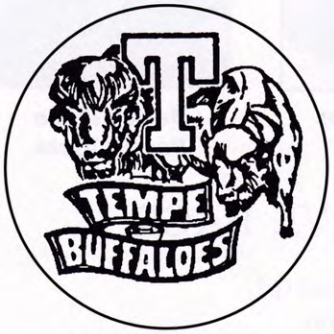
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letters ...



ONE LAST CHEER

The story on Jerome High School ("One Last Cheer for the Muckers") which appeared in your 1998 edition was excellent. If I can ever be of help on anything, just drop us a line. I've followed northern Arizona football for years.

On September 3, Mesa Mountain View will open at Kingman. It should be a good clash between two 5A final four teams. Your publications are always the greatest

Charles Cook
Kingman, Arizona

"It was great for both my mom and I to read about my father, the last football coach the school had. Mom got to relive some very fond memories of dad doing what he loved to do best. Coach high school football."

Enclosed find a check for two copies of your 1998 Arizona Football magazine, with the story about football in Jerome, "One Last Cheer for the Muckers." I watched many a game on "The Hill" before our family - because of the bad economy - was forced to move. My father was transferred to the mine in Ajo before I attended high school. But the best years were in Jerome. Go Muckers!

Landon Labrum
Tucson

Just a note to say what a great job your magazine did on football in Jerome. It was great for both my mom and I to read about my father, Don Snyder, the last football coach the school had before the mine closed. My mom in particular got to relive some very fond memories of dad doing what he loved to do best. Coach high school football.

Jack Snyder
Sun City

I am really impressed with the outstanding job you do for football in the state of Arizona. Your latest copy with the feature on Jerome High School covered the subject very well. I appreciate very much your including me in the story. It will make a big hit with my family and friends. The local media, print, radio and television do not come close to what you do.

Waldo Dicus was my coach in 1937, and he was responsible for not only my being selected to the all-state team, but also helping me earn a scholarship to the University of Arizona. He was an outstanding coach.

Robert S. Svob
Tucson

I have been reading your publications for years, dating back to my high school days in Scottsdale in the late 1970s. However, you outdid yourself with the story about the history of football at Jerome. I never even knew that Jerome had a high school, much less one with good football teams. The strength of your magazine each year is the stories of the past. It's like getting a football preview and an history lesson rolled into one.

Mark Goodrich
Flagstaff

My father, Max Jurnovich, played football at Jerome High School during the Great Depression, and used to talk about the "Muckers" when we were growing up in Dawson (N.M.). Dawson was a Phelps Dodge town, just like Jerome.

And just like Jerome, Dawson is closed. In fact, the whole town is gone. The company tore it down sometime after World War II, about the same time they closed the mines in Jerome. I was surprised when a relative in Phoenix mailed us your 1998 football magazine, with the story about Jerome. It is too bad my father is not around to read it.

Marion Jurnovich
Raton, N.M.

ROUGH, TOUGH RIVALRY

It was great to see a recent story about the glory days in Bisbee and Douglas ("A Rough, Tough Rivalry No More"), before the mines closed. Newcomers to Arizona have no idea how good high school football was in our state's mining towns, before the copper industry went to "you know where."

My father was in the military, stationed near Bisbee, and we grew up watching the Pumas play. Just like your story said, players like Bill Penn, Hadley Hicks or Ted Sorich would have been star players on big city teams.

Randy Livingston
Los Angeles

Just a note to express my appreciation for your annual football magazine. I always enjoy reading this publication, especially the issue on the Douglas-Bisbee rivalry.

Dr. Marcelino Varona, Jr.
Principal
Nogales High School
Nogales, Arizona

BIG RED MACHINE

It was refreshing to read a story written by people in Phoenix, admitting that good high school football is actually played somewhere else.

I agree that the best high school football teams ever in Arizona came out of Tucson High, probably the great state championship teams coached by Ollie Mayfield. Even though our state is small, we have had more than our share of great teams. But very few championship teams had the talent and speed of the "Big Red Machine."

Keep up the good work.

Rudy Pollock
Tucson

I really enjoyed the recent issue of Arizona Football Magazine because of the article on Tucson High. Enclosed find a check for another copy, as I promised to get one for L.D. Scott, as his picture is in the inside cover blocking for John Black against Albuquerque High.

Fred Enke, Jr.
Casa Grande

HALL OF FAME GREATS

You guys have done a commendable job of recognizing high school athletes. Hopefully, something can be done to reestablish the Arizona Sports Hall of Fame, to recognize some of the former greats.

Frank Kush
Arizona Boys Ranch

The only thing wrong with high school football in Arizona today is there is no hall of fame to recognize them, or the stars of the past, as is the case in most states. Perhaps with the help of a magazine like yours, this can become a reality some day. Your football edition is great, one of the best I've seen in the country.

Keep the magazine coming.

Kevin Elsworth
Flagstaff

Just received your 1998 preseason football magazine. Great job. Many quality football players have come from the Arizona high school programs. I know, I used to live in Arizona. It says a lot for the systems and the coaching.

Michael Harris
Oldsmar, Florida

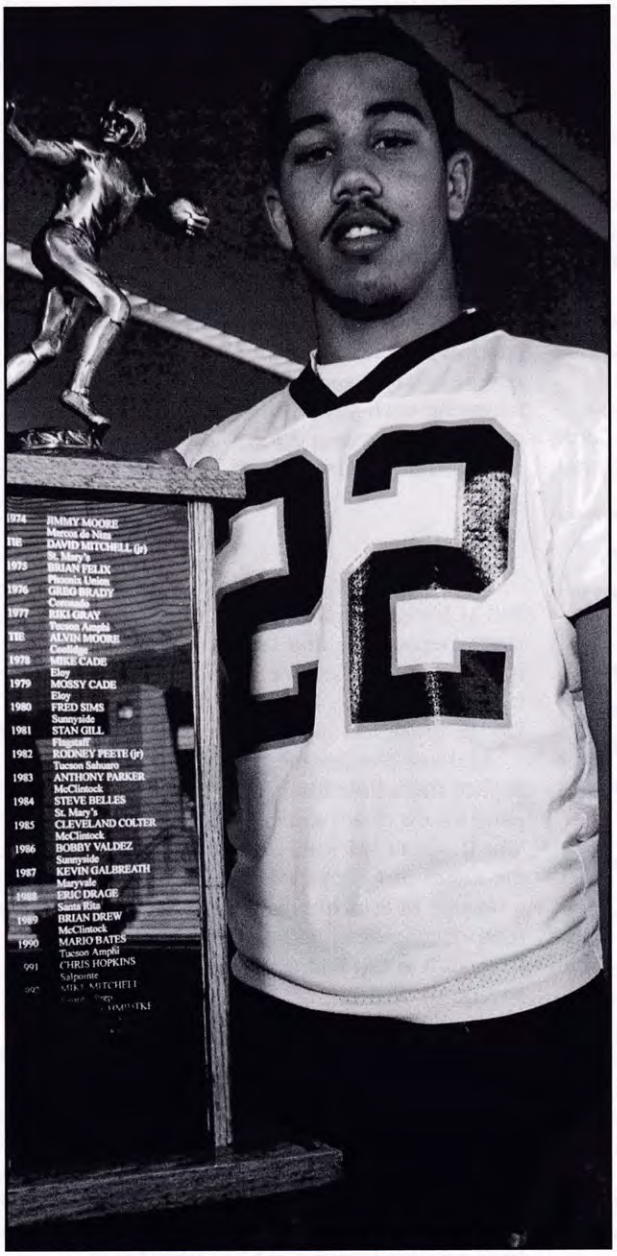
TDC

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ARIZONA'S HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

TDC

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)
1977 .....(TIE) ALVIN MOORE
.....Coolidge (TB)
.....RIKI GRAY
.....Tucson Amphi (LB)



Desert Vista halfback Bobby Wade with the Vic Housholder Trophy (Todd Lillard photo)

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 .....EVERETT 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)
1957 .....EDDIE WILSON
.....Chandler (QB)
1956 .....WARREN LIVINGSTON
.....Mesa (TB)

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Housholder Trophy Long Overdue

Welcome to our 29th year of previewing high school and college football - in some form or another - in the Grand Canyon State. **Arizona Football Magazine** is arguably the most popular and most successful sports magazine in Arizona history. We were the first media outlet in Arizona to pick a state player of the year, and the first to salute the kicking game. Prior to 1970, no member of the Arizona media officially selected a player of the year in the high school ranks. The state's major newspapers, which first picked all-state teams in 1917 (*Prescott Courier*), picked only offensive & defensive captains in their annual post season selections. Our annual Golden Toe Award, sponsored today by **Teleco of Phoenix**, is given annually to the state's best kicker.

There are high expectations everywhere, as is the case in each preseason. Especially at the **University of Arizona**. The Wildcats, 12-1 last year, hope to challenge for the national championship. They return two good quarterbacks, a legitimate Heisman Trophy candidate (former Phoenix Central star Trung Canidate), and one of the best defenses in the Pac-10.

Last year's high school football season was historic in more ways than one. Several come to mind, as both the decade and the century wind down. First, two lengthy winning streaks came to an end. In Class 3A, **Payson** ended the state's all-time best string at 63 when the Longhorns, coached by **Jim Beall**, beat **Blue Ridge** 29-20 in the state finals, played before 3,658 paid customers at Mesa Community College. The crowd was a tad smaller than the previous year's finals, which attracted 5,112 fans to John D. Riggs Stadium. Blue Ridge, winner of four-straight state crowns, finished 11-1 on the season. A game with **Tuba City** was cancelled due to bad weather.

In Class 5A, **Brophy Prep**, coached by **Tim Sanford**, ended Mesa Mountain View's 40-game unbeaten slate in the state semifinals, 10-3. One week later the Broncos fell to Tempe Desert Vista 38-31 in the large school finals at Arizona State. During the '98 campaign, both Blue Ridge and Mountain View became the first schools in Arizona history to win 100 games in a decade (see chart).

Finally, the late **Vic Housholder**, one of Arizona's most prestigious sports figures, has his name back in the limelight, where it should be. Thanks to a popular Scottsdale civic group and a successful Tempe business, the traveling trophy given annually to **Arizona Football Magazine's** state player of the year has an appropriate name.

Housholder, who died in 1971, was called "the father of the all-state teams." He was recognized as an outstanding sportsman, conservationist, Phoenix civic leader and sponsor of youth projects. He was inducted into the **Arizona Sports Hall of Fame** in 1966. It was Housholder who organized and selected *The Arizona Republicans' early* all-state teams, from 1924 to 1938. The newspaper later changed its name to *The Arizona Republic*.

Between 1926 and 1940, Housholder was the director of the Greenway Field Day, the state's largest track meet. In 1932, for example, over 7,500 fans paid to see the annual event, held then at the state fairgrounds in Phoenix. He was secretary of the Boarder Conference Baseball League, manager of the Phoenix Senators baseball team, and commissioner of the Amateur Athletic Union.

The **Boys Club of America** gave Housholder its bronze medallion in 1969 for long and outstanding service. The Arizona section of American Civil Engineers presented him its outstanding engineer award in 1966, and he received the University of Arizona Medallion.

One of the highlights of Housholder's career came when he was credited with saving the life of former President **Harry S. Truman** during a battle in France during World War I.

It is only fitting that a trophy honoring the state's player of the year bares his name. The four-foot-tall award, a traveling trophy to be housed at the school of the winner for nine months, list *each* player of the year in Arizona dating back over 25 years. Today, it resides on the campus of Desert Vista High in Phoenix, thanks to running back Bobby Wade, a freshman-to-be at the University of Arizona. The trophy is co-sponsored by the **Scottsdale Quarterback Club** and **Tempe Decorator Center**, along with Arizona Football Magazine.

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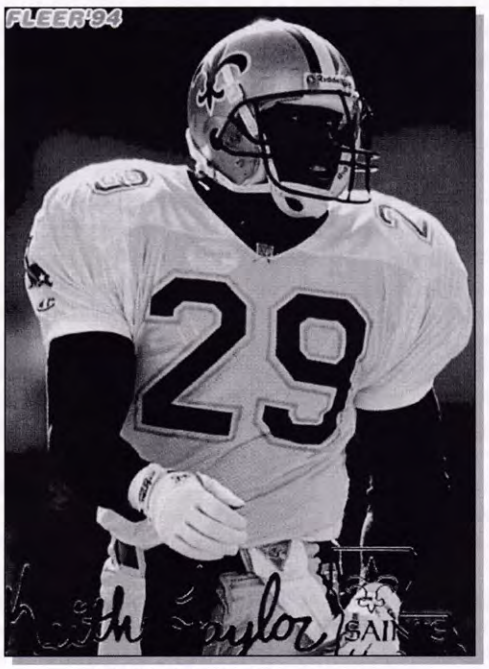
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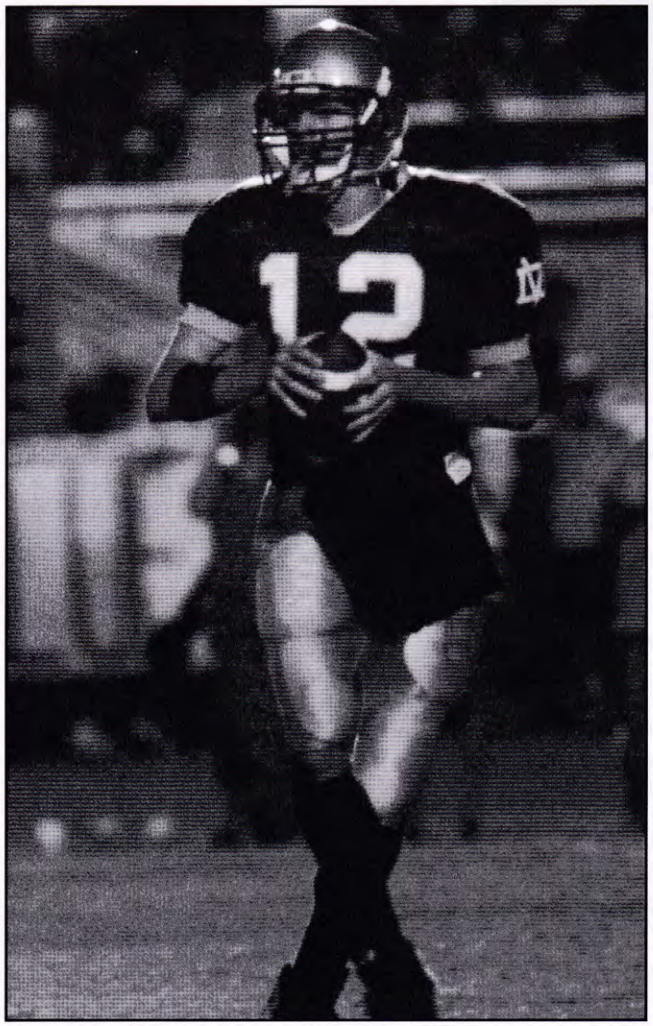
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Thunder quarterback John Rattay passed for 3,094 yards and 36 touchdowns (Amy Blodgett photo).

***Arizona Football Magazine's** checklist of outstanding varsity players for the upcoming 1999 high school football season.*

QB ...John Rattay, Tempe Desert Vista, 6-4, 200
QB ...Reggie Robertson, Tucson Sahuaro, 6-2, 180
HB ...Nic Lovett, Tempe Mountain Pointe, 6-0, 185
HB ...Anthony Fulcher, Scottsdale Horizon, 5-11, 190
HB ...Josh Griffin, Scottsdale Chaparral, 5-10, 185
HB ...Geoff Ducksworth, Paradise Valley, 5-10, 165
HB ...Jeremiah Miller, Flagstaff Sinagua, 6-0, 185
FB ....Danny Padilla, Tempe Desert Vista, 6-2, 240
WR...Sammy Moore, Mesa Westwood, 6-0, 175
WR...Calvin Dacus, Tucson Sahuaro, 6-1, 175
TE ....Elton Johnson, Tempe Desert Vista, 5-11, 190
OC ...Jason Davis, Mesa Mountain View, 6-2, 215
OL....Martin Lopez, Glendale Apollo, 6-6, 300
OL....James Clement, Phoenix Trevor Browne, 6-3, 270
OL....Brian Goggin, Tempe Desert Vista, 6-4, 270
OL....Rocky Huntsinger, Tucson Amphitheater, 6-1, 235
LB ....Cole "Doc" Golightly, Mesa, 6-3, 218
LB ....Austin Sendlein, Scottsdale Chaparral, 6-3, 235
LB ....Luke Hauptman, Tempe Marcos de Niza, 6-2, 228
DL....Clifford Starks, Tempe Mountain Pointe, 6-0, 245
DL....Jared Wolfgramm, Tempe Union, 6-5, 215
DL....Josh Kirkwood, Phoenix Maryvale, 6-4, 255
DL....Brian Fitzpatrick, Mesa Red Mountain, 6-1, 230
DL....Jared Fritz, Mesa Mountain View, 6-2, 230
DB....Lee Wheeler, Coolidge, 5-11, 185
DB....Markus Thurman, Tempe Desert Vista, 5-9, 180
DB....Quinn Gooch, Tucson Sabino, 6-2, 185
KR....Marcus Parker, Phoenix Thunderbird, 6-1, 195

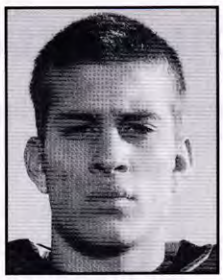
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Arizona Checklist of Players

quarterbacks

Bourke Bowen, Benson, 6-2, 175
Travis Brown, Maryvale, 6-0,170 (jr)
Chad Christensen, Desert Mtn., 6-2,175 (jr)
Fred Garcia, Williams, 6-1, 180
Alan Grantham, Red Mountain, 5-10,175
Andy Gray, Deer Valley, 6-1, 185
Monty Hoffman, Shadow Mountain,6-2,185
Trevor Johnson, Hamilton, 6-0,170
Blake Kinart, Tucson Sabino, 6-3, 180
Ken Martinson, Fountain Hills, 6-0, 175
John Mendez, Mesa Westwood, 5-9, 165
Mike Nixon, Sunnyslope, 6-0, 180 (so)
James O'Connor, Coronado, 6-1, 185
Danny Pivirotto, Tucson Rincon, 6-0, 180
John Rattay, Tempe Desert Vista, 6-4,200
Reggie Robertson, Tucson Sahuaro,6-2,180
Joel Romano, Tucson Amphi, 5-8, 170 (jr)
Zack Seward, Tucson Salpointe, 6-0, 185
Zack Sparksman, Phoenix Central, 6-3, 188
Jon Stoner, Glendale Cactus, 6-2, 190
Mark Tefteller, Phoenix Christian, 6-2, 185
Dirk Walker, Cactus Shadows, 5-11, 180



Mark Tefteller
Phx. Christian



Calvin Dacus
Sahuaro

running backs

*Josh Aguilar, Clifton, 5-9, 165
Matt Allred, Willcox, 5-9, 180
Skip Ast, Mountain Ridge, 5-9, 205
Thomas Beier, Phoenix St. Mary's, 5-10,180
Bruce Branch, Coconino, 6-1, 195 (jr)
Jason Bryce, Pima, 5-9, 160
Tim Bunting, Payson, 5-9, 170
Mike Cadoux, Catalina Foothills, 6-1, 170
Cornell Canidate, Alhambra, 5-9, 170 (jr)
Josh Conner, Prescott, 5-9, 195
Geoff Ducksworth, Paradise Valley,5-10,165
Eddie Gomez, Red Mountain, 5-9, 195
Anthony Fulcher, Horizon, 5-11, 190
Josh Griffin, Scottsdale Chaparral, 5-10,185
Reggie Guerrero, Yuma Cibola, 5-10,225 (jr)
Adam Harness, Sunnyslope, 5-10, 180
Fred Hernandez, Dysart, 5-5, 140
Jacob Kerr, Show Low, 5-10, 180
Jimmy Labita, Peoria Centennial, 5-9, 165
*Brandon Larson, Joseph City, 5-10, 210
Daryl Lightfoot, Maryvale, 5-9, 170 (jr)
Nic Lovett, Mountain Pointe, 6-0, 185
Alexis Martinez, Eloy Santa Cruz, 5-9, 188
Chris Mauzey, Independence, 5-9, 175
Todd McCrae, Buckeye, 5-9, 215
*Danny McEuen, Fort Thomas, 6-2, 185
Jeremiah Miller, Flagstaff Sinagua, 6-0, 185
Mike Montgomery, River Valley, 5-8,150 (so)
Dustin Mote, Kingman, 5-10, 170
Jason Murray, North Canyon, 5-10, 205 (jr)
Cameron Norwood, Washington, 6-2, 205
Toney Okafor, Tucson Amphi, 6-0, 195
Danny Padilla, Tempe Desert Vista, 6-2, 240
Jared Papa, Snowflake, 6-0, 180
Marcus Parker, Thunderbird, 6-1, 195
Charles Parkinson, Blue Ridge, 6-0, 180
Jason Pflanz, Cactus Shadows, 5-7, 165
Josh Raban, St. Johns, 6-0, 190
Preston Reece, Coolidge, 5-11, 185
Pat Rogers, Tucson Palo Verde, 5-7, 170
Ryan Sandoval, Flowing Wells, 6-1, 180
Chaz Scott, Chandler Hamilton, 6-2, 190
Nick Spong, Phoenix St. Mary's, 5-9, 195
Quint Swanberg, Horizon, 5-11, 205
David Torrez, Tempe Union, 6-2, 240
Bryan Varner, Page, 5-8, 155
Brian Wayas, Wickenburg, 5-9, 165

receivers

Vaitaki Aholelei, Mesa, 6-4, 240
Sean Bowman, Phoenix Christian, 6-2, 195
Matt Brecher, Fountain Hills, 6-3, 215
Robbie Byrne, Peoria, 6-5, 223
Antonio Carranza, Desert View, 6-4, 200
Calvin Dacus, Tucson Sahuaro, 6-1, 175
Tom Duer, Chino Valley, 6-1, 165
Josh Durbin, Scottsdale Coronado, 6-1, 175
Ed Grigsby, Glendale Cactus, 5-10, 168
Marcus Hoffman, Shadow Mtn.,6-3, 185
Eric Iverson, Orme School, 6-3, 175
Elton Johnson, Desert Vista, 5-11, 190
Nick Kwiatowski, Flagstaff, 6-2, 212
Lyle Laughlin, Ganado, 6-1, 170
Luis Lujan, Phoenix Central, 6-4, 248 (jr)
Ryan Miller, Cactus Shadows, 6-1, 185
Sammy Moore, Mesa Westwood, 6-0, 175
Jason Norman, Deer Valley, 6-2, 170 (jr)
James Patterson, Mountain View, 6-1, 180
Jason Perry, Apache Junction, 6-3, 195
John Porter, Tucson Salpointe, 6-1, 170
Brad Potter, Mountain Pointe, 6-2, 170
Eddie Rosas, Nogales, 6-0, 175
Ryan Schroyer, Canyon del Oro, 6-1, 200
Ben Smith, Lake Havasu, 6-0, 190
Brandon Smith, Red Mountain, 6-1, 210
Justin Walker, Phoenix Greenway, 6-3, 230
Aaron Walls, Sunrise Mountain, 6-4, 215
Cody Wright, NWCC, 5-10, 155 (so)

centers

Mike Clevengers, Greenway, 5-11, 190
Jason Davis, Mesa Mountain View, 6-2, 215
Matt Gess, Mesa Westwood, 5-10, 220
Ryan Heyer, Glendale Apollo, 6-1, 235
Alex Ibarra, Corona del Sol, 5-11, 196
Paul Jajou, Phoenix Bourgade, 6-2, 230
Bobby Masche, Lake Havasu, 6-2, 260
B.J. Nelson, Safford, 6-2, 235
Michael Rush, Phoenix St. Mary's, 5-10, 240
Ryan VanWave, Paradise Valley, 6-1, 215
Brian Zumbro, Payson, 6-3, 200
Adam Zvirgzdins, Glendale Cactus, 6-3, 271

linemen

Jeff Adams, Show Low, 6-2, 200
Brian Ahsoon, Gilbert Highland, 5-10, 225
Kevin Amidan, Tucson Sabino, 6-3, 220
*Winston Benally, St. Michaels, 6-1, 230
Pat Benedict, Phoenix St. Mary's, 6-2, 220
Jake Berry, Scottsdale Arcadia, 6-2, 240
Bret Bodinet, Shadow Mountain, 6-3, 250
Joe Bojorquez, Eloy Santa Cruz, 5-10, 185
Cade Bradley, Payson, 5-11, 180
Aaron Boussu, Paradise Valley, 6-0, 215
Brent Bridges, Kingman, 6-3, 230
Keith Buzzard, Flagstaff, 6-0, 207
Steve Carpenter, Flowing Wells, 6-1, 225
James Clement, Trevor Browne, 6-3, 270
Mike Coffey, Mingus Union, 5-10, 220



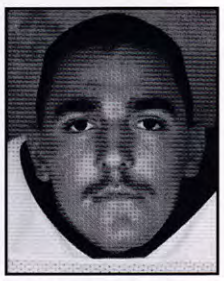
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Brett Crandall, Mesa Mtn. View, 6-2,220
Jeff Drumm, Tucson Sabino, 5-10, 205
Solomon Eltsosie, Tuba City, 6-1, 250
Larry Faust, Tempe McClintock, 6-2, 230
Ryan Finn, Mesa Westwood, 6-5, 215 (jr)
Brian Fitzpatrick, Red Mountain, 6-1, 230
Russell Fleming, Westview, 6-0, 225
Melvin Foster, Window Rock, 6-2, 215
Jared Fritz, Mesa Mountain View, 6-2, 230
Jermaine Gadson, Mar. Mt. View, 6-1, 195
Brian Goggin, Desert Vista, 6-4, 270
Ernie Gutierrez, Safford, 6-0, 235
Matt Graves, Moon Valley, 6-0, 235
Daniel Green, Williams, 6-3, 220
Ernie Hawkinson, Tucson, 6-3, 240
Andy Heikkila, Phoenix Cortez, 6-5, 250
Al Hernandez, Flowing Wells, 6-1, 250 (jr)
Rich Hightower, Mountain Pointe, 5-9, 225
Brandon Hopkins, Westwood, 6-5, 240 (jr)
Leonard Hubbard, Lake Havasu, 6-3, 240
Ross Hunt, Heber Mogollon, 6-4, 225
Rocky Huntsinger, Tucson Amphi, 6-1, 235
John Hyatt, Tucson Cholla, 6-2, 220
Matt Jentgen, Catalina Foothills, 6-4, 220
Andrew Johnson, Orme School, 6-4, 235
Mike Johnson, Glendale Ironwood, 6-5, 280
Terry Johnson, Tempe McClintock, 6-4,230
Derek Joyce, Paradise Valley, 6-5, 260
Derek Kennard, Desert Vista, 6-1, 225
Josh Kirkwood, Maryvale, 6-4, 255
Charles Klingensmith, MDN, 6-2, 218
Joe Layton, Superior, 6-7, 268 (jr)



Dusty Peace
Flowing Wells



Paul Jajou
Bourgade

Alex Lazar, Scottsdale Chaparral, 6-0, 265
Tyrel Lemons, Duncan, 6-1, 205
Martin Lopez, Glendale Apollo, 6-6, 300
Mark Luna, Casa Grande, 6-2, 265
Mike Marshall, Phoenix Maryvale, 6-4, 245
Cody Miller, Sahuarita, 5-11, 220
Brandon Peterson, Peoria, 6-2, 225
Zane Porter, Lake Havasu, 6-2, 240
Taylor Quintanilla, Desert Mtn., 5-11, 230
Brad Reisner, Scottsdale Chaparral, 5-1,210
Richard Rodriguez, Desert View, 6-3, 290
Jared Rosell, Phoenix Brophy, 5-11, 235
Chuck Rowe, Mountain Ridge, 5-10, 195
Frank Ruzioka, Desert Vista, 6-2, 250
Matt Schwander, Moon Valley, 6-4, 325
Drew Severn, Deer Valley, 6-3, 240 (jr)
Sean Shalola, Trevor Browne, 5-11, 250
Michael Shumway, Winslow, 6-2, 270
Shane Solie, Glendale Ironwood, 6-3, 210
Jake Stark, Tucson Catalina, 6-1, 200
Clifford Starks, Mountain Pointe, 6-0, 245
Adam Suraci, Desert Mountain, 6-3, 200
David Torrez, Tempe Union, 6-2, 240
Frank Ulibarri, Marana, 6-1, 255
Norm Wellington, Independence, 6-3, 235
Greg Wermes, Scottsdale Horizon, 6-0, 255
Greg West, Mesa Dobson, 6-0, 250
Dane Whitmer, Thatcher, 6-4, 245
Trevor Whipple, Blue Ridge, 6-3, 285
Jared Wolfgramm, Tempe Union, 6-5, 215

linebackers

Pat Allen, Phoenix Washington, 5-11, 170
Jimbo Armstrong, Payson, 6-2, 202
Gabe Barreras, Mesa, 6-1, 230
Cameron Bell, Tucson Sahuaro, 6-0, 200
Arnulfo Bonillas, Tucson Palo Verde,6-0,160
Frank Drew, Buckeye, 5-9, 205
Steve Custer, Phoenix Thunderbird, 5-9, 210
Cole "Doc" Golightly, Mesa, 6-3, 218
Chris Goss, Miami, 5-10, 165 (jr)
Josh Granillo, Florence, 5-10, 200
Luke Hauptman, Marcos de Niza, 6-2, 228
Matt Haywood, Mountain Ridge, 6-1, 205
Derek Hobbs, Scottsdale Horizon, 6-0, 210
Aaron Huertas, Tucson Sabino, 6-1, 195
Sam Jacobs, Phoenix Washington, 5-10, 215
Daryl Johnson, Phoenix Alhambra, 5-9, 170
Jason Kelly, Tempe Desert Vista, 5-11, 210
Afton Lambson, St. Johns, 5-10, 195
Steve Larson, Tempe Desert Vista, 6-1, 210

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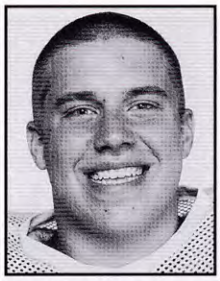
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arizona football '99

*Cesar Leyva, Mayer, 5-11, 190
Peter Limon, Douglas, 6-2, 225
Brett Lloyd, Glendale Cactus, 6-2, 208
David Mehan, Valley Christian, 5-11, 177
Rick Newman, Phoenix T'bird, 5-11, 220
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deep backs

Lamar Baker, Agua Fria, 6-0, 177 (jr)
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Matt Castillo, Holbrook, 6-2, 180
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David Torrez
Tempe



G. Ducksworth
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MIke Perez, Parker, 5-10, 155
Danny Perry, Tucson Sabino, 5-10, 180
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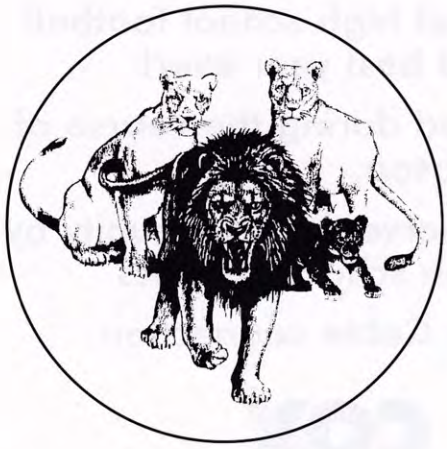
kickers

Phillip Alva, Thatcher, 5-10, 185
Bill Becher, Tempe McClintock, 6-3, 200
Jeremy Bohn, Page, 6-1, 185
Josh Conner, Prescott, 5-9, 195
Paul Ernster, Glendale Ironwood, 6-2, 210
Vince Fiore, Peoria, 6-1, 195 (jr)
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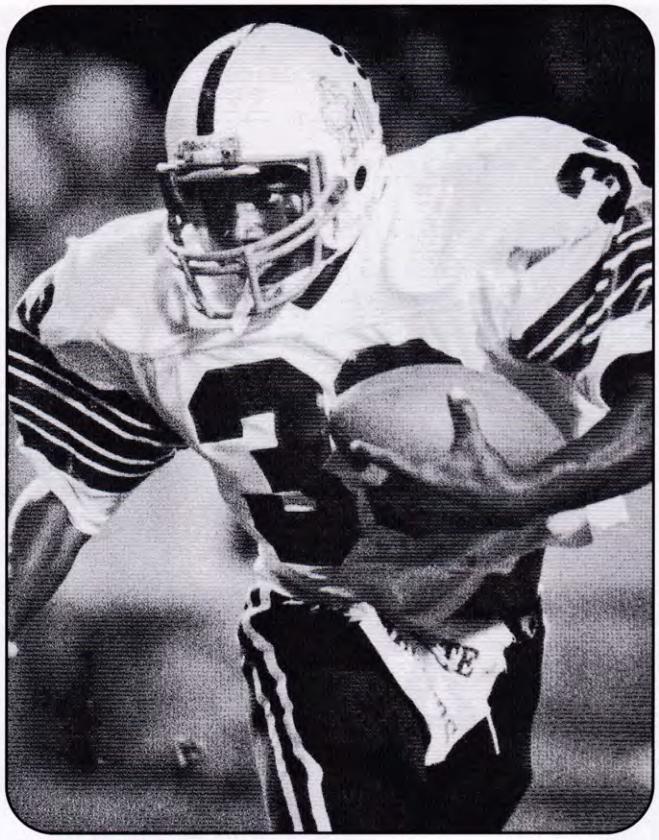
1999 VARSITY SCHEDULE

Sept. 10 .....vs Paradise Valley
Sept. 17.....@ Mountain Ridge
Sept. 24.....vs Mesa Red Mountain
Oct. 1 .....@ Desert Mountain
Oct. 8 .....@ Phoenix Maryvale
Oct. 15.....vs Tempe Marcos de Niza
Oct. 22.....vs Casa Grande
Oct. 29.....@ Tempe McClintock
Nov. 5.....@ Tempe Corona del Sol
Nov. 12.....vs Tempe Desert Vista

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Last year, Anthony Parker was a defensive back for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (Gazette photo).

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
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
1950 .. Don Beasley, Mesa, FB
1949 .. Danny Seivert, St. Mary's, RB

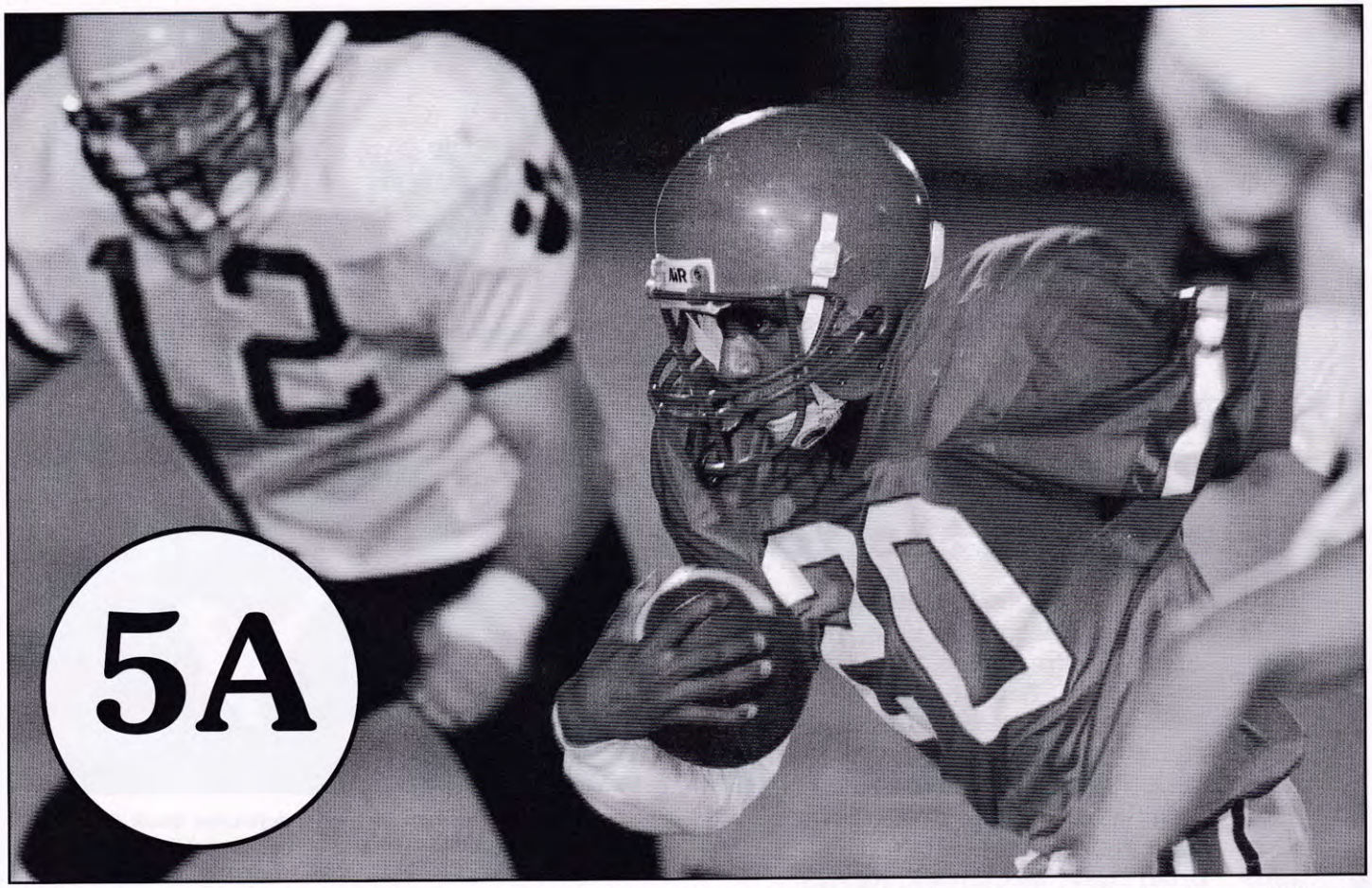
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Westwood's Sammy Moore, the state's top rated football prospect, cuts through a hole and breaks into the clear as Gilbert defenders chases him from behind (Bob Dunn/The Tribune).

Desert Vista & Westwood Top Picks

One more football season and you can kiss this century goodbye. It's been a great ride. Records were made to be broken, and schools like Mountain View and Desert Vista didn't mess around. Last year MVHS had a shot at the longest 5A record in Arizona history: Tucson High's big-school slate of 32 games without defeat. Mountain View hit it, a 27-7 win over Westwood. They reached 40 before Brophy Prep ended the defending champs '98 campaign in the state semifinals, 10-3.

Then there was Desert Vista, the new school located south of Phoenix - like on the south side of South Mountain. On 32nd Street. The nationally ranked Thunder, in its first year with a senior class, beat Brophy 38-31 in a wild finals at Arizona State to finish 14-0 on the season - the first 5A school to go unbeaten in that position since Westwood turned the trick in 1964.

This year's Desert Vista class is an easy preseason pick. The easiest early No. 1 choice since Phoenix St. Mary's in 1995. That club, coached by Pat Farrell, finished 14-0 and sent three players to Division I football powers. The Thunder, with a top-notch quarterback, loads of skill players and several key transfers, just might have the most talented 5A class a defending state champ has returned since Tucson High in 1970-71.

Speaking of Pat Farrell, the Knights' successful coach (four 5A crowns) is just three wins shy of 200. Only four other Arizona coaches have won 200 or more games at the same school. The record is 227 by Emil Nasser, former long time mentor at once powerful Winslow High.

Look for Westwood, Mesa's smallest 5A school (2,310) students, to make the biggest improvement among East Valley schools. The once proud Warriors, hit hard by injuries, a youth movement and a coaching change, look to bounce back in a big way. And with receiver/defensive back/kick returner Sammy Moore in the lineup, the Warriors not only have the best athlete in Arizona on their side, but the state's top football recruit.

Arizona, with close to a five million population base, has become more and more a hunting ground for Division I programs. During the 1998 collegiate season, 160 former Arizona products dotted Division I-A rosters on football scholarships. This figure does not include players at the junior college level, NAIA teams, or smaller Division I-A schools such as Northern Arizona University, which plays quality football. More than half of the 160 players played in the state's 4A ranks or below. Peoria High, with 11 former players on major college rosters, is the leader. Four schools were tied at seven: South Mountain, Tucson Sabino, Mesa Dobson and Mesa High.

5A CENTRAL REGION
1. Tempe Desert Vista (14-0)
2. Tempe Mountain Pointe (8-4)
3. Tempe McClintock (3-7)
4. Tempe Marcos de Niza (6-4)
5. Tempe Corona del Sol (10-2)
6. Casa Grande (2-8)

Two **Desert Vista** bodies, quarterback John Rattay and tight end Elton Johnson, accounted for 50% of the Thunder's total offense. Both are back. Ratty, regarded as one of the state's top two signal callers, completed 175 of 303 passes (58%) for 3,094 yards and 36 touchdowns, including a 73-yarder for the first score in the state finals. An excellent athlete, last spring Rattay zipped over the high hurdles in 14.36 seconds. Johnson, an undersized tight end (5-11, 190) with oversized skills, caught 63 passes for 1,158 yards and 15 scores. He caught four for 49 yards in the finals. Rattay and Johnson are not the only weapons in the Thunder's arsenal. All-region tackle Brian Goggin (6-4, 270) has a beefy collection of buddys, including starters Frank Ruzioka (6-2, 250), Derek Kennard (6-1, 225) and Jason Kelly (5-11, 210), not to mention two-way performer Justin Delfino (6-4, 254). Steve Larson (6-1, 210) returns at inside linebacker. Junior Jason St. Clair (5-10, 160) and backup tailback Tommie Tilford (5-10, 174) started in the secondary, which became stronger with the addition of Markus Thurman (5-9, 180), an all-region transfer from Westview. Tilford rushed for 618 yards and scored three TDs. But the key newcomer is big Danny Padilla (6-2, 240), a two-way all-state pick at 2A power Superior, doubling at fullback/linebacker. With the addition of Padilla, Desert Vista's stock went up. Don't be fooled by his rushing stats (1,106 yards & 13 scores) in 2A competition. Behind Desert Vista's massive line he may find the going easier in 5A. Overall, the Thunder return 10 starters for the '99 campaign.

At nearby **Mountain Pointe**, veteran coach Karl Kiefer returns several veteran players too, including 1,000 yard rusher Nic Lovett (6-0, 185), son of former A-State back Mark Lovett, now a Pride assistant. To be exact, Lovett gained 1,347 yards from scrimmage and scored 20 touchdowns. On the defensive front, the Pride have two premier defenders in Clifford Starks (6-0, 245), the state 5A shot put champ (58'5"), and nose guard Richie Hightower (5-9, 225), runnerup in the discus (181'). Lovett joins David Hare, Isiah Mack and junior Ryan Cozzetto to form a sold secondary. Receiver Brad Potter averaged 12.4 yards per catch in the Points' run-oriented offense. Cozzetto (5-11, 180) has two more years to fine tune his quarterback skills, which produced 18 completions in 37 attempts for 217 yards and two TDs. He's also the Pride's punter (35.5). Big Richard Bell (6-5, 220) kicked three field goals and 16 extra points. With Lovett's return, the key to Mountain Pointe's season will be the offensive line. Jared Sibbitt (6-0, 205), Eric Bloom (6-2, 245), Tony Aragon (6-0, 210) and T.J. Meise (5-10, 220) are three-year varsity players. "We had a good, solid year," adds Kiefer, who enters his 35th season in the profession. His 268 career wins is the state's best.

McClintock seemed to fall apart after a couple of close, early losses. That won't happen again, if Dennis Johnson and his staff have it their way. Young players up from strong underclassmen teams, plus a good kicking game paints a rosy picture. Two-way end Terry Johnson (6-4, 230), guard Larry Faust (6-2, 230) and punter Bill Becher (6-3, 200) are the marquee players. Each offensive play starts in J.J. Hunt's hands, the Chargers' 245-pound center. Big Willie Ryan is a 300-pound tackle. Mini backs Anthony Moore (5-8, 160) and Cameron Ward (5-6, 160) are burners. The junior class looks strong with twins Jacob and Jason Strack, David Palmer, Blaine Davis, Andrew Weber and Eric Oldenkamp in the lineup. Seniors Andy Lyman and Deshon Mason, who returns after a leg injury, should start. Speedy Wayne McGriff could add punch to the tailback slot. Still, because of their youth, the Chargers appear one year away.

Twenty returning lettermen, including all-region linebacker Luke Hauptman, improve **Marcos de Niza's** chances. With Hauptman (6-1, 228) in the lineup, Tom Joseph's defense is solid up the gut. The team's defensive captain is one of five returning starters, including two-way players Charlie Klingensmith (6-2, 218) and Brian Johnson (6-0, 185). Josh Todd (6-1, 180), who might start at quarterback, returns at safety. Little Adam Villa (5-8, 185) started at guard. Seniors John Kelley, Rupert Hernandez, Shawn Franco, Ryan Gorishek and Sergio Rodriguez all played. Two-way end Steve Patterson (6-4, 215) and halfback Taman Jordan lettered as sophomores. "We should be better," says Joseph. "But it depends upon our work ethic in the off season."

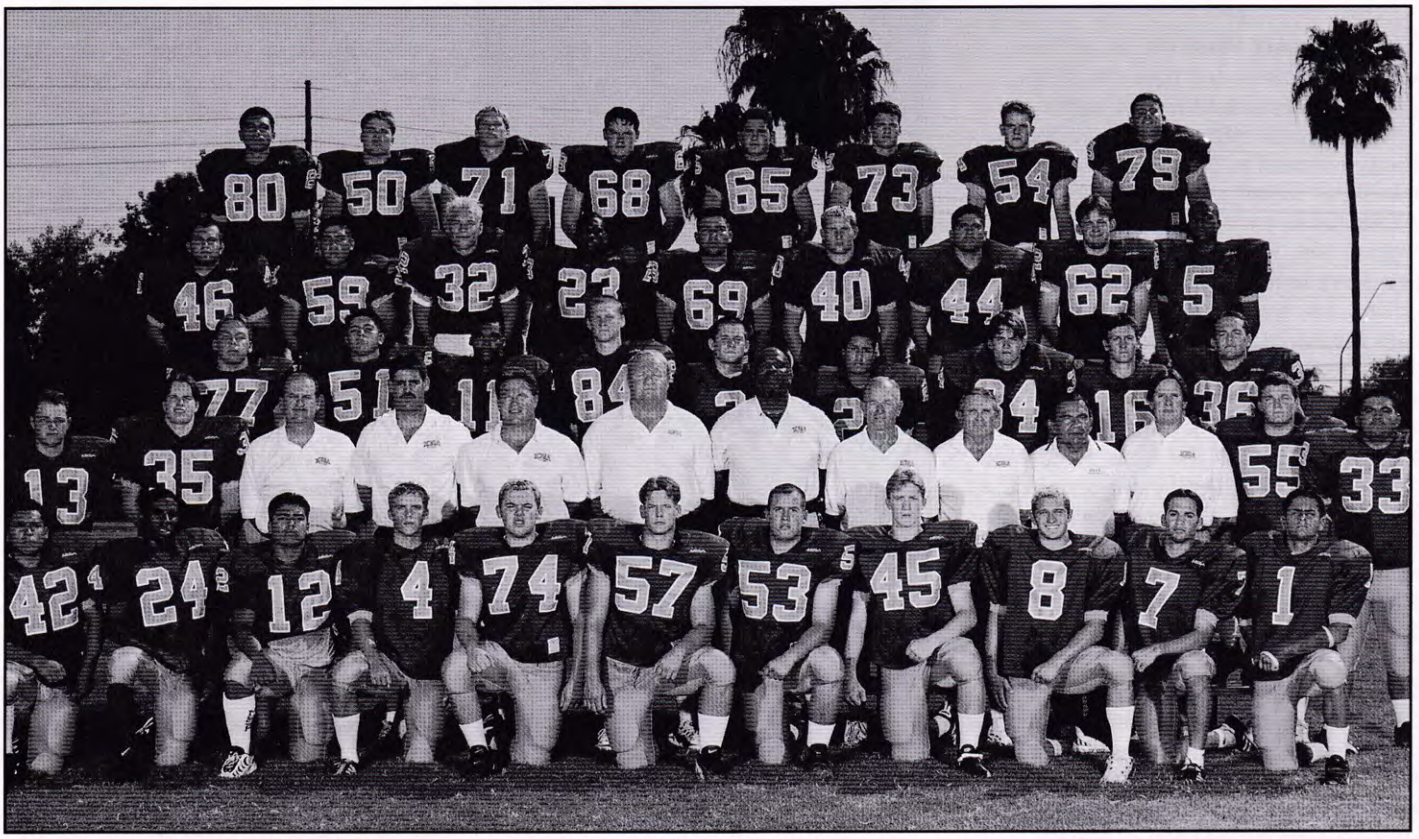
Graduation cleaned out the locker room for one of the more talented **Corona del Sol** teams. Veteran coach Gary Ventura saw his 10-2 season fumbled away in the quarterfinals, 21-12 to Mountain View. Twenty starters picked up diplomas. Two starters, center Alex Ibarra, who doubles at linebacker, and strong safety Hunter Hawkins are back. Hawkins, who could start at quarterback, returned a fumble for a score against Chandler. Two backs, Ryan Royse and young John Lewis, plus a beefy collection of two-way linemen up from the junior varsity give the Aztecs a ray of hope. Two linemen, Soloman Anderson and Josh Adam, tip the scales at 280-plus pounds. Still, graduation wiped out 95% of the team's production.

No Central Region school needs more off-season work than **Casa Grande**, which has had four different head coaches in the past six years. Still, the Cougars finished 2-8 with 60% of the starting positions manned by underclassmen. The

CLASS 5A TOP 20 POLL

1. Tempe Desert Vista
2. Mesa Westwood
3. Mesa Red Mountain
4. Mesa Mountain View
5. Paradise Valley
6. Phoenix Trevor Browne
7. Scottsdale Horizon
8. Phoenix Maryvale
9. Tempe Mountain Pointe
10. Tucson Amphitheater
11. Mesa
12. Tucson Sabino
13. Shadow Mountain
14. Glendale Mountain Ridge
15. Kingman
16. Peoria
17. Gilbert Highland
18. Mesa Dobson
19. Tempe McClintock
20. Phoenix St. Mary's

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- Scored in 84 consecutive games from 1955-63!
- Produced eight (9) professional football stars!

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key man in the trenches is senior Mark Luna (6-2, 265), an all-region tackle. Gary Baker (5-11, 175) returns at quarterback. Kevin Ratliff (6-0, 165) and Jermaine Graves (5-11, 155) are capable receivers. Little Chris Masuhr (5-8, 160), a running back/linebacker, is a tough player. Safety Quentin Johnson (5-11, 165) is the fastest Cougar. Ryan Mozingo (6-3, 175) is a good two-way player.

5A EAST VALLEY REGION I

1. Mesa Westwood (3-7)
2. Mesa Red Mountain (8-3)
3. Mesa Mountain View (12-1)
4. Mesa (8-3)
5. Mesa Dobson (3-7)
6. Scottsdale Desert Mountain (5-5)

No school in Mesa returns as many key starters as **Westwood**, which won only three games. More than half the squad returns, including 12 starters, not to mention the region's top prospect, senior Sammy Moore. The Warriors even started two sophomore tackles. With Moore in the lineup, Westwood is a threat to bust one any second. Last year the all-state kick returner/receiver returned two punts for touchdowns, averaging 21.4 yards per return. Although most teams kicked away from him, the two-time state long jump champ managed 23.4 yards on kickoffs. He caught 28 passes - mostly from junior John Mendez - for 491 yards and four scores. He averaged 17.5 yards per reception and had a 95-yard TD strike against Corona del Sol nullified by a penalty. Last spring Moore was a member of the Warriors nationally ranked mile relay team (3:14.33), and long jumped 24-feet, 4-inches for the Warriors state championship track & field squad. His 100 (10.63) and 200 (21.75) times were among the state's best. Quarterback Mendez (5-9, 165) connected on 71 of 137 passes (52%) for 1,044 yards. Up front, Matt Gess (5-10, 200) returns at center, along with junior tackles Brandon Hopkins (6-5, 240) and Ryan Finn (6-5, 215). Three backs, Patrick Smithson, Darren Matthews and Jason McClure, saw action early. So did tight end Wes Rohner. Defensively, Jake Whisenant (5-10, 185) returns at middle backer, along with Moore at free safety. Greg Anderson played the corner. Westwood's main concern is defense and depth.

Look for **Red Mountain** to field a strong, athletic team, with better depth than normal. Coach Jim Jones, the Lions' head coach since 1988, welcomes a good collection of young players up from the underclassmen ranks. Still, the meat of the varsity is the senior class. This one starts at quarterback, where Alan Grantham (5-10, 175) passed for 1,394 yards, 183 during a 33-15 playoff loss to Trevor Browne. He found the end zone 17 times. Tight end Brandon Smith (6-1, 210) also plays linebacker. He and Ben Owens (6-0, 205) start on the outside. Speedy Matt Porr (6-1, 175) doubles at receiver and strong safety. K.C. Weitman starts at free safety. Fullback Eddie Gomez (5-9, 195) gained 444 yards and scored on an 87-yard kickoff return against Cibola. But the best prospect on the squad looks like Brian Fitzpatrick (6-1, 230), an all-region two-way lineman. Starters Dan Chavez (6-1, 230) and Derrick Lang (6-3, 250) flank Fitzpatrick on the defensive line. That row of players will be the Lions' strength. Josh Cook (5-11, 200) is the center. If running back Mike Ferrari returns from a leg injury, the Red & Black could improve last year's 8-3 finish, best in the school's history.

For three years in a row **Mountain View** was almost perfect. The Toros won back-to-back state crowns and 40 consecutive games before Brophy Prep ended their record run in the state semifinals. It's time to start over. Twenty lettermen return from a 50-man squad, including four all-region picks. One, 6-2, 220-pound guard Brett Crandall, started as a sophomore. Defensive end Jared Fritz (6-2, 230) and center Jason Davis (6-2, 215) were members of *The Tribune's* annual all-star squad. Fritz also starts at right offensive guard. Split end James Patterson (6-1, 180) was the Toros' top receiver, averaging 15.4 yards per catch. Tackle Brad Smith and skill position players like Aaron Gordon, Greg Nielson, D.J. Nye and Brady Hawkins saw action. If there's a weakness it's defense. Fritz is the only returning starter. The Toros open at Kingman, an up-and-coming 5A toughie which lost to state champ Desert Vista the state semifinals, 20-16.

Each year the changing district seems to cut into **Mesa's** talent pool. But each year the Jackrabbits, coached by Bill McKane, stay competitive. Last fall the Purple & Gold lost just three games - to final eight schools Mountain View, Brophy and Corona del Sol. "Our young men played to their potential," claims McKane, whose winning percentage (.765) is one of the state's best. He returns just three starters: Split end Raufeem Jackson (6-3, 175), who can play in the secondary, linebacker Gabe Barreras (6-1, 220), who doubles at tight end, and center/linebacker Cole "Doc" Golightly (6-3, 218), one of the region's premier players. An all-star as a junior, Golightly had 41 solo tackles, 27 assists, seven tackles for losses, two forced fumbles and four sacks. Tough little Jesus Torres (5-8, 190), a defensive lineman, and two way backs Kamoni Cook and Junior Taylor should start. So should fullback/linebacker Milton Garth (6-2, 220) from Mississippi and tight end Vaitaki Aholelei (6-4, 240) from Hawaii. Senior Chance Henry should get a look at quarterback. Juniors Freddy Smith, Mika Kofa, Josh Laughlin, Kevin McAbee and Stephen Goroon will fill in available spots

Streak busters

Payson's win over Blue Ridge in the 3A state finals ended the Yellow Jackets' winning streak at 63 games, ninth best in USA history. The state's all-time leaders, and the schools which beat them:

Streak	School	Year	Lost To/Score
63	Lakeside Blue Ridge	1994-98	Payson, 29-20
43	St. Johns*	1992-95	Monument Valley, 24-16
40	Mesa Mountain View	1996-98	Phoenix Brophy Prep, 10-3
34	Round Valley	1977-81	Payson, 21-20
32	Tucson	1943-45	El Paso Austin, Tex., 7-0
29	Patagonia	1986-87	Valley Union, 26-8
27	Pima	1969-71	Fredonia, 57-28
27	Phoenix St. Mary's	1984-86	Phoenix Moon Valley, 14-7
26	Coolidge	1942-45	Mesa, 27-12
25	Phoenix Carver	1951-53	Blythe, Calif., 20-14
25	Bisbee*	1953-56	Tucson, 12-6
25	Safford	1968-70	Agua Fria, 48-26

**Includes ties.*

vacated by graduating seniors. The 'Rabbits, with 570 wins in its history, could get at least eight more.

Coach Mike Clark looks for improvement at **Dobson**, where the Mustangs return most of their line. Center/nose guard Greg Weist (6-0, 250) is the best bet for post-season honors. Aaron Flores, Steve Tannenbaum, Cody Nelson and Aaron Jeziorski join Weist on the line. Quarterback Keith Goedert, and running backs Brian Umaluf, Leland Rodgers, David Richardson and Glenn Gary, a newcomer from California, make up the skill positions. Junior Dale Cockrell (6-3, 220) is a promising linebacker.

Last year **Desert Mountain**, in its third year of varsity ball, started seven sophomores and finished 5-5. Quarterback Chad Christensen, a 6-2, 175-pound junior-to-be, completed 67% of his passes for just over 1,200 yards. He and defensive end Adam Suraci (6-3, 200) earned mention on the Scottsdale all-city squad. Suraci and halfback Matt Peterson (5-11, 185) are three-year varsity players. The Wolves' junior class supplies the receiving corps, with flanker Chris Beaudoin (5-11, 170) and tight end Todd Hannant (6-2, 205). Senior Taylor Quintanilla (5-11, 230) and junior Mark Standage (6-3, 235) are two solid defensive tackles. "I really don't know what to expect this year," says head coach Steve Belles, a former state player of the year at Phoenix St. Mary's. "I know for sure that the league is an excellent one, with no weeks off. I do think we will have good senior leadership."

5A EAST VALLEY REGION II

1. Gilbert Highland (7-4)
2. Gilbert (4-7)
3. Chandler Hamilton (7-2)
4. Chandler (2-8)
5. Yuma Kofa (3-7)
6. Gilbert Mesquite

This fast growing region features two new East Valley schools, and one with a recent history of good, solid football. At **Highland** the Hawks return 12 squad members from a 7-4 playoff team which lost a one touchdown battle to Mountain View in the playoff's first round. Two, linebacker Jeff Prince (5-11, 195) and down lineman Brian Ahsoon (5-10, 225) earned post season votes. Wideout Marquis Cooper (6-2, 195) played as a sophomore. Tackle Riley Haviland (6-2, 235) was the biggest junior in camp.

At **Gilbert**, veteran coach Jesse Parker (244-91-4) has come full circle. The former successful mentor at Phoenix Camelback and Mountain View spent several years in the Texas ranks before returning to the East Valley. Only sixteen players remain from a 4-7 squad, but GHS played most of its games tough. One starter, 6-2, 185-pound quarterback/safety Mike Doran, could develop into one of the better players in the region. The three-year letterman is also the Tigers' kicker. With little depth, watch for key players like linemen Mike Butler (5-10, 220) and Dan Mullins (6-2, 200), along with backs Chris Moore (6-0, 175), Ben Kerwin (5-9, 175) and Kyle Frost (5-10, 160) to go both ways. "We expect to have a good season," says the veteran coach. "The players have been enthusiastic and receptive to new ways of doing things." The Tigers have a rough non-league schedule, but should be ready for league play in October. They open Sept. 10 at Phoenix Trevor Browne.

With almost every player back, **Hamilton** looks like a playoff contender. The young Huskies, playing a patched up schedule with 3A and 2A schools, finished 7-2 and looked good doing it. "We feel real good about this year," says second year coach John Wrenn. "We had no seniors last year." Quarterback Trevor Johnson (6-0, 170) was the leading scorer (58 pts.), passed for 1,260 yards and rushed for 573. Junior tailback Chaz Scott (6-2, 190) gained 861 yards and scored nine touchdowns in the one back offense. Jacqob Hutfless (6-2, 185) picked off four passes in the secondary, and is one of two excellent receivers. He caught 30 passes for 459 yards and four TDs. Little Mackel Mayers caught 34 passes for 559 yards and eight scores, including a 77-yarder against San Manuel. Defensively, Andy Dawson (6-1, 210) is a tough nose guard, and the linebacking trio of Jace Scheller (6-2, 230), Ed Landwehr (6-2, 215) and Jason Rodriguez (6-1, 195) is arguably the best in the region.

Chandler, which lost more than its share to young students to the city's newest school, returns just 15 players from a 2-8 squad. But one, senior Devin Richardson, might be the best player in the region. The 5-10, 165-pound all-league selection does it all, from running the ball to roaming the secondary to returning kicks. Linebacker Terrell Suggs (6-5, 225) was another all-league pick. Last year two sophomores, Kevin Krieger (5-11, 185), a quarterback/linebacker, and Armon Kennedy (6-8, 330), a two-way tackle, lettered and could start. So should linemen Ben Hipa, Brian Lester, Tom Lombardo and Dan Rogers. Back Shaunz Bass is a good two-way player. Tom Bambauer handles the kicking.

5A DESERT VALLEY REGION

1. Paradise Valley (6-5)
2. Scottsdale Horizon (10-2)
3. Shadow Mountain (6-4)
4. Phoenix St. Mary's (8-3)
5. Phoenix Brophy Prep (10-4)
6. North Canyon (4-6)

This could be one of **Paradise Valley's** stronger teams. Coach Bob Lambie has built a solid program, and the Trojans seem to play everybody tough. No matter who it may be. Last year, in the playoff's first round, state champ Desert Vista eliminated the Trojans 24-17 in overtime, and had to stuff PV's offense three consecutive times in the fourth quarter to do it. This year halfback Geoff Ducksworth (5-10, 165, 4.5) is the main man. He averaged 8.6 yards every time he touched the ball in Paradise Valley's wing-T offense. He scored on a 99-yard kickoff return during a 56-42 win over Phoenix Trevor Browne. Center Ryan Van Wave (6-1, 215) and teammates Aaron Boussu (6-2, 215) and Derek Joyce (6-5, 260) form the nucleus of PV's offensive front. Split end Todd Voll doubles at safety. Junior Mike McNeil is the fullback.

Horizon is rock solid at running back, too. For the Huskies, 10-2 last year, all-region back Anthony Fulcher (5-11, 190) is the "go to" guy. Running, receiving or rambling on kick returns, he crossed the goal line 25 times (22 from the line of scrimmage). He carried the ball 139 times for 1,001 yards. Three times he scored on kicks. Although Greg Wermes (6-0, 255) and Kyle Sager (6-0, 230) are the only returning starters up front, line play is an Horizon strength. Derek Shaffer (6-0, 225) will start at center, flanked by Jared Langenhuizen (6-1, 200) and Kyle Fricke (5-11, 200). Steve Cota (6-3, 180) steps in at quarterback. All-league linebacker Derek Hobbs (6-0, 210) is the top defender. His 59 unassisted tackles, one pick and one sack is tops among returning players. Linebacker Quint Swanberg (5-11, 205) is another good one, and doubles at fullback. Stu Kimball (6-1, 200) is a reliable kicker. The Huskies open with nationally ranked Desert Vista - on the road.

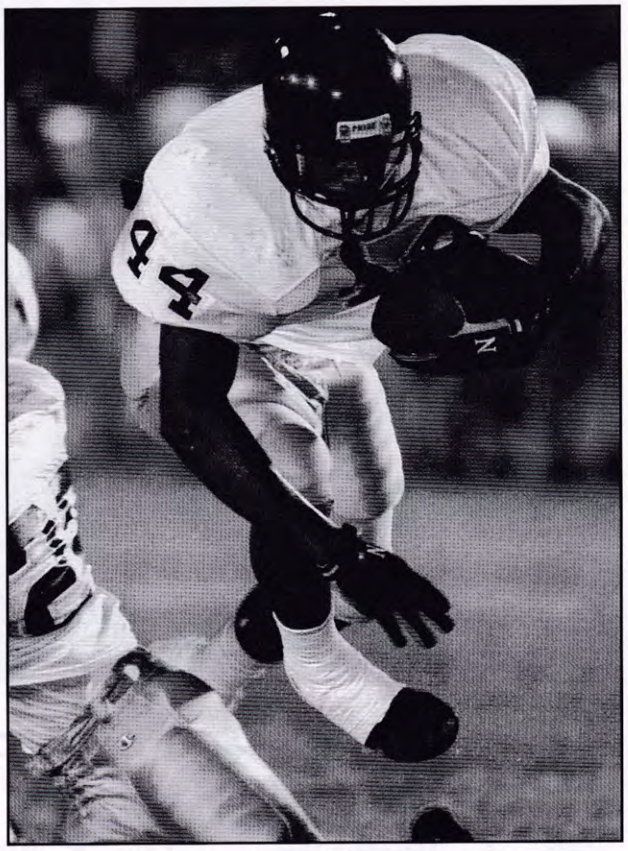
Shadow Mountain might have turned the corner, going 6-4 with lots of underclassmen in the lineup. Still, they

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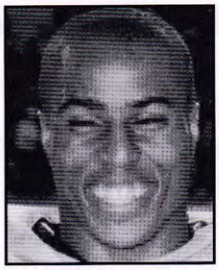
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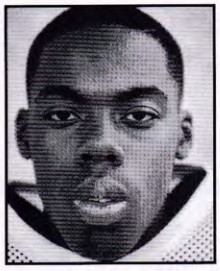
1998 ..... Bobby Wade, Desert Vista, RB/DB
1997 ..... Marcus Jones, Mountain Pointe, RB/LB
1996 ..... Justin Taplin, Tempe, WR
1995 ..... Keith Brown, Mountain Pointe, RB
1994 ..... Skeeter Brown, Mountain Pointe, RB
1993 ..... Darnell Autry, Tempe, RB/DB
1992 ..... Kenny Wheaton, McClintock, DB
1991 ..... 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
1973 ..... Preston Dennard, Marcos de Niza, WR
1972 ..... Herbie Ramirez, McClintock, WR



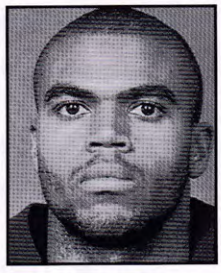
Marcus Jones scores against McClintock. (Michelle Conway photo)



Marcus Jones
Mountain Pointe



Kenny Wheaton
McClintock



Armon Williams
Valley Christian



Preston Dennard
Marcos de Niza

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BHS	42	Tucson Salpointe	14
BHS	27	Mesa	3
BHS	38	Paradise Valley	13
BHS	34	North Canyon	10
BHS	39	Yuma Kofa	13
BHS	7	Scottsdale Horizon	26
BHS	28	Glendale Ironwood	0
BHS	7	Phoenix St. Mary's	21
BHS	54	Shadow Mountain	14
BHS	21	Tucson Amphi	10
BHS	42	Trevor Browne	14
BHS	10	Mountain View	3
BHS	31	Tempe Desert Vista	38

✔ Broncos have made the playoffs 12 consecutive years, and played in two 5A championship games in the past three years.

✔ Quarterback Carson Bradley passed for 1,866 yards and halfback Courtney Golden rushed for 1,589.

✔ Senior Brian Gaffney, now a freshman at Stanford, won of the Larry Gordon Award, saluting the state's best linebacker.

✔ Courtney Golden (RB), Pat Walsh (C), Ryan Clancey (DB), Brian Gaffney (LB), Lenno Melton (DE) and Koma Keita (DL) were first team all-Desert Valley Region picks; Carson Bradley (QB), Brian Barda (OL), Monte Coleman (TE), Bob Gill (K), Ryan Dickerson (DB) & Dave Anderson (DL) second team.

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will miss speedy Shaun McDonald, who took his all-state credentials to Arizona State's campus. Coach Hal Pigusch welcomes six returning offensive linemen, several quality backs and two good receivers. The key player is quarterback Monty Hoffman (6-2, 185), whose twin brother Marcus (6-3, 185) is an excellent target. Wideout Jeremy Franz (5-9, 165) is a real burner (4.5), taking pressure off Hoffman. Opponents can't double up on either one. With Bret Bodinet (6-3, 250), Josh Hunt (6-1, 220), Kevin Bucich (6-1, 253), Paul Meek (6-2, 255), Vic Bagdasarian (6-2, 290), Ian Cameron (6-3, 210) and Travis Ensign (6-2, 205) in the lineup, the Matadors might have the strongest front wall in the region. Junior Cory Nochta (6-0, 190) has promise at running back.

St. Mary's rebounded from a 1-2 start and won seven straight, capped by a 7-6 win over Horizon. They dropped a 7-0 defensive struggle to Mountain Pointe in the first round of the playoffs. Head coach Pat Farrell, with 197 wins at the school, is close to joining the 200-win fraternity. Eighteen letter winners return, but only four started. Two-way back Thomas Beier (5-10, 180), fullback/linebacker Nick Spong (5-9, 195) and center Michael Rush (5-10, 240) are three-year varsity players. Pat Benedict, Aaron Muth and Charlie Scott help form a better than average front wall. Big Nate Griffin and Sean Castillo are promising juniors. The region has had three different champions in the last three years. "Our schedule calls for 10 straight quality opponents who will test how quickly we mature as a team," says Farrell, who has coached longer at this Phoenix school than any previous coach.

A senior dominated team carried **Brophy Prep** into the playoffs for the 12th straight year. The ride ended at Sun Devil Stadium, 38-31 to Phoenix Desert Vista, played before 21,480 fans in Tempe. Senior tackle Jared Rosell (5-11, 235) is the only returning starter. "It will be a rebuilding year," claims Tim Sanford, 101-62-2 at the Phoenix school. "We could start as many as six sophomores." Young Jeff Rush (6-2, 185) could get the call at quarterback. He'll have three seasons to polish his skills. Classmates Adam Deguire and Kyle Dukeshier are promising young players also. Still, the success of this year's squad resides in the senior class. Big Matt Collins (6-3, 270), Kyle O'Connor, Al Porteous, Shamus Ankrom and Kiernan Curley give the Broncos stability on the line. Danny King, Mike Tucker and Ian Reilly man the skill positions. Two-way players Jason Robles, Mike Robson and James Robinson represent the junior class.

Race to 100

Last year Blue Ridge, followed by Mesa Mountain View, became the first Arizona schools to win 100 football games in a decade. Below are the leaders in the Decade of the '90's:

Wins	School	Years	Overall	Winning %
101	Lakeside Blue Ridge	1990-98	101-9-0	(.918)
101	Mesa Mountain View	1990-98	101-16-1	(.863)
99	Tucson Sabino	1990-98	99-17-1	(.853)
89	Phoenix St. Mary's	1990-98	89-25-0	(.781)
87	Mesa	1990-98	87-22-1	(.798)
86	Tucson Amphitheater	1990-98	86-26-0	(.768)
84	St. Johns	1990-98	84-17-1	(.832)
83	Scottsdale Horizon	1990-98	83-24-1	(.776)
83	Thatcher	1990-98	83-20-0	(.806)
82	Tucson Sahuaro	1990-98	82-26-3	(.759)
80	Peoria	1990-98	80-23-3	(.796)
78	Glendale Cactus	1990-98	78-27-2	(.743)

It was a tough year at **North Canyon**, filled with close calls and unfortunate injuries. "We had the ability to be much better," claims first year coach Jeff Bowen. "Our junior class has quality players but we need production this year from our seniors." Best bet for post season honors could be junior Jason Murray, a 5-10, 205-pound fullback/linebacker. He's a good one. So is junior Brandon Roy (6-0, 185), a two-way back with 4.6 speed. End Mike Weathersbee (6-2, 225), center Joe Nichols (6-0, 198) and wingback Ryan Norris (6-0, 190) give the Rattlers good senior leadership.

5A METRO REGION

1. Phoenix Maryvale (8-3)
2. South Mountain (5-5)
3. Phoenix Camelback (2-8)
4. Yuma Union (3-8)
5. Phoenix North (0-10)
6. Phoenix Cesar Chavez

Phoenix Maryvale has missed the playoffs only twice in the past 15 years. This won't be one of them. Tom Bruney's young forces won eight games before getting steamrolled in the playoffs. All-region tackle Josh Kirkwood (6-4, 255), center Mike Marshall (6-4, 245), fullback Galindo Godinez (5-10, 205) and defensive end Robert Holmes (5-10, 215) are three-year varsity players. Kirkwood, who doubles at tight end, is the key player. Defensive backs Roy Huckaby, Erik Deloney and Joel Contreras give the Panthers speed and senior leadership. But the real speed is in the junior class, where tailback Daryl Lightfoot (5-9, 170, 4.4) resides. Lightfoot, the most exciting young player in the Metro, gained 1,170 yards from scrimmage, 383 receiving and scored 21 touchdowns. Defensively, he's a great cover guy. Quarterback Travis Brown (6-0, 170, 4.5) passed for 1,160 yards and rushed for 487. Linebacker Nate Pittman was the leading tackler, with Jose Buenrostro close behind. Big Dustin Speer, a 285-pounder, anchors the center of the Panthers' defensive line. Maryvale's playoff loss was a 57-9 drubbing by Scottsdale Horizon.

South Mountain hopes to rebound with a better defense and an improved passing game. It won't be easy. Graduation took a big chunk of its armor. All-region defensive back Ray Hodge (5-11, 170), with 4.4 speed, is the marquee player, the next in a long list of good college prospects. Other Jaguars who saw action include wideout Terrell Dansby and defensive lineman Raul Rojas. Both earned post season acclaim. Guard Raul Mori and halfback Andre Beckett started. One major problem is the Jaguars' non-league schedule. It's murder.

"We still are a year or two away from being where we want to be," says **Camelback** head coach Phillip Wooley, "But we think we're on the right track." The Spartans will miss all-state back James Smith (California), but return good speed and size. Depth is a major problem. Two-way back Adryan Nelson (5-10, 180), guard Alex Tejada (6-0, 195), and

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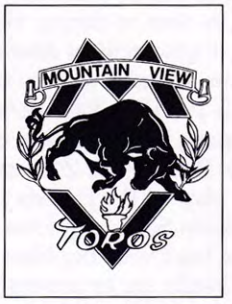
Nine graduates of Mesa Public Schools have received Arizona Interscholastic Association "Scholar-Athlete" Scholarships since 1990.

ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS

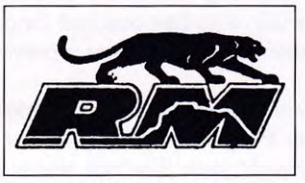
Beginning with the 1989-90 school year, Mesa Public Schools have won 52 5A State Championships in

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Westwood HS

linebackers Joe Verdugo (5-10, 175), Jack McEvoy (6-0, 205) and Anthony Didomizio (6-0, 190) are all-league candidates. Little Kevin Bryant (5-9, 160) looks to start at quarterback. Sunkami Ebun (6-3, 175), with 4.7 speed, is a capable receiver. Linemen Eric Law, Corey Fair, Ben Marquez, Steve Moreno, Max Weisinger, Dan Marquez and Bruce Goulet all tip the scales at 200-plus pounds.

5A METRO SOUTHWEST

1. Phoenix Trevor Browne (10-2)
2. Tolleson Westview (6-4)
3. Phoenix Alhambra (5-5)
4. Phoenix Central (3-7)
5. Yuma Cibola (1-10)
6. Phoenix Carl Hayden (1-9)

Last year **Trevor Browne** lost only twice, 56-42 to Paradise Valley during the regular season and 42-14 in the 5A quarterfinals to Brophy Prep. Only 12 seniors departed. Eleven starters return. Nine earned all-league recognition, including three first-team picks: Tackle James Clement (6-3, 270), guard Sean Shalola (5-11, 250) and kicker Kevin Hughes (5-7, 130). In fact, no team in the Metro returns as many quality starters. Big Paul Keith (6-4, 315) and little Jake Thomas (5-6, 125) join Mike Fierro and Travis Dukes in the trenches, along with Clement and Shalola. Linebackers Jorge Chavez and Jimmy Chavez also started. Running back Ross Moody and safety Adrian Higuera are good, young players.

Westview, the fastest growing school on the west side, got off to a good start, beating Maryvale and St. Mary's, but struggled late and missed the playoffs. Coach George Martinez and his troops move into the Metro and should content. A tough non-league schedule (Ironwood, Mountain View, Kingman, Westwood, Peoria) will test the Knights early. With linebacker Drew Sille (6-0, 190), guard Russell Fleming (6-0, 225), tight end Daniel White (6-1, 190) and quarterback Scott Martinez (6-3, 180) in the lineup, Westview has four of the best players in the region. Martinez is the coach's son. Sille recorded 16 sacks and returned two fumbles for scores. Tye White (5-10, 175) is a capable receiver. Ralph Wiley (6-0, 230) will start at center. Jimmy Shields (5-9, 190) is a hard-running fullback. Sille and Martinez will join Shields in the backfield. Mike Maxwell is the team's safety.

Frank Lautt's Lions played every game tough, but two close losses kept **Alhambra** out of the playoffs. "We expect to have an exciting team," says Lautt, who started seven sophomores. One, tailback Cornell Canidate (5-9, 170), is one of the most exciting in the region. He turned his 4.5 speed into 955 yards on 90 tots, a 10.6 average per carry. During a 30-23 win over Deer Valley, he rushed for 254 yards and scored on kickoff returns of 93 and 92 yards. Canidate and speedy linebacker Daryl Johnson (5-9, 170) were all-region picks. Junior Johnny Ornelas (6-0, 190) starts at quarterback, with tight end Jeremy Gibbons (6-2, 195), another junior, a solid receiver. So is Derek Smith, who doubles at defensive back. Joey Paynter (6-1, 195) is the Lions' center. Mike Branch (5-11, 260), Jomond Ervin (6-0, 210) and T.J. Hills (6-1, 205) join him on the line. Jason Robbins and Ricardo Reyes are good two-way players.

Central played lots of underclassmen and most have stayed in the program. That's a first. The Bobcats, coached by Rick Mazza, show little turnover, returning one dozen key players. They lost close games to city rivals Alhambra (26-22) and South Mountain (13-8), finishing 3-7. "We were better than that," claims Mazza, who looks forward to the new season. "We should be really improved." In the past two years, quarterback Zack Sparksman (6-3, 188) has thrown for 2,391 yards and 17 touchdowns. He's rushed for 483 yards. Tight end Luis Lujan (6-4, 248) has great hands and can run and block. Defensive end Gerald Johnson (6-4, 195), a basketball and track performer, led the team in tackles (110) and sacks (8). If tailback Lee Ignac (6-0, 215) stays healthy, opponents will have to respect the running game. He's a tough one, averaging 4.4 yards per carry.

Despite their record, **Yuma Cibola** was much improved from the previous year. "We are starting to come around," says Shawn Wehrer, who lost very little to graduation. The Raiders look deeper, with

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a good junior class. In fact, fullback Reggie Guerrero (5-10, 225), a linebacker on defense, looks like the best of a real good junior crop. Two-way end Frank Reed (6-3, 215), linebacker Jesse Gonzalez (5-11, 225) and "jack of all trades" Ricky Villareal (6-1, 195) are three seniors who could start for any team in the region. Villareal plays tight end, runningback and linebacker.

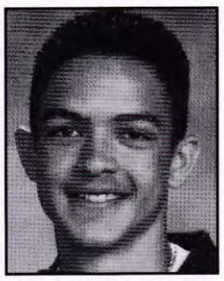
5A NORTHWEST REGION

1. Glendale Mountain Ridge (8-3)
2. Kingman (10-3)
3. Peoria (5-5)
4. Glendale Deer Valley (2-8)
5. Glendale Ironwood (3-7)
6. Phoenix Goldwater (1-9)

Two years ago, five teams from this region moved up from 4A, and every one was competitive. Two, including **Mountain Ridge**, held their own in the '98 playoffs, Ironically, the champion Lions drew runnerup Kingman in the first round and dropped a heartbreaker, 13-7. Coach Jim Ewan returns 23 players, four starters on both offense and defense, and both kickers. "Our senior leadership is outstanding, and our overall strength has improved drastically," says Ewan, who won a state championship at Eloy Santa Cruz earlier in his career. "Our weight program is the single most important reason for our success." Jeff Sharp (6-2, 208), an all-league linebacker, is a three-sport star, and one of the best in the region. He also plays tight end and handles the kicking. Next door is linebacker Matt Hayward (6-1, 205), another all-region pick. He's the team's long snapper. Running back Skip Ast (5-9, 205) and guard Chuck Rowe (5-10, 195) earned post season honors also. Ryan Prassas (5-9, 170), a good baseball player, is the Lions' quarterback. Safety Brad Fisher (5-11, 180) and punter Matt Parrack (6-1, 190) add to a deep senior class. Three good juniors, defensive back Cole Stoneman (6-0, 180), receiver Josh Brayer (6-5, 215) and two-way tackle Richie Incognito (6-4, 270) will play. Stoneman and Brayer play on the basketball team. Junior Corey Childress, a transfer from Glendale Independence, plays wideout and safety, and might be the surprise catch of the season.



Nic Lovett
Mountain Pointe



Ryan Thornton
Ironwood

Up-and-coming **Kingman** dropped its opener to Gilbert, then improved each week and had a chance to win it all. The Bulldogs, coached by Ray Smith, knocked out Westview near the end of the season, league champ Mountain Ridge in a rematch, then Tempe Mountain Pointe in a big upset in the 5A quarters. State champ Desert Vista held on to beat the 'Dogs 20-16 in the semis. "If we can replace our offensive line, we could be tough again," says Smith, who returns most of his skill players, except quarterback. Guard Brent Bridges (6-3, 230), halfback Dustin Mote (5-10, 170) and linebacker Mike Rosencrans (6-0, 175) could start for any 5A school in the state. In fact, so could linebacker Mike Sheehan (5-11, 210), center David Heiselman (6-3, 220) or running back Josh Moua (5-10, 170). Mote, whose brother Trevor was the state junior college baseball player of the year, rushed for 1,505 yards, scored 14 touchdowns, averaged 41.0 yards punting and intercepted six passes on defense. Moua rushed for 789 yards and scored seven times. Rosencrans recorded 72 tackles. Little Phil Krumwiede (5-8, 175) plays fullback and linebacker. Big Shawn Sullivan (6-5, 278) is a transfer from Coconino, the head coach's high school alma mater.

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A whopping 37 returning players, most of any school in the region, greet the coaches at **Peoria**, as the Panthers move into the 5A ranks. "Moving to 5A has created new excitement for this year's team," says head coach Doug Clapp, whose teams have won 77% of their games since 1986. "We look forward to the challenge. Winning four of our last five games says a lot about the character of the athletes who are coming back." Without a doubt, Peoria has three of the better players in the league in tight end Robbie Byrne (6-5, 223), defensive back Andrew Garcia (6-1, 180) and tackle Brandon Peterson (6-2, 225), an all-league center who will switch positions. Size resides in the senior and junior classes, speed in the younger ranks. Brad Kreutzberg (6-8, 231), Mike Marquez (6-1, 232), Paul Kitchen (6-3, 270) and Aaron Lassner (6-2, 275) will start on the line. Lassner, just a junior, will be the center. Linebackers Craig Loscheider (5-11, 215) and Branum Sherrill (6-1, 185) are two more members of a thin senior class. Junior Vince Fiore (6-1, 195) looks to start at quarterback. He's also the team's punter. Classmate Ross Luna (5-11, 180) is an excellent safety. Junior Hamilton Jones (6-0, 170) joins him in the secondary. Several sophomores could start, including wideouts Billy King and J.W. Lucas, and running backs Kelly Mitchell, Chris Kluzek and Shawn Havill. Lucas might be the backup quarterback. Peoria, the metro's winningest 4A school in the '90s, may have too many underclassmen to be a playoff contender this year. But don't bet against them.

Coach Rick Mey looks for a much better start at **Deer Valley**, with more than half the roster returning. The Skyhawks offense starts with quarterback Andy Gray (6-1, 185), a three-year starter who completed 49% of his passes for 1,100 yards. He rushed for 520. Junior wideout Jason Norman (6-2, 170) averaged 16 yards per catch. Joe Seto (6-1, 215) looks like the best offensive lineman. But the strength of this team is defense, starting with linebacker David Worrell (5-10, 200), one of only a few two-way players. He will play just linebacker this year. Up front, the Hawks have strong, tough players like Junior Frederick (6-0, 220) and young Drew Severn (6-3, 240), whose father and uncle were national champion wrestlers at Arizona State. Safety Gabe Florio (6-2, 195) is a good one.

A young, inexperienced **Ironwood** squad, which started more underclassmen than seniors, struggled through a 3-7 campaign. However, fourteen starters return, including four on the offensive line. When the Eagles line up to snap the ball, look for Mike Johnson (6-5, 280), Doug Jarczyk (6-2, 190), Ryan Morgan (6-5, 220), Shane Mackin (6-5, 240) and Dan Nelson (6-1, 210) up front. Key players at the skill positions include two-way back Ryan Thornton (5-11, 170, 4.5), the quickest Eagle in camp, and all-league kicker Paul Ernster (6-2, 210), who averaged 38.8 yards per punt and kicked a 49-yard field goal. Mike Nagy (6-1, 170) looks to start at quarterback. Big Chris Jacobson (6-6, 230) is a good target at tight end. Ryan Softley (6-2, 230) is a good linebacker and Shane Solie (6-3, 210) an excellent defensive end. The Eagles look improved in every aspect of the game.

At **Goldwater**, former Moon Valley coach John Burke takes over a Bulldog squad which lost its last nine games, and hasn't had consecutive winning seasons in its history. The 'Dogs downed Carl Hayden 41-12 in their opener, lost a 9-0 heartbreaker to Shadow Mountain, then the bottom fell out.

5A SOUTHERN REGION

1. Tucson Amphitheater (9-2)
2. Tucson Sabino (12-1-1)
3. Tucson Canyon del Oro (3-7)
4. Tucson Salpointe (4-6)
5. Tucson Rincon (7-3)
6. Tucson Flowing Wells (5-5)
7. Tucson (1-9)
8. Sierra Vista Buena (0-10)

The south looks more balanced than normal, but don't count out **Tucson Amphi**. No school in southern Arizona has dominated this region like Amphi. Veteran coach Vern Friedli, 215-56-1 at the school, returns three all-city players and enough tradition to keep the ship afloat on a bad year. Just 15 players return from a 9-2 squad which lost to Phoenix Brophy Prep in the playoff's first round. Three can really play, including two-way tackle Rocky Huntsinger (6-1, 255), one of the region's best, running back Tony Okafor (6-0, 195), and junior quarterback Joel Ramano (5-8, 170), field general for Amphi's wishbone. During the regular season, Okafor averaged 5.3 yards per play, gaining 857 yards on 161 carries. Romano threw 10 touchdown passes. Huntsinger, deep back Jerek Pedersen, and linebackers Nate Eggman and B.J. Carrera were part of a stingy Panther defense which gave up just over 200 yards per game, second best in the city. Transfer Jason Evenson (6-3, 275), a two-way tackle, should fit right in.

With the addition of **Tucson Sabino**, the South just got stronger. For the first time since 1988, the Sabercats are back in the 5A ranks. Since then, no 4A school has produced a better winning percentage (.777) than Sabino. Jeff Scurran's forces (12-1-1) stuffed Agua Fria in the state 4A finals, his third such crown. They dropped their season-opener to Tucson Sahuaro and were tied by Bonita Vista from San Diego. Two all-city players return, and both are dandys. Halfback Quinn Gooch (6-2, 185), the 'Cats kicker, and defensive lineman Jeff Drumm (5-10, 205) are all-state candidates. Gooch does it all. He scored 174 points, 18 on TDs and 50 through the uprights. He intercepted six passes, one in the state finals. The cat-quick Drumm made over 60 solo tackles. Quarterback Blake Kinart (6-3, 180) completed 60 of 122 passes (49%) for 1,446 yards and 19 TDs. These three, plus deep back Danny Perry, tackle Kevin Amidan, running back Jovan Vercel and linebacker Aaron Huertas earned some kind of post season recognition. Linebacker Tyler Tribolet, center Robert Hudson, tackle D.J. Lopez and back George Lovett all played. "We had a great year," adds Scurran. "Great team chemistry. But this will be more difficult. The accumulation of larger teams, week-after-week, will be tough on a team not used to it."

Recently, **Canyon del Oro** has struggled. The Dorados won only three games, but 75% of the lineup returns, including several players who played as sophomores. Senior Ryan Schroyer (6-1, 200) was an honorable mention all-city pick at defensive end. Quarterback/safety Evan Gray (6-0, 163), receiver Jayson Hunter (6-3, 188), halfback Kirk Creviston (5-8, 140) and wideout David Dickert (6-4, 172) could become three-year letter winners. With players like Ryan Pelz (6-2, 236), Ryan Bartz (6-1, 249), Andy Metz (6-3, 222) and Ryan Vossler (6-1, 284) in the lineup, the Dorados have size on the line.

Graduation all but cleaned out the **Salpointe Catholic** roster. However, head coach Pat Welchert (73-64-1) returns two talented players in quarterback Zack Seward (6-0, 185) and split end John Porter (6-1, 170). Seward hit on 76 of 165 passes (46%) for 1,063 yards and nine TDs. Porter latched on to 37 passes for 702 yards (19.8) and five touchdowns. Junior Brian Welch (5-8, 158) was an honorable mention all-city

Big schools

Projected enrollment figures for Arizona's largest 5A schools for the upcoming fall football season:

Students	High School
3,936	Mesa Mountain View
3,898	Mesa Dobson
3,798	Mesa
3,223	South Mountain
3,023	Mesa Red Mountain
2,872	Tucson Canyon del Oro
2,870	Gilbert
2,820	North Canyon
2,800	Chandler Hamilton
2,795	Yuma Kofa
2,773	Chandler
2,752	Gilbert Highland
2,717	Tempe Corona del Sol
2,681	Scottsdale Horizon
2,610	Phoenix Central
2,580	Sierra Vista Buena
2,568	Phoenix Camelback
2,561	Phoenix North
2,524	Phoenix Trevor Browne
2,505	Phoenix Alhambra
2,502	Paradise Valley
2,458	Gilbert Mesquite
2,445	Tolleson Westview
2,338	Yuma Cibola

SOURCE: Arizona Interscholastic Assoc.

defensive back, along with Seward. Depth and a lack of size are a concern. Only four returning linemen, Art Przybyl, Richard Soza, Jason Low and Julio Cruz, tipped the scales at 200-plus pounds.

What a turn around at **Rincon**, where first year coach Jeff Green got the Rangers out of a rut and recorded the school's first 7-3 season since 1974. "We were disappointed we didn't make the playoffs," says Green, a former assistant at Sabino. "Hopefully we learned how to win." Senior quarterback Dan Pivirotto (6-0, 180) leads the Rangers into the 5A ranks with 708 passing yards and seven TDs. He also plays safety. Cornerback Shorty Hardin (6-1, 185, 4.5) and tackle Tristan Gibbons (6-3, 200) earned honorable mention all-city acclaim. Hardin was the state 4A long jump champ (24'3"). Gibbons plays linebacker and does the kicking, making 39 extra points and four field goals. He even scored three touchdowns. Adam Stiffe (6-1, 225) is the Rangers' center. Matt Martin (6-0, 230) and Alex Ramirez (6-0, 220) join Gibbons in the trenches, on both sides of the ball. Two-way back Juan Cissomani (5-10, 170) is a capable runner. All are seniors except Stiffe.

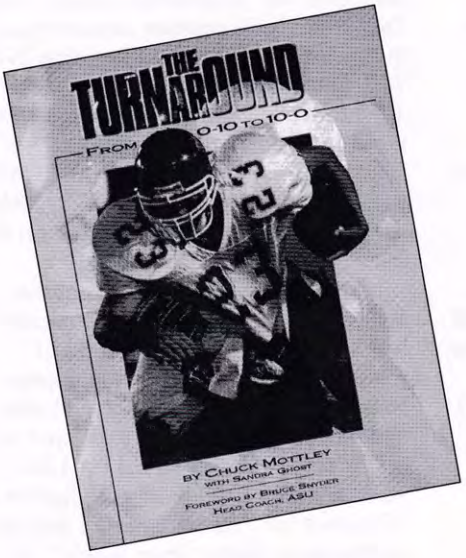
A good balance between running and passing could make the switch to 5A easier for **Flowing Wells**. Also, the Caballeros return two first-team all-city picks, linebacker Dusty Peace (5-11, 220) and tackle Albert Hernandez (6-1, 250), a *Tucson Citizen* all-star as a sophomore. Quarterback Mike Weber (5-11, 165) completed 73 of 134 passes (54%) for 1,057 yards and six touchdowns. Halfback Ryan Sandoval (6-1, 180) scored 13 times and gained 661 yards on 118 carries. Besides Peace and Hernandez, the defense looks solid with Steve Carpenter (6-1, 225), Dan Stone (6-0, 215) and Andy Bryant (5-11, 190) back for one more year.

Last year **Tucson** needed only two wins to reach 500 victories, second best in state history. They got only one, over Sierra Vista Buena, which didn't win a game. Still, there's a ray of hope for this once proud football school. Two-way tackle Ernie Hawkinson (6-3, 240) will anchor the line. He's a three-year varsity starter. Running back Tremaine Cox also returns, with 812 yards on 167 carries in nine games. **Buena**, once a southern power, has a long way to go. Last year was the first time the Colts failed to win a varsity contest. They gave up 345.9 yards per game, worst in the region. But the Colts should be stronger, bigger on the front line, and deeper. Quarterback Landon Spilsbury (6-0, 155), also the team's safety, is the key guy. If he stays healthy and gets protection, a win or two might follow. He missed the last two games with a broken hand. The junior class makes up the line, with Jared Fry (6-0, 262), Nick Green (5-11, 200), Jorge Galindo (5-10, 195) and Fred Osborne (6-3, 215), to name a few. The senior class, with players like Billy Ray Stroup, Ryan Haymore, Jeremy Whitworth, Javarious Dean and Shane Hemesath man the skill positions. Whitworth could get most of the calls at running back.

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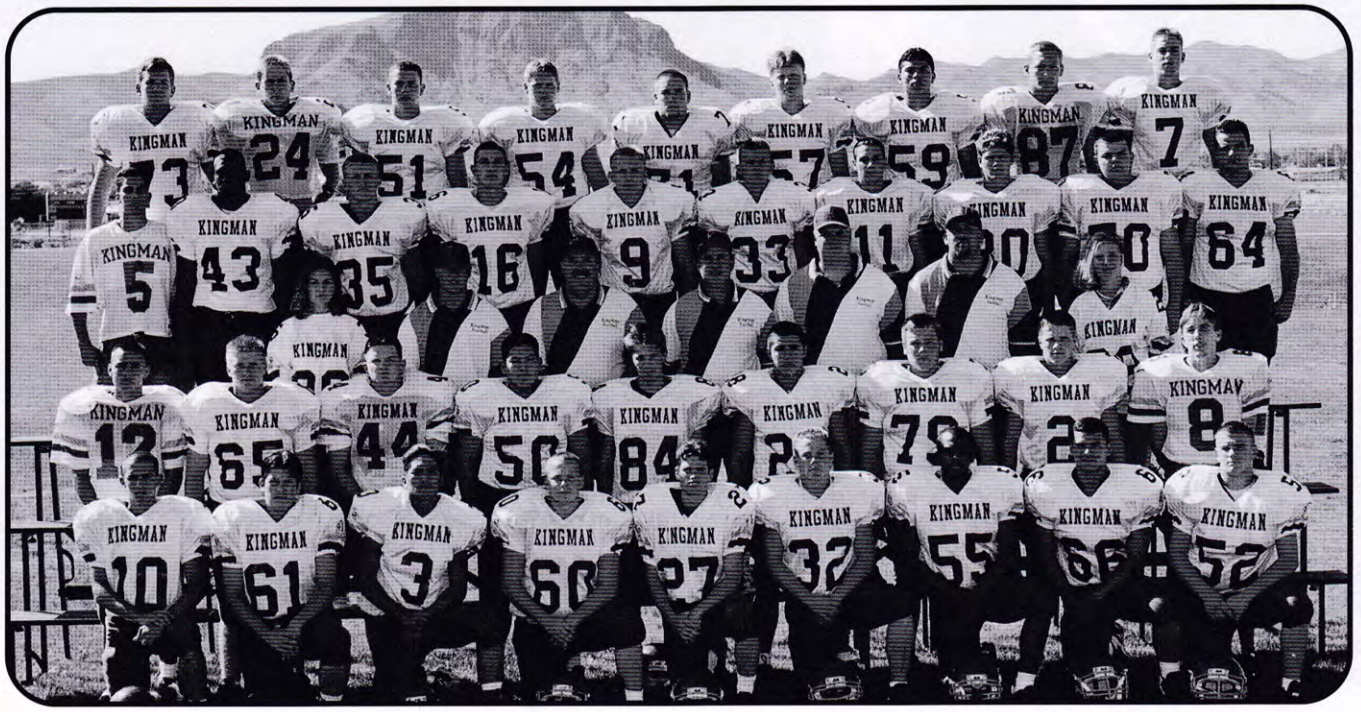
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5A FINAL FOUR FINISH:

'DOGS 8	Gilbert 20
'DOGS 28	Phoenix Alhambra 10
'DOGS 19	Yuma Cibola 7
'DOGS 32	Deer Valley 13
'DOGS 13	Mountain Ridge 23
'DOGS 21	Desert Mountain 7
'DOGS 35	Glendale Ironwood 7
'DOGS 35	Phoenix Goldwater 6
'DOGS 43	Tolleson Westview 15
'DOGS 38	Yuma Kofa 10

PLAYOFFS:

'DOGS 13	Mountain Ridge 6
'DOGS 27	Mountain Pointe 12
'DOGS 16	Phoenix Desert Vista 20



Scottsdasle Chaparral's Josh Griffin, one of the state's best backs, slices through Cactus defenders in a clash between 4A powers (CHS photo).

Sahuaro, Chaparral Cream of the Crop

It was a record breaking day on Sept. 18, 1998, when Glendale Cactus, ranked No. 1 in the state, out raced Tucson Sahuaro 62-55 in the second highest scoring 11-man football game in Arizona history. The two-team total of 117 points trailed only the 122 set in a 1997 playoff game in Cottonwood, when Mingus Union swamped Peoria Centennial 78-44. In a losing effort, Sahuaro's junior quarterback Reggie Robertson completed 29 of 44 passes for 466 yards and five touchdowns. He didn't throw an interception. His counterpart, junior Jon Stoner, scored on a short run with 11 seconds left to give Cactus the win. Earlier Stoner scored on a 72-yard dash on the first play of the second half.

In this wild game between two always strong 4A schools, at least four additional state records were set or tied: Total offensive yards by one team (786 Cactus), total yards by two teams (1,341), first downs by two teams (64), and most points in a losing game (55), set in 1989 by Greenway during a 56-55 loss to - of all people - Cactus.

Sahuaro, always strong at the skill positions, is the school which produced former USC star Rodney Peete, who has spent the better part of the past decade in the NFL. Robertson is the latest in a long line of excellent QBs to come out of this school, located in east Tucson. Sahuaro's season ended in the state quarterfinals, 45-37 to Agua Fria, in a game played in Tempe. Sixty-seven passes. One interception. Robertson completed 41 of 67 attempts for 417 yards in the loss. His lone interception ended it. "If you throw the ball that many times, something like that is going to happen," said first year coach Nemer Hassey after the game. It was an interception at the goal line which secured the win for the Owls.

By no means does Sahuaro have to rely soley only upon Robertson's arm to win. During an upset of unbeaten Newbury Park, Ca., it was the Cougars' running game and strong defensive play, led by linebacker Cameron Bell, which secured the win. And by no means are Robertson and Stoner the only good players in the state's 4A ranks.

During the 1990s, the 4A ranks have sent more players into college football than the state's larger 5A schools. Last year 160 former Arizona products dotted Division I-A rosters on football scholarships. More than half played in the state's 4A ranks or below. Peoria High, a 4A school until recently, was the leader with 11 former Panthers on major college rosters. Tucson Sabino, South Mountain, Mesa Dobson and Mesa were tied with seven each. The Pac-10, with 74 former Arizonans, was the conference leader, with the WAC a distant second (30). The University of Arizona was the individual school leader (23), with ASU second (22).

4A SONORAN REGION
1. Tucson Sahuaro (8-4))
2. Tucson Sunnyside (7-3)
3. Tucson Palo Verde (9-2)
4. Marana (7-4)
5. Tucson Cholla (0-10)
6. Douglas (1-9)

It's the worst kept secret in Tucson. When you play **Tucson Sahuaro**, your secondary better buckle up. "We are very excited about our team," says second year coach Nemer Hassey, whose club beat state 4A champ Tucson Sabino. "We return good players at key positions. We were one play away from making the finals." No doubt about, quarterback Reggie Robertson (6-2, 180) will be the man of the hour. In two years, Robertson has passed for 4,173 yards and 43 touchdowns. Last fall he completed 179 of 296 passes (60%) for 22 touchdowns and only six interceptions. His best night came in a loss to Glendale Cactus: 29/44 for 466 and six scores. But Reggie is just one of 23 returning Cougars raring to go. All-state wideout Calvin Dacus (6-1, 175, 4.6) led the state with 79 catches for 903 yards and 15 scores. Fullback/linebacker Cameron Bell (6-0, 200) rushed for 523 yards and scored 12 touchdowns. On defense he recorded 193 tackles - 16 per game. Running back Adam Cortese (6-0, 205) gained 515 yards and scored 10 times. Tony Wingate (6-2, 185) intercepted five passes and plays three different positions. Wingate, tackle Kevin Thomas (6-2, 250), guard Josh Hill (6-2, 210) and linebacker Mike Wells (6-3, 215) were honorable mention all-region picks. Wells is just a junior. Overall, Sahuaro has lots of size, with the likes of Sean McGlothlin (230), Robert Edminson (250), Andy Gaspano (285) and Cole Van Winkle (255) hired to protect the quarterback. The Cougars open on Thursday, Sept. 2 at Tucson Sabino.

Lately, **Tucson Sunnyside** has moved up and down in classification like a yo yo. This year the Blue Devils, armed with 19 returning players, look ready to make a run at the 4A playoffs. Three players, running back Wesley Minter, corner Hank Urena and linebacker Estaban Galindo picked up a few all-region votes. Minter, a 5-8, 155-pound scatback, carried the ball a lot, like 250 times for 950 yards. He's just a junior. Six other sophomores lettered, including potential quarterback Anthony Cunes, kicker Tony Diaz, halfback David Coronado, end O.J. Flores, guard Fabian Galvez and end Ralph Gallegos. Anthony Valenzuela (6-5, 300) is one of four returning interior linemen.

CLASS 4A TOP 20 POLL

1. Tucson Sahuaro
2. Scottsdale Chaparral
3. Glendale Cactus
4. Glendale Apollo
5. Flagstaff Sinagua
6. Phoenix Washington
7. Tucson Sunnyside
8. Phoenix Thunderbird
9. Marana Mountain View
10. Tempe Union
11. Phoenix Moon Valley
12. Phoenix Greenway
13. Page
14. Tucson Desert View
15. Scottsdale Coronado
16. Tolleson
17. Peoria Centennial
18. Phoenix Cortez
19. Phoenix Sunnyslope
20. Mingus Union

Although **Palo Verde** lost 15 starters to graduation, Todd Mayfield's forces could make a run for it again. The Titans won nine straight games before dropping a late November game to Sahuaro and a playoff contest with Phoenix Cortez. Their 9-2 finish was the school's best since 1973. Halfback Patrick Rogers (5-7, 170), an all-league pick, gained over 600 yards. He also plays in the secondary, possibly the Titans' strongest position. Adrian Fernandez, James Demadeira, Nick Cutlip and Rogers constitute the secondary. Linebacker Arnulfo Bonillas, along with tackles Sergio Padilla (6-2, 220) and Matt Engstrom (5-10, 260) are the meat of the defense. In fact, Palo Verde led the region in defense last fall, yielding just 171.5 yards per game.

Marana was another surprise playoff team. The Tigers dropped a first round game to Glendale Apollo, 28-0. But seven wins was a big lift, and 13 underclassmen contributed - including five sophomores. Quarterback Rion Westfall (6-0, 173) and tackle Frank Ulibarri (6-1, 255) are three-year lettermen. Westfall passed for over 700 yards and seven touchdowns. Halfback Oleaun Underwood (6-0, 185), a sprinter on the track team, played as a sophomore. Mike Evans (6-0, 212) is the center, while little Adam Campillo (5-8, 148) handles the kicking.

Hopefully, experience will finally pay off for **Cholla**, winless in '98. The Chargers' ranks look thin, but several key players return, including all-Sonoran tackle John Hyatt (6-2, 220), linebacker Doug Reese (6-0, 195) and two-way guard Richard Cervantes (6-1, 210), all part of a talented '97 sophomore class. Unfortunately Cholla, which hasn't had consecutive winning seasons since 1987-88, gives up too much real estate. That needs to be corrected. They gave up 324.9 yards per game and a ton of points.

Throughout its storied past, **Douglas** has taken more hits than a bad prize fighter. The Bulldogs started six sophs and a freshman in the last three games. "We're still young, but a little more experienced," claims Abe Grijalva, who sees his team more competitive. Quarterback Rene Sanchez (5-9, 170) and linebacker Peter Limon (6-2, 225) are the key players. Sanchez completed 55 of 148 passes for 788 yards and seven strikes. He was intercepted 10 times. Limon, just a junior, also plays fullback. Junior Richard Martinez (5-9, 170) is a tough little guard. Tackle Rene Nunez (6-2, 210), linebacker Steve Rascon (6-0, 200) and deep backs Marquez Tadeo and Donny Huisch are the heart and soul of the Dogs' defense.

4A SKYLINE REGION
1. Glendale Apollo (11-1)
2. Phoenix Thunderbird (7-4)
3. Sunnyslope (6-4)
4. Lake Havasu (3-7)
5. Cave Creek Cactus Shadows (9-3)
6. Buckeye (1-9)
7. Glendale (4-6)

Graduation took a big chunk out of **Apollo's** armor, especially after all-state fullback Nick Mangosing took his diploma to Purdue. But no school in this region can match the Hawks' recent success (22-2 in two years), and Coach Gregg Parrish likes his '99 class. He'd like it even better if a quarterback steps forward. "Our line will be strong and experienced, so we'll go as far as our quarterback takes us," says Parrish, who hasn't lost a regular season game since October of '96. Big Martin Lopez (6-6, 300) anchors on the



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1998 SKYLINE CHAMPIONS (11-1-0)

HAWKS 22, Flagstaff 6
HAWKS 41, Prescott 7
HAWKS 50, Saguaro 0
HAWKS 21, Washington 6
HAWKS 63, Buckeye 7
HAWKS 31, Thunderbird 23
HAWKS 28, Sunnyslope 7
HAWKS 42, Greenway 41 (OT)
HAWKS 41, Glendale 21
HAWKS 41, Lake Havasu 22

Playoffs:

HAWKS 28, Marana 0
HAWKS 21, Cortez 37

1997 SKYLINE CHAMPIONS (11-1-0)

HAWKS 27, Flagstaff 17
HAWKS 44, Prescott 0
HAWKS 30, Saguaro 15
HAWKS 35, Washington 10
HAWKS 49, Lake Havasu 12
HAWKS 70, Thunderbird 27
HAWKS 48, Sunnyslope 14
HAWKS 42, Greenway 6
HAWKS 48, Glendale 0
HAWKS 49, Buckeye 6

Playoffs:

HAWKS 51, Cortez 28
HAWKS 26, Mingus Union 38

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line. With center Ryan Heyer (6-1, 235), tight end Eric Oless (6-3, 235), guard Mike Varela (5-10, 210) and Lopez in the lineup, the Hawks are as good as you can get up front. Wingback/defensive back Derrek Shank (6-0, 185), with 4.5 speed, was an all-region pick at both positions. He had three TDs on returns, gained 566 yards from scrimmage and caught 11 passes for 272 yards. Tailback Dominique Morning (5-11, 165) managed 467 yards on 70 carries. Justin Cooper (5-9, 166) gained 556 yards and scored six TDs. Young DeMarcus Green (5-9, 165) gained 353 yards as a sophomore. Jason Newman (6-0, 170) was a second team all-region safety. Young Jack Ramirez returns to do the kicking. The Hawks open Sept. 10 at Scottsdale Chaparral.

Thunderbird should be competitive again, with quick skill players and help from an unbeaten junior varsity. Coach Gary Mauldin - two wins shy of 100 - returns seven defensive starters, including two-way back Marcus Parker (6-1, 195, 4.5), a dangerous kick returner. All-league linebacker Rick Newman (5-11, 220) made 46 unassisted tackles and six sacks, as did tackle Nels Van Peursen (6-2, 265). Linebacker Steve Custer (5-9, 210) looks better than ever. Junior quarterback Mike Jones (6-3, 190) led the JV squad through a 9-0 season. He'll be pushed by last year's backup, senior Jason Lowry. Juniors Robbie Jones and Tanner Linsacum, good two-way players, should start. A good spring with over 80 participants will give the Chiefs depth.

It was back-to-back 6-4 seasons at **Sunnyslope**, where coach Dallas Hickman started a freshman quarterback who performed well. Young Mike Nixon (6-1, 180) completed 57 of 145 passes for 848 yards and five TDs. He threw only five interceptions and does the team's kicking. "We'll be real young, since we graduated 20 players," says Hickman, who returns several good skill players. Halfback Adam Harnes (5-10, 180) gained 901 yards on 171 carries and scored seven TDs. He caught 18 passes for 217 yards. Tight end Casey Naylor (6-2, 210) averaged 14.0 yards per catch. Fullback R.C. Matock (6-2, 185) gained 412 yards and averaged 8.8 yards per carry. The rest of the skill players hang out on the defensive side of the ball, including deep backs Robert Peay and Armand Woodson, along with linebacker Travis Tomich.

The most improved team might be **Lake Havasu**, where Ken Edmunds and his staff return 10 starters. "We lost some games we probably should have won," says the second year coach. "But we hung together." Center/defensive tackle Bobby Masche (6-2, 260) is the main man, an all-region pick at both positions. Overall, four different Knights earned post-season honors, including wingback Ben Smith (6-0, 190), defensive end Leonard Hubbard (6-3, 240) and tackle Zane Porter (6-2, 240). Senior quarterback Tim Bohnstedt (6-4, 185) is the field general. Little Jerry Meyer (5-8, 170) is a good two-way back. James Whitehead (6-0, 210) leads at linebacker.

Fast growing **Cactus Shadows**, always competitive, moves up to 4A ball with 14 leftovers from a 9-3 playoff club. Quarterback Dirk Walker (5-11, 180), one of the school's best athletes, completed 68 passes for 1,051 yards and 18 touchdowns. He rushed for 922 yards on 99 carries and picked off five passes as a safety. Mini-back Jason Pflanz (5-7, 165) gained 1,190 yards on 172 carries and scored 26 touchdowns - sixth best in the state. Three of his scores came on punt returns. Wideout Ryan Miller (6-1, 185) caught 35 passes for 565 yards and seven TDs. So far he has 70 catches for 966 yards and 15 scores. He intercepted six passes as a defensive back. Entering the new league, the Falcons look solid up front, with down linemen like David Cohee, T.C. Hutton, Chris Khan and Ryan Clement ready to go. "Moving up will be a huge challenge," says Gerry LaBelle, in his 15th year at the Cave Creek school. "We look forward to an interesting year."

Young **Buckeye** played seven playoff teams and the results were predictable. This year Rudy Pacheco sees a much improved club with several key starters back. "Still, we need to improve our defense to become more competitive," says the veteran coach. In the past two years, all-region back Todd McCrae (5-9, 215) has gained 1,700 yards from scrimmage. McCrae and guard Jordan John (5-9, 200) are three year varsity players. Junior running back Frank Drew (5-9, 205) gained 600 yards last year, giving the Hawks a good one-two punch. Tyler Cooper (5-10, 205) is the center. Tackle Mike Santellan (5-10, 230) and guard Albert Uriz (5-9, 220) started. So did defensive ends Jake Wyman (5-9, 185) and Jake Blackston (6-3, 185), guard Nate Armstrong (5-9, 190), along with deep backs Jake Hightower (6-0, 160) and Nick Sylvester (6-0, 160). Mike Yuen could get the call at quarterback.

Senior dominated **Glendale** improved to 4-6, then graduation cleaned out the lineup's best players. The Cardinals were winless one year earlier. Still, returning quarterback Ben Tanner (5-10, 160) is a good scrambler, and halfback Jeremiah Trotter (5-10, 160) is a long range threat. Both start in the Cards' secondary.

Cougar receiver hard for region rival to catch

During a 40-19 win over Bourgade Catholic last year, Phoenix Christian receiver Rick Huisman caught 12 passes from quarterback Mark Tefteller for a state record 335 yards. Below are the state's all-time single game receiving leaders:

335 - Rick Huisman, Phoenix Christian vs Phoenix Bourgade, 1998
325 - Clifton Jones, Florence vs Superior, 1995 (jr)
321 - Mike Funk, Hopi vs Bagdad, 1988
318 - Bryan Marshall, Hopi vs Valley Sanders, 1988 (so)
315 - Mark Marcos, Peoria Centennial vs Mingus Union, 1997
313 - Mike Funk, Hopi vs Monument Valley, Utah, 1988
304 - Dennis Tate, Tucson vs Tucson Sunnyside, 1972
302 - Pete Klaass, Paradise Valley vs Phoenix Sunnyslope, 1983
299 - Mike Funk, Hopi vs Queen Creek, 1988
296 - Larry Bandura, Scottsdale vs Mesa, 1971
292 - John Mistler, Tucson Sahuaro vs Tucson Sabino, 1975 (jr)
289 - Bryan Marshall, Hopi vs Zuni, N.M., 1988 (so)
258 - Jimmy Conner, Phoenix Greenway vs Phoenix Cortez, 1998
257 - Caine Palone, Winterhaven San Pasqual vs Maricopa, 1997
255 - Brian Ruede, Phoenix Brophy Prep vs Phoenix Maryvale, 1989

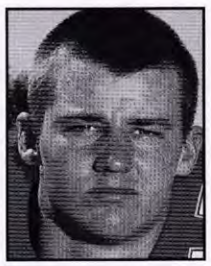
4A DESERT SKY REGION

1. Phoenix Washington (6-4)
2. Phoenix Moon Valley (6-5)
3. Phoenix Greenway (6-5)
4. Phoenix Cortez (10-3)
5. Prescott (6-4)
6. Glendale Independence (3-7)
7. Bradshaw Mountain (0-10)

If things go according to plan, **Washington** will work its way back to the top. The Rams should dethrone Moon Valley as region champs, but plans often go awry in high school football. Veteran coach Steve Chisman (85-45-4) has three talented three-year starters in the lineup: Linebackers Sam Jacobs (5-10, 215) and Patt Allen (5-11, 170), and halfback Cameron Norwood (6-2, 205). Jacobs is a two-time all-region pick, Allen is a talented run support and pass coverage player, and Norwood had four 100-yard games last year. Dan Crellin (5-11, 175) gets the nod at quarterback. In fact, with Marty Monroy, Jon Balli, Dan Thornburg, Brett Irwin and Chris Giboney in the lineup, Washington has a solid senior class. But the Rams may start four juniors on the line.

Roger Briston takes over at **Moon Valley**, where the always strong Rockets lasted one round into the playoffs. Twenty-two players, lots of whom played, return from a surprise club which finished strong and won the region. "We should have a solid football team," warns Briston. He's probably right, especially with three all-region picks back. Guard Matt Schwander (6-4, 325), defensive end Matt Graves (6-0, 235), and kicker Dan Isreal (6-1, 187) earned all-region votes. Safety Jason Pool (6-2, 180), receiver Jared Kim (5-10, tackle Nate Gibbs (6-4, 270), end Brian Tapia (6-3, 230) and tailback C.R. Davis (6-1, 175) can play. The latter three are juniors.

Greenway should be better defensively, but needs to reload on offense and play more ball control. Mike Brown's club lost to Chaparral twice, the last time in the state playoffs, 44-26. Linebacker Andy Wilberscheid (5-11, 180) led the team in tackles (92). Linebacker Matt Nalette (5-10, 185) was second (75). Center Mike Clevenger (5-11, 190) and guard Tim Wilson (6-1, 250) were the most consistent linemen. Add tight end Justin Walker (6-3, 230), and junior tackles Matt Hartsook (6-4, 265) and Chris Retts (6-3, 240), and Greenway has a beefy front wall. Deep back Chris Conner (5-9, 155) had 45 tackles and four interceptions. Linebacker Zach Corum and safety Wes Smith should start. Jeremy Copeland and junior Matt Cutts could share quarterback duties.



Austin Sendlein
Chaparral



Josh Thomas
Tempe

Vito Maynes, a former assistant at Greenway and Maryvale, takes over at **Cortez**, where the Colts return 14 players from a semifinalist club. "We've got a good nucleus, with talent at the skill positions," says the first-year varsity coach. "But in this business you have to have a line." The best lineman on campus is two-way tackle Andy Heikkila (6-5, 250), an all-league pick. Graduation basically cleaned out the rest of the line. With 4.5 speed, two-way back Sherome Weatherspoon (5-11, 180) could be one of the best in the region. On either side of the ball. Jerome Pittman (6-1, 170), a receiver/safety last year, could see time at quarterback. He's probably the best athlete in the junior class. Last year the Colts won 10 games before running into Tucson Sabino's well-oiled machine.

At **Prescott**, line play looks like a strength. Coach Lou Beneitone has good size up front and a quick backfield. The Badgers missed the playoffs by one game. Twenty lettermen return, including Josh Conner, a key figure in the attack who plays three different positions. He runs (505 yards), plays a solid game at linebacker and handles the Badgers' punting. The 5-9, 195-pound senior bench presses 340 pounds and squats 450. Junior Tony Demark (6-2, 185) looks to start at quarterback, with senior Roy Madrid in reserve. Both play in the secondary. Junior running back Alex Centefonte could start. But the key to the Badgers' is in the line, where Nate Ullyot (6-2, 280), Cody Zandt (6-5, 290) and Will Turner (6-0, 245) hang out.

This just might be the year **Independence** starts to turn the corner. At least Kelly Epley and his staff hope so. The Patriots return more than their share of good players, starting with all-league lineman Norman Wellington (6-3, 235), a senior who recorded 75 tackles, five sacks, three blocked kicks and two fumble recoveries. Junior Chris Mauzey (5-9, 175) gained 915 yards on 125 carries (7.3) and scored nine touchdowns. Independence hasn't had two players like this for some time. Wideout Chris McCreery (5-9, 175) should take heat off the running game. Danny Jaramillo (6-1, 215) is a capable tight end who also plays linebacker. Jeromy McDonald (6-5, 285) and Kevin Appleby (5-11, 235) anchor an improved line.

It could be another bumpy ride for **Brandshaw Mountain**. However the Bears, winless last fall, return two honorable mention all-region picks, safety Greg Burke and lineman Kellan Eckle, who happens to be a good basketball player as well. Kyle Voris, Chris Delguidice, Tom Czarnowski and Tony Gray played a significant amount last year.

4A EAST SKY REGION

1. Scottsdale Chaparral (10-2)
2. Tempe Union (6-4)
3. Scottsdale Coronado (2-8)
4. Apache Junction (5-5)
5. Scottsdale Arcadia (3-7)
6. Scottsdale Saguaro (1-9)
7. Mesa Skyline

It was frustrating at **Chaparral**, where the Firebirds lost to the eventual state champ for the second year in a row. Last year Tucson Sabino ended a good season in the 4A quarterfinals. Still, the Firebirds look solid at most positions, especially in the backfield, where hard running Josh Griffin (5-10, 185) gained 1,720 yards on 178 carries (9.7) and scored 27 touchdowns, including two on kickoff returns. He sprinted 90 yards from scrimmage for a score against Tempe. "Griffin can run, but we need to throw," says veteran coach Ron Estabrook. "Our quarterback spot needs some work." That position looks competitive, though, with Ryan Benscoter, J.T. Mezick and Steve Fleming, a 6-6, 215-pound transfer, capable leaders. The Firebirds line is second to none, with Alex Lazar (6-0, 265), Mark Bell (6-4, 220), Brad Reisner (5-11, 210) and Nick Iarrobino (6-2, 215) ready to go. Defensively, all-state linebacker Austin Sendlein (6-3, 235) had a school record 127 tackles. He and Brad Pepe (6-1, 210) are two tough 'backers. Erin Bass (5-10, 175) is a small but tough defensive end. Scott Lane was an all-city kicker. Young Dustin Ireland played a backup role at running back and averaged 5.5 yards per carry. He's only a junior.

Tempe Union, with six sophomores

in the starting lineup, got off to an 0-3 start, but finished with six wins in the victory column. Coach Tim McBurney returns 14 starters, and a tough non-region schedule should get the Buffaloes ready for league play. Defensive end Jared Wolfgramm (6-5, 215) is the main man, with 62 assisted tackles, seven blocked passes, six QB sacks and one blocked kick. He doubles at tight end. Tackle David Torrez (6-2, 240) was an all-region pick. Tight end Josh Thomas (12.0 ypc), fullback Jesse Morales, guard Joe Jenkins, wideout Joe Larkin, tackle Ryan Clark, defensive back Dwayne Briggs, linebacker Richard Galvin, center Shannon Clark, tackle Ryan Baker, tackle Robert Ansley and fullback/linebacker Troy Wolfgramm all started. The Buffs' opener is a dandy, Sept. 10 with Glendale Cactus.

Don't give up on **Coronado** just yet. The Dons, 2-8 for the first time ever, look stronger, with a better balance between ground and air attacks. All-league receiver Joseph Durbin (6-1, 175), an all-state baseball player, caught 34 passes for 707 yards (20.9) and nine touchdowns. Quarterback James O'Connor (6-1, 185) completed 121 of 160 passes (76%) for 1,085 yards. The defense, with Durbin in the secondary, looks better, too. Linebacker Robert Barker (6-0, 180) and junior tackle John Stimbert (6-2, 250) join Derek Bair, Aldo Valenzuela and Mario Quintana to give the Dons a lift.

For the first time in 10 years, **Apache Junction** batted .500 on the football field. "We have a bunch of hard working, young players who have a goal of reaching the playoffs," says Steve Neal. "We are improving." Tight end Jason Perry (6-3, 195), guard Mike Wilson (5-11, 230), wideout Anthony Kramer (6-0, 160) and center Brandon Abreu (5-10, 200) are three-year letter winners. Perry was an all-region pick. Defensive back Kirk Anderson, quarterback Josh Winn and guard Leo Hernandez are juniors who could start.

Jake Berry, a 6-2, 240-pound all-region offensive lineman, heads a small class of returners at **Scottsdale Arcadia**, which struggled to win three games. Two more Titans, defensive back Chase Kron (5-8, 155), an all-city second team pick, and junior kicker Jaret Johnson hope to improve the situation, which looks bleak. Fullback Bill McCasland and guard Greg Earlbaum played.

Stuart Goldstein, former head coach at Phoenix Carl Hayden, takes over at **Saguaro**, where a steady enrollment decline has taken a big toll. Four years ago the Sabercats had one of the best teams in the state, regardless of class. But the birth of nearby Desert Mountain has done more harm than good. Only one 'Cat, punter/place kicker Nagui Sabbagh (5-9, 160), a soccer player, returns with post season honors. One skill player, running back/linebacker Nolan Woolfolk (5-11, 188), could be a three-year starter. But he can't do it alone.

Mark Swartz, an assistant the past five years at Red Mountain, takes over at **Mesa Skyline**, the new kid on the East Sky block. The Coyotes will experience growing pains, but should improve with time. A small senior class, led by quarterback Pat Ramos (5-11, 170) and wideout Mike McGee (6-0, 175), needs to take charge early. Juniors like Chris Bates, Randy Mairena, Jose Carreon and Matt Bock could all start on the defensive side of the ball.

4A WEST VALLEY REGION

1. Glendale Cactus (11-1)
2. Sunrise Mountain (3-7)
3. Tolleson (7-4)
4. Peoria Centennial (4-6)
5. Avondale Agua Fria (12-2)
6. Bullhead City Mohave (0-10)
7. Goodyear Millennium

Larry Fetkenhier is all smiles again at **Cactus**, and for good reason. The veteran coach returns more than half his varsity roster from a near perfect playoff squad, including one of the best quarterbacks in the Valley. Senior Jon Stoner (6-2, 190), a good college prospect, can kill you running or passing. So far the Cobras' ace has completed 232 of 415 passes (56%) for 4,093 yards and 42 touchdowns. He's gained 1,157 yards from scrimmage on 234 carries (4.9) and scored 30 times. In other words, as a varsity player, Stoner has accounted for 72 touchdowns at the most important position on the field. Speedy receivers Matt Allen (6-0, 168), Ed Grigsby (5-10, 168) and Adam Cohen (6-4, 175) caught 79 passes for 1,589 yards and 20 touchdowns between them. Grigsby averaged a whopping 25.3 yards per catch - best in the state among wideouts. Center Adrian Zvirgzdins (6-3, 271) and guard Brandon Vanbuskirk (6-2, 281) started. So did linebacker Brett Lloyd (6-2, 208), 'backer Dustin Randolph (6-2, 231), safety Casey Fetkenhier (6-0, 205), and deep backs James Thompson (5-10, 165) and Trevor Heid (6-3, 170). Depth is a strength. Andy Hann, Anthony Franco, Eduardo Preciado, Dan McConnell, Nick Schultz and Logan West all tip the scales at 200-plus pounds. "It was a great season," says Fetkenhier, referring to last year's 11-1 campaign. "But it wasn't what we wanted at the end. We should be fun to watch this year." The Cobras playoff wagon fell apart in the quarterfinals, 44-14 against Flagstaff Sinagua.

Coach Bill Gahn at **Sunrise Mountain** feels his team can make a run at the playoffs, and rightfully so. The Mustangs return 36 varsity players - most in the region - including first-team all-league tight end Aaron Walls, a good college prospect. Quarterback Bert Anzini (5-9, 160) runs the Mustangs' Wing-T, along with halfback Dustin Phillips, wideout Justin Andreen, and down linemen Josh Cameron, Mark Norman, David Pickering and Paul Popoff, 220-pounders all. Speedy Andrea Sneed returns to the secondary. Mike Batz and Beau Raptis are capable linebackers. The Mustangs managed three wins without a senior in the lineup.

The pieces are falling into place at **Tolleson**, where the Wolverines won seven games for the first time since 1987. In fact, Tolleson played high flying Tucson Sahuaro tough in the playoff's first round, but fell 34-20. "We led at the half, but five second half turnovers ended our season," says Dan Widmaier. Although they lost 17 seniors, eight sophomores played on the varsity. The Wolverines could surprise people. Two-way back Mike Bell (6-0, 185), guard Jose Figueroa (6-0, 210), tackle Xavier Barajas (5-10, 220), tackle Dan Balke (5-10, 240), and fullback Bud Norman (5-9, 200) are key returning starters, along with all-region safety Antwan Hooks, a 5-10, 170-pound junior. Junior Charles Hopkins and Tom Robles should start on the line.

At **Centennial**, Richard Taylor should have good special teams, a strong ground attack and a much improved defense. Last year the Coyotes averaged 22.8 points but gave up more. "Lots of young players got valuable experience," says Taylor, who started 16 underclassmen. Tailback Jimmy Labita (5-9, 165) gained 1,130 yards on 134 carries and scored eight TDs. Punter Mark Mangum (5-11,

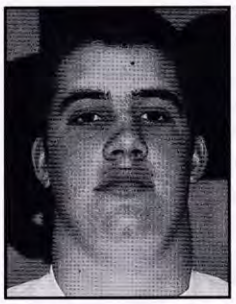
175) averaged 35.0 yards, with the longest 65 yards. Defensive back Jason Bove (5-9, 160) was fourth on the team in tackles. All three picked up all-region votes. Junior Jerry Hall (5-10, 183) gained 609 yards and scored six times. Linebacker Scott Krumpos (5-11, 201) made 74 tackles. Place kicker Jim Sidler was 25/27 on PATs and 3/3 on FGs, with the longest 37 yards. Center Ryan Dempsey (5-11, 242), guard Jeremy Bauer (5-11, 212) and tackle Dan Gray (6-0, 221) all started. Two transfers, Doug Hall and Ryan Hardy, could start. Hall might be the Coyotes' quarterback. Hardy is a 240-pound guard.

Last year, **Agua Fria** might have set some sort of record in Arizona high school football. At no time during the Owls' 14-game trip to the 4A finals did one underclassman catch or carry the ball from the line of scrimmage. Graduation almost cleaned them out. However, two key players return. All-region place kicker Sergio Sausedo (5-10, 166) had lots of practice. His 78 extra points led the state. Defensive back Lamar Baker (6-0, 177, 4.4), one of the region's best athletes, made almost 70 solo tackles. In track, Baker ran impressive sprint times of 10.85 and 22.16. He's played on the Owls' varsity for three years. But the region's new school, **Millennium**, will cut into Agua Fria's talent pool. Coach Ron Frank will build from the ground up with underclassmen at every position. Center Josh Fleshman (6-1, 195) and tackle Dan Black (5-10, 270) anchor the Tigers' offensive line, with young backs like Justin Lee, Chris Mays and Mike Rankin at the skill positions. Cornelius Lamb and Dan Villa are capable receivers.

It was a tough start for first-year coach Mark Ruckle at **Mohave**. The Thunderbirds struggled with a young team, but look improved. "The West Valley is a tough league, but we're excited about this year," says Ruckle. "Our kids gained lots of experience." Three-year letter winner Joe Ramos (5-11, 165) starts at quarterback. Mini-back/receiver Tom Messina (5-6,155) was an honorable mention all-league pick. Tackle Pete Mills (6-4, 315) anchors the 'Birds line. Backs like Ken Hutchinson, Shannon Fernandez, Jess Brister and Justin David will carry the ball. Players like Scott Hess, Brent Hawkes, Josh Johnson, Mike Barker and Daryl Staley will compete for starting line positions.

4A GRAND CANYON REGION

1. Flagstaff Sinagua (11-2)
2. Page (4-6)



Dusty Tissaw Coconino



Jeremiah Miller Sinagua

3. Cottonwood Mingus Union (4-6)
4. Flagstaff Coconino (4-6))
5. Flagstaff (6-5)
6. Chinle (1-9)

Sinagua was one game away from Sun Devil Stadium. The Mustangs, coached by Ed Campos, lost only twice in 13 weeks - to the same team. Agua Fria. The Owls knocked them out in the opener, then eliminated them in the semifinals. "Let's face it, they were a better team," says the Mustangs' head coach. The '99 game plan starts at tailback with Jermain Miller, whose production was down but the results were the same. Wins. The 6-0, 185-pound senior, a 46-foot triple jumper in the spring, gained 1,480 yards and scored 24 touchdowns. His best game was 209 yards against Bradshaw Mountain. In two years of varsity play, Miller has 3,387 yards and 57 touchdowns to his credit. Linebacker Ryan Robinson (5-11, 205), the team's leading tackler, could start at quarterback. Jarod Smith (5-10, 215) is another good 'backer. Joe Gossman (6-0, 170), an all-city defensive back, averaged 16.3 yards on kick returns. But the key to the Mustangs' season could be these three players: Greg Gandler (5-11, 225), Jake Wigman (6-1, 215) and Chris Lewis (6-0, 205), the meat of the offensive line. Jason and David Shafer, Dan Planeta, Jake Watson and Andrew Johnson are additional players who should start.

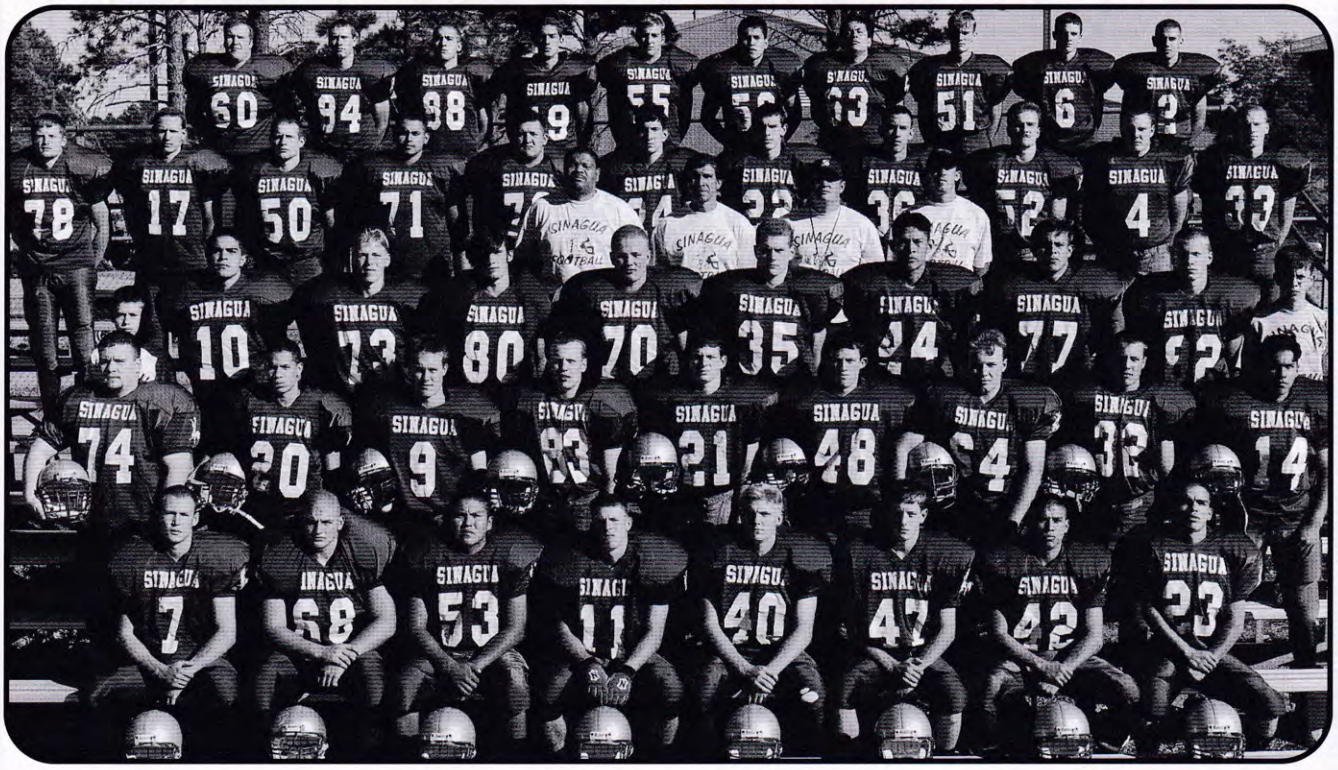
Look for **Page** to be in the hunt. The Sand Devils, coached by Mike Proctor, lost four league games by a total of 12 points. Two were in overtime. All-league back Bryan Varner (5-8, 155) gained 987 yards on 191 carries and scored 20 touchdowns. Quarterback Jeremy Bohn (6-1, 185) completed 85 passes for 1,195 yards and nine TDs. He's also a good punter. Wideout Philip Napolitan (6-1, 170) caught 34 passes for 500 yards and three scores. Junior Jonas Settz (5-11, 225) will start at fullback. Kip Earlywine (6-3, 225), Darren Kristofic (6-3, 220) and Brandon Saliego (5-11, 225) are key figures on the offensive line. Deep backs Durral Whitehorse and Jarrod Fredrickson are good defenders.

Graduation cleaned out the cupboard at **Mingus Union** last year and the results were predictable. One year removed from a state championship, first-year coach Mike Epperson saw his team struggle through a 4-6 campaign. But the Marauders should be improved. As always, they will be big and physical. One, guard Mike Coffey (5-10, 220), earned all-league notice as a sophomore. All-league safety Robert Stokes (5-10, 180), the squad's quarterback, played varsity ball as a freshman. Cody Backus, Brig Taylor and Mike Lyons are good skill players. But the road to improvement starts on the line, with Ryan Spude (6-4, 265), James Mickelson (6-4, 270), Josh Covin (6-0, 215) and Mark Lamer (5-11, 220) typical Marauder big bodies. Mingus opens on the road against Tucson Sahuaro, the state's top rated club.

George Moate enters his 10th year at **Coconino** with four all-region players from a better than average squad which lost too many close games. Four young Panthers, led by tailback Bruce Branch, paint a rosy picture. The 6-1, 195-pound Branch rushed for 1,041 yards as a sophomore. He made 43 solo tackles at linebacker. Running mate Corrin Johns (6-0, 195), another junior, returns after a shoulder injury. Back Shane Miller (5-11, 175) picked off three passes in the secondary, and starts at flanker. Little Josh Roybal (5-8, 150) is another two-way standout. Defenders Dusty Tissaw (6-2, 250) and Joey Canizales (5-8, 160) were among the leaders in tackles. Darren Young, Carlos Garcia and Sterling Smith should start.

Graduation took a big chunk out of the offense at **Flagstaff**, which reached the playoffs, only to be steamrolled by Agua Fria. Still, the Eagles return several key players, like second team all-region quarterback Ron Jerumbo (5-7, 158), one of the state's smallest signal callers. Tackle Keith Buzzard (6-0, 207), tight end Nick Kwiatkowski (6-2,

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'98 PLAYOFF SEASON:

MUSTANGS 0	Agua Fria 31
MUSTANGS 39	Bradshaw Mountain 0
MUSTANGS 33	Sunnyslope 6
MUSTANGS 28	Buckeye 0
MUSTANGS 34	Scottsdale Coronado 14
MUSTANGS 27	Flagstaff Coconino 0
MUSTANGS 51	Page 0
MUSTANGS 20	Flagstaff 9
MUSTANGS 55	Chinle 0
MUSTANGS 46	Mingus Union 14

PLAYOFFS:

MUSTANGS 25	Mountain View 14
MUSTANGS 44	Glendale Cactus 14
MUSTANGS 6	Agua Fria 20

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212), running back Jeff Gilsdorf (5-8, 150) and sophomore defensive back Paul Koubeck (5-7, 145) all started.

4A KINO REGION

1. Marana Mountain View (8-3)
2. Tucson Desert View (6-4)
3. Catalina Foothills (3-7)
4. Tucson Santa Rita (7-3)
5. Nogales (3-7)
6. Tucson Catalina (3-7)
7. Tucson Pueblo (5-5)

Mountain View returns 19 players from a solid club which reached the first round of the playoffs. Seven earned some kind of post season recognition. The Lions won't have Sabino to contend with, so a longer playoff trip might be possible. Defensive back Kailan Williams (6-1, 170) and lineman Jermaine Gadson (6-1, 195) were second team All-Kino picks. Quarterback Kainoa Akina, kick returner Jimmy Morales, halfback Richard Hill, linebacker Ryan Shirley and punter Craig Christiansen are key returnees.

Last year, only one team from this re-scrambled league reached the playoffs. Look for two this year, and **Desert View** is a good bet. Coach Jeff Feldman's club made a big improvement, from winless to 6-4 in one season. Fourteen starters return. One, all-region tackle Richard Rodriguez, is a dandy. The 6-3, 290-pound senior anchors a line that includes 250-pound Josian Gutierrez, 290-pound Chris Pina, 220-pound James Jones and 240-pound Jonathan Imes, to name a few. Receiver Antonio Carranza (6-4, 200) is a big target. The Jaguars need to find a way to get him the ball more often. Last year he caught 12 passes for 293 yards and three TDs. That's a 24.4 average! Junior Raymond Granillo (6-2, 205) takes over at quarterback. Tony Yost and Pat Pina are the running backs.

Catalina Foothills could be facing a winning season. Four years of 4A ball has been unkind to the Falcons, but a good collection of experienced players are back. More than usual. Several all-region picks return, including halfback Mike Cadoux (6-1, 170), who gained 637 yards, scored 10 touchdowns and averaged 7.4 yards per carry. Defensive lineman Matt Jentgen (6-4, 220), linebacker Jon Mancuso (5-10, 195) and deep back Jeff Welter (5-9, 165) are solid players. Quarterback Justin Brunker, two-way back Brian Martin and defensive end Coltere Lockhart should start.

Senior dominated **Santa Rita** won seven games but missed the playoffs. Almost every key position will be filled by newcomers, except for the kicking game, where Chris Jackson returns. The 6-5, 246-pounder not only handles the Eagles' punting and place kicking, but starts on the line. Besides Johnson, only three returning linemen tip the scales at 200-plus pounds: William Abeytsa, Jovan Figueroa and Michael Wilson. Five sophomores played.

After a trip to the playoffs two years ago, the '98 season was a letdown for **Nogales**. "It will be much better then last year," predicts Jim Paul. "We have a better mixture of youth and experience." Split end Eddie Rosas (6-0, 175) is the big threat, with 48 catches for 808 yards and eight TDs under his belt. Junior Osvaldo Ortiz (6-5, 285), an honorable mention all-region pick, started 10 games. Big Tim Valenzuela (6-4, 305), a three-year starter, joins him on the line. Sophomore Frank Morales (6-2, 185) is a promising young running back. Phil Varona and Dan Angulo will compete at quarterback.

Catalina showed improvement, but will miss all-state running back Pablo Henriquez, who took his 1,228 yards and 18 touchdowns to the University of Arizona. Lineman Jake Stark, a 6-1, 200-pound senior, looks like the top returning defender. Junior Dan Irby and senior Steve Graves, who also plays wideout, were two key figures in the Trojans' secondary.

At **Pueblo**, head coach Mike Martinez well be faced with a complete rebuilding job, but it can't be much tougher than the one he faced last year. The Warriors entered the '98 season with a 26-game losing streak and dozens of players who had never played in a winning football game. But Pueblo won its opener 33-26 over Catalina Foothills, beat Canyon del Oro for the first time in 18 years, and finished 5-5 on the season. But tough times loom ahead, as the Warriors lost their entire starting offense and most of the defense through graduation.

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Albert Montoya, Duncan's leading rusher, is about to be run down by Thatcher's defense in a 2A East Region mismatch. The talented Eagles beat Queen Creek in the state finals (Eastern Arizona Courier photo).

BLUE RIDGE WILL BOUNCE BACK

You can't keep a good dog down. Better yet, you can't keep a good fighter out of a good fight. Powerhouse Blue Ridge, coached by Paul Moro, is that type of fighter. The road to the 3A championship still goes through Lakeside, home of the Yellow Jackets. Winners of 63 consecutive games, Blue Ridge saw its winning streak come to an end in the finals, 29-20 against Payson, played before 3,658 paid fans at Mesa Community College. In fact, De LaSalle High in Concord, Ca., was the only school in America with a longer active winning streak than Blue Ridge.

But things have changed a little. Payson, although thinned out by graduation, is back in the 3A East. The region appears to be as strong as ever, but Coolidge in the south is ready to challenge for the crown. Always tough Show Low and Snowflake wait in the wings. Still, you can count on Moro and his staff to have the 'Jackets ready from the first day of practice to the last day in November.

3A EAST REGION

1. Lakeside Blue Ridge (11-1)
2. Show Low (9-2)
3. Payson (13-0)
4. Round Valley (6-4)
5. Snowflake (5-4)
6. Holbrook (3-6)
7. Whiteriver Alchesay (4-5)

Some things never change. **Blue Ridge** is still the team to beat. Coach Paul Moro, 144-25-0 (.852) at the White Mountain school, returns enough good players and tons of tradition to make another title run. Some of the better players in the 3A ranks wear the Purple & Gold. But at the high school level it starts at quarterback, and that is still a question mark. Three-year starter Nate Jackson picked up his diploma. Defense, as always, is strong. All-State linebacker Brian Vozza (6-0, 196) returns. He also plays fullback. David Sheetz (6-1, 198) could be the best defensive end in the region. Josh Salyers (6-2, 250) is an excellent interior lineman. Tim Merrill (6-3, 185) is the Jackets' free safety. Charles Parkinson (6-0, 180), injured in '98, could be a top-flight back. Brandon Phillips (6-0, 190), healthy finally, starts at center. Big Trevor Whipple (6-3, 285) was a second team all-state tackle, and linebacker Adam Moro (5-10, 170) was the leading tackler on the squad. Sophomore Paul Ensman and incoming frosh Alex Moro have the tools to compete at quarterback.

Always competitive, **Show Low** has averaged nine wins per season since 1996, and has only one thing left to accomplish at state. Coach Bill Morgan has two of the better players in the region on his roster in halfback Jacob Kerr and defensive end Jeff Adams. Kerr, a 5-10, 180-pound senior, gained 1,169 yards on 119 carries and scored 13 touchdowns. Strong, he bench presses 330 pounds

and squats 500. Adams, a 6-2, 200-pounder, recorded 12 QB sacks, caused six fumbles, totaled 109 tackles and intercepted two passes. "He's the total college prospect," says Morgan of Adams, who set a state record by squatting 570 pounds. The junior class has two all-state candidates in guard/linebacker Rustin Genet (6-0, 180) and quarterback Matt Belchi (6-2, 210). Shain Thomas, Stephen Wade, D.J. Massey and John McQuillan, all 200-plus pounders, form a solid front. Ken Ries, J.R. Pearce, Dan McNeil, Dustin Cluff and Ben Cheney return. Cheney looks to start at quarterback.

Happy to be back in the 3A East, **Payson** looks forward to the challenge. Fourteen players, including several key starters, return for the state champs. "Winning the championship was not a surprise," claims Jim Beall. "Our seniors had set a goal. Beating Blue Ridge was the icing on the cake." If defense wins big games, then the Longhorns are set. All-state linebacker Jimbo Armstrong (6-2, 202) returns. So does Cade Bradley (5-11, 180), an all-region defensive end. Corner Dallin McLaws (5-10, 160) is a good cover guy. Junior Chase Waldron (6-0, 210) is a strong two-way tackle. The offense centers around tailback Tim Bunting (5-9, 170), a 1,000-yard rusher, and returning center Brian Zumbro (6-3, 200). Fullback Justin Kaufman (5-9, 180) gained 460 yards. Kyle Conway (6-1, 185), a champion roper, is ready to take over at quarterback. Guard Ben Gartner (5-10, 180) is quick and strong.

Round Valley looks to be more competitive, where first-year coach John Dryden guided the Elks through a 6-4 season, the school's best in seven years. Jeremy Finch (6-1, 190), the starting quarterback and safety, is the main man. He has several key players to get the ball to, including halfback Cory Austin (5-11, 175), tight end Chris Wilson (5-11, 190) and wideout Mike Cantrell (5-10, 165). Jeremiah Hall (6-3, 220) is a two-way tackle. Young Seth Slade (6-1, 190), a good defensive end, is just a junior.

For the first time in 10 years, **Snowflake** missed the playoffs. Youth contributed to that. Players like Jeff Reidhead, Aaron Coor, Shane VanDeren, David McCray and Brandt Nikolaus, last year sophomores, saw action on the varsity. But the best player appears to be two-way performer Jared Papa, a 6-0, 180-pound senior who doubles at halfback and linebacker. Size is a weakness. Only two returning linemen tip the scales at 200-plus pounds.

CLASS 3A TOP 20 POLL

1. Lakeside Blue Ridge
2. Coolidge
3. Show Low
4. Payson
5. Fountain Hills
6. Ganado
7. Round Valley
8. Safford
9. Wickenburg
10. Snowflake
11. Parker
12. Eloy Santa Cruz
13. River Valley
14. Globe
15. Sahuarita
16. Chandler Seton Catholic
17. Chino Valley
18. Holbrook
19. San Manuel
20. Arizona Boys Ranch

Injuries and disciplinary problems caused **Holbrook's** losing record more so than the opposition. "The beginning of the season was more indicative of our team than the end," says Dain Thompson, who enters his third year. Matthew Castillo (6-2, 180), an all-region defensive back, will move from quarterback to halfback. He's too good a runner not to, although he passed for 382 yards against Tuba City Greyhills. Mike Sullivan (6-0, 180) will move from guard to fullback. If this works, the Roadrunners' running game will improve drastically. Sullivan is just a junior. Sophomore Eric Tyler steps in at quarterback. Seniors Ryan Clark and Scott Saiz are veteran guards. Junior Julius Ohlson starts at flanker. Transfer Earlwin Thomas (6-1, 200), a two-way lineman, is a welcome addition.

3A SOUTH REGION

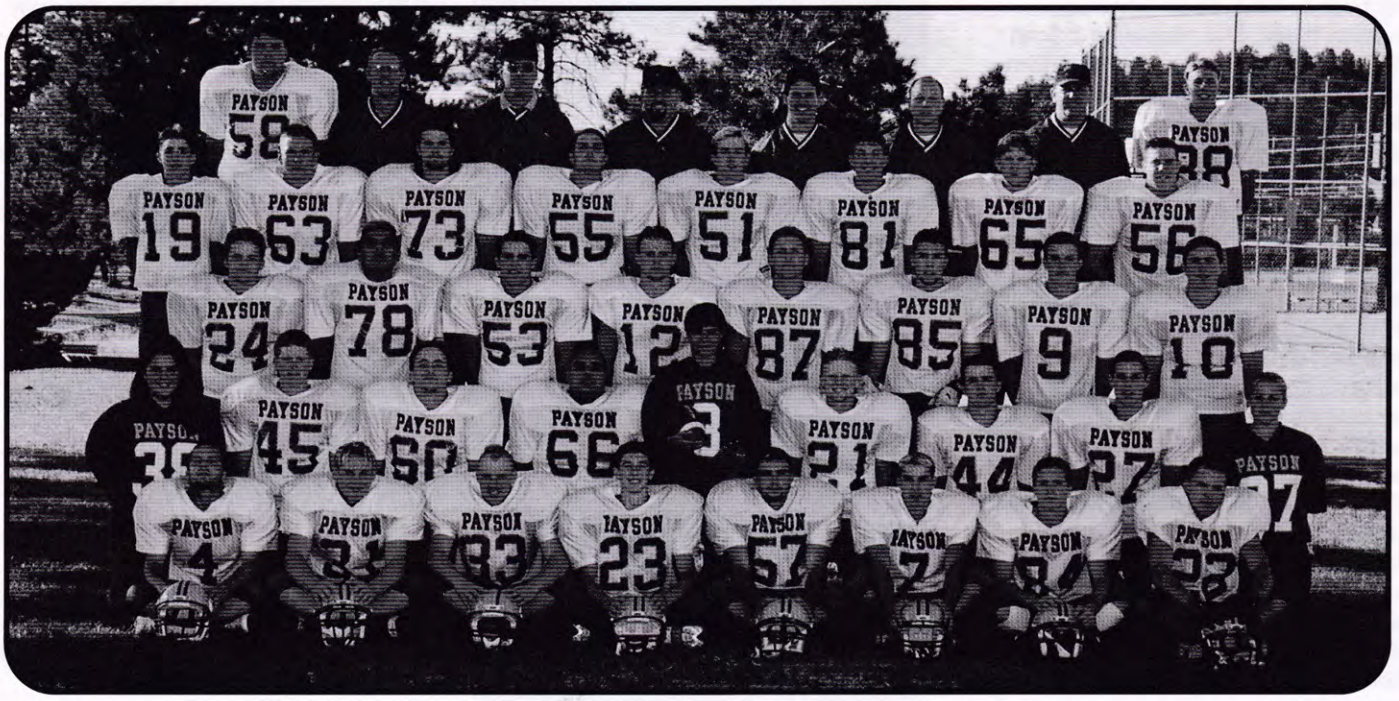
1. Coolidge (8-3)
2. Safford (10-2)
3. Eloy Santa Cruz (3-6)
4. Globe (3-6)
5. Sahuarita (3-5)
6. Arizona Boys Ranch (5-4)

It's been 15 years since a school from this region won the state championship. In fact, the last to do so was **Coolidge** in 1984. Recently, the Bears have come close. Blue Ridge has knocked them out of the state tournament twice - last year 19-16. One of the Bears' defeats came at Payson, 14-7 to the eventual state champs. "We have a good number of players back, with above average speed," says John Kashner. "If we can keep them eligible we have a chance to be very good." Indeed they do, especially with all-state defensive back Lee Wheeler in the lineup. The 5-11, 185-pound burner, with 4.4 speed, is a good college prospect, and also starts at quarterback. Senior Preston Reece (5-11, 185) is a 1,000-yard back. Over 20 varsity lettermen return, with linebacker Chris Tapia, deep back Mike Smith, end Travis Weurtz, guard Mike Knight and tackle Ryan James additional key players.

Safford's string of nine straight trips to the playoffs should continue. The Bulldogs, beaten by Payson in the semifinals, could be back if somebody steps up at quarterback. "I can't tell you which way we will go this year," says Ken Guzik, who has won 75% of his games since 1985. "So much depends upon our quarterback situation." Each play starts at center and the 'Dogs are set at that position, with 6-3, 250-pound senior B.J. Nelson. Ernie Gutierrez (6-0, 235), a two-way tackle, was an all-region pick, along with Nelson. Wideout Everson Turner (6-2, 175), with 4.6 speed, is the home run threat. A good long jumper in track, he also starts in the secondary. Wade Estrada (5-11, 175) is another good receiver. John Merino (6-2, 202) is a solid defensive end. But the key player this year might be senior Louie Rios (6-0, 180). If he improves at quarterback the 'Dogs could be right back in the playoff race.

Eloy Santa Cruz, for the first time in years, might have enough depth to contend for a playoff spot. "We had a great group of guys to coach last year," claims Jay Denton, two wins shy of 100 at the school. "We just didn't have very many of them." The Dust Devils lost some close games to quality teams. They return several good, tough players. If they stay healthy and the incoming junior class sticks together, watch out. All-region guard Joe Bojorquez (5-10, 185) should keep busy blocking for halfback Alexis

PAYSON HIGH LONGHORNS



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THE PERFECT SEASON

'HORNS 18	Chino Valley 6
'HORNS 74	Camp Verde 12
'HORNS 69	Miami 0
'HORNS 32	Cactus Shadows 0
'HORNS 52	Globe 0
'HORNS 53	Fountain Hills 14
'HORNS 31	Arizona Boys Ranch 12
'HORNS 21	Eloy Santa Cruz 14
'HORNS 14	Coolidge 7
PLAYOFFS:	
'HORNS 53	Wickenburg 13
'HORNS 22	Show Low 14
'HORNS 27	Safford 6
'HORNS 29	Blue Ridge 20

Martinez (5-9, 188), a 1,000-yard rusher if healthy. Thomas Paredes (5-9, 205) is a good two-way tackle. If soph Richie Reyes beats out Chad Price at quarterback, Price can switch to split end. He also starts at linebacker. Miguel Salinas, Isreal Ibarra, Rafael Orrantia and Donte Henry make up a very young backfield. Youth is prevalent on the line also, where juniors Mundito Ogle, Jose Lopez and Andrew Myers could start.

An inexperienced team, with only 10 seniors on the roster, resulted in just three wins at **Sahuarita**. But the Mustangs should improve, with several key starters back, including Cody Miller (5-11, 220), a potential all-state lineman. Nathan Salcido (5-8, 150) returns at quarterback, with junior Cameron Beckelman (5-11, 180) waiting in the wings. Wingback Ernie Alvarez (5-8, 160) is a good cover guy at corner. Junior Angel Estrada could start in the backfield. "We could be competitive if the kids put in the time during the summer," says Chris Fanning, whose club advanced to the state quarterfinals two years ago.

3A WEST REGION

1. Fountain Hills (3-6)
2. Wickenburg (5-5)
3. Parker (5-6)
4. River Valley (7-3)
5. Chandler Seton Catholic (8-3)
6. Chino Valley (5-4)
7. Camp Verde (0-9)
8. Dysart (1-3)

This could be a break-through season for **Fountain Hills**, one of the fastest growing 3A schools in Arizona. Jim Fairfield, the only football coach the school has had, returns 10 starters, including every skill player. Quarterback Ken Martinson (6-0, 175) and his receiving and running game are ready. Tight end Matt Brecher (6-3, 215), wideout Don Nagela (5-10, 175) and halfback Ryan Bachman (5-11, 180) are set for a playoff run. Matt Scheele (6-0, 225), the team's center, is just a junior. Nate Decker (6-1, 220) is another solid lineman. Junior Kyle Kristic (6-3, 200) starts at linebacker. He's a good one. The Falcons advanced as far as the 2A quarterfinals in 1992, but have struggled since. This could be their year.

After a shaky start, **Wickenburg** became respectable. State champ Payson ended the Wranglers' playoff ride early. Still, Tom McGoldrick's club looks solid. The running game is a strong point. Leading rusher Brian Wayas (5-9, 165) is back. Matt Cambie (6-0, 195) is a good blocking fullback. Junior Brandon Thayer (6-2, 185) starts at quarterback. But a good offense needs a line, and that rests in the hands of tight end Tony Qorri (6-3,200), tackle Jordan Merchant (6-2, 230) and guard Scott Moran (5-8, 175), to name a few. Little Brandon Echols (5-7, 150) starts at flanker. He's a junior.

League runnerup **Parker** advanced two rounds into the playoffs, where the ride ended with Safford. Size is a key ingredient, with huge tackles like Hayden Harper (6-6, 240), Kris Foss and J.J. White in the lineup. Harper is a discus thrower on the track team. Two-way back Michael Perez (5-10, 155) may be shelved with a knee injury. He also plays quarterback, where sophomores Mike Plunket and Paul Thompson lay in waiting. Young Jon Ferris is a fast cornerback.

Curt LeBlanc, a recent assistant at Payson, takes over at **River Valley**, where graduation cleaned out most of the Dust Devils' roster. Only 11 players (three starters) return from a 7-3 club which lost a 49-33 playoff game to Coolidge. "We lost a lot of seniors, but the kids are excited about this season and ready to work hard to be a success," says LeBlanc. Young Mike Montgomery, a 5-8, 150-pound sophomore running back, is the Devils' scoring threat. Senior Ross Gilbert (5-9, 180) returns to the line, with junior Tim Campbell (6-0, 165) at tight end. Jeff Hoopes (6-1, 220) and Justin Casas (6-3, 210) played as sophomores. But the player of the future is Montgomery, who played as a freshman.

Seton Catholic played with a senior dominated lineup and moves up to 3A with little experience and a new coach. The school got a state title and four semi-final finishes under Joe Timpani, and hopes to get similar results under Gene Dales. Ironically, both came from the coaching ranks at Tempe Corona del Sol. Six sophomores managed to play: Quarterback Trevor DeBenedetto, wideout Tom Conner, safety Ben Regan, tailback Andy McCrabb, linebacker Josh Sanchez and deep back Greg Koestner. Matt Myskowski, a 230-pound senior, is the biggest returning Sentinel on the line.

Chino Valley has 16 players returning from a 5-4 club which missed the playoffs by one game. Coach Michael

Young Semore Family the Toast of the 3A North

This time last year **Ganado** head coach Russ Semore was all smiles at set to take another run at the 3A North. With all-state receiver Bristol Olomua in the lineup, the Hornets looked almost unbeatable. But Olomua transferred to Mesa and picked up an all-state certificate at Red Mountain High, and later a scholarship to BYU. Still, the Hornets (7-5) managed to win the conference, and advanced two rounds into the 3A playoffs. A 30-20 win over Round Valley matched Semore's forces with Cactus Shadows. The season ended.

"We were young at our skill positions, starting five sophomores both ways," adds Semore. "I hope we can build on last year." His sons will have a lot to say about it. Junior Jason Semore (5-11, 190) rushed for 1,347 yards and scored 12 touchdowns. As a linebacker he forced 12 fumbles and made over 100 tackles. Twin brother Chris passed for 924 yards, ran for 727 and intercepted eight passes in the secondary. Defensive end Cody Mueller, a 6-3, 195-pound junior, and two-way players Buddy Lynch, Almon Nelson and Lyle Laughlin help form the strongest defensive unit in the region.

Ironically, Ganado might get stiff competition from **Winslow**, which moves over from the 3A East. Semore coached the Bulldogs for two years. "We were very inexperienced," says head coach Mike Olson, who didn't have much size, speed or talent. The key Bulldog is also the biggest, two-way tackle Michael Shumway (6-2, 270), one of the state's best wrestlers. Shumway, Scott Larsen (6-2, 185), Craig Hardy (5-10, 180), Pat Thomas (6-4, 210), Raul Smith (5-11, 195) and Robert Padilla (5-9, 205) give Olson and his staff a good group of linemen to work with. Martin Woods, David Manthei, Mike Martinez and Kendal Ybarra man the skill positions. "We're still going to be young," adds Olson. "But we'll show up each day."

McMahon hopes the Cougars' young program makes the next big step, but needs leadership from the quarterback position. Wide receiver Tom Duer (6-1, 165), running back J.R. Call (6-0, 205) and lineman Allen Short (6-0, 220) were all-region picks. Call and Short double at linebacker. Duer caught 37 passes for 545 yards. Call gained 607 yards and scored four TDs. Free Safety John Urban (6-2, 190) made 52 tackles. Justin Cupp (6-4, 235) and Chris Lehman (5-10, 225) anchor the line. Cornerbacks Morgan Baggs and Billy Keel join Urban in the secondary.

Camp Verde, winless last fall, needs to shore up its defense, which gave up way too many points, including 74 against state champ Payson. The Cowboys look young, but if senior linemen like Jeremiah Stanfield, Roger Rodriquez and Manuel Varela step up, the results might be different. John Buckley saw action at quarterback.

With a large sophomore class, **Dysart** returns to a full varsity schedule. Coach Steve Mason is optimistic, but the Demons need leadership from several key seniors. The smallest player on the team, 5-5, 140-pound scatback Freddy Hernandez, might be the biggest spark. Guard Mario Ozuna and linebackers Gilbert Tamayo and Jesse Martinez need to step forward. Junior John Longoria is a two-way performer on the line. Three sophomores, 6-3, 250-pound Hector Gonzalez, Melvin Watson and Tyree Hardge, should start.

2A CENTRAL REGION

1. Queen Creek (10-3)
2. Kearny Ray (4-6)
3. Florence (5-4)
4. Winkelman Hayden (2-7)
5. Superior (8-3)
6. Miami (0-9)
7. San Carlos (0-9)

State runnerup **Queen Creek** returns enough key players to land a high early season ranking. The Bulldogs caught fire at midseason after being thumped by Superior. Playing a freshman quarterback, they didn't lose a game until the state finals, where they fell to Thatcher 28-12. Young Tony Chavez (5-9, 150) will run the offense again, but graduation cleaned out his backfield. Besides Chavez, wideout Kaihe Akina (5-10, 160), guard Carlos Vizcarra (5-9, 180), guard Brodie Carr (5-7, 140), tackle Travis Hendrix (5-11, 230), deep back Chris Yates (5-10, 160) and receiver Kyle Penrod (5-9, 155) played as sophomores. Little Bo Bleil (5-6, 130) played as a freshman.



Sean Bowman
Phoenix Christian



B.J. Garcia
St. Johns

Second-year coach Ron Fuson seems to have **Ray** back on track. The Bearcats, state champs in 1995 under Jeff Cude, fell upon hard times but return enough key starters to challenge Queen Creek for the region title. "We have solid senior leadership and good speed up from our sophomore class," claims Fuson. "But our early schedule is tough." With Jonathan Granillo in the lineup, Ray has a good two-way player with all-league credentials. The 6-0, 165-pound senior starts at halfback and roams the 'Cats' secondary. Jimmy Powell (6-2, 170) is tested at quarterback, with Kyle Sanders (6-3, 215) a good target at tight end. With Vince Rodriguez at fullback, the backfield is set. Juan Martinez is the center. Big Cody Gibbs (6-2, 275), just a sophomore, could start at tackle. So could senior Gavino Lechuga, a newcomer to the program. Austin Bingham and Daniel Azevedo are defensive stalwarts.

This could be **Florence's** best team in several years. "We have high expectations," says Rick Beeler. "It should be a fun, exciting year. But you never know about injuries." Eighteen players, including all-league fullback/linebacker Josh Granillo (5-10, 200), return. In fact, Granillo can be rested in the backfield by Alex Valencia (5-11, 220), who lines up next to him in the Gophers' 5-2 defense. Quarterback Jason Osife (5-11, 165) runs Beeler's veer-option, with good blockers up front like Scott Nichols (6-1, 200), Phillip Blouir (6-2, 210), Matt Ramirez (6-4, 180) and Daniel Ortega (5-11, 210). Look for Andy Manzanedo, Jesse Guilin, Tony Mendoza, Jason Varnes, John Ramirez, Tico Belloc and Justin Hemstreet to start.

Hayden would really like to spoil things for Ray, the Lobos' bitter rival. Coach Joe Guinsler saw improvement. The depth chart looks deeper. Hayden has a good linebacker of its own, 6-0, 220-pound senior Albert Quesada, who moved from the offensive line to fullback. He's a good one. Junior Matt Waddell got playing time at quarterback. Ruban Casillas and Adolfo Espinoza are good runners, but every offense needs a line. Jon Laughlin, Gabe Sanchez and Richard Ramos man the trenches.

Superior won with good skill players in recent campaigns, but graduation and transfers have changed the picture. Two good college prospects (Brandon Tomerlin/Tony Aguiler) picked up diplomas and moved to Arizona State, and one (Danny Padilla) transferred out. Ricardo Sanchez (6-1, 195) started the last four games at quarterback and threw seven TD passes. Sanchez and little tailback Chris Gerole will have a massive line to run behind, including four returning starters. Tony Magana (6-2, 276), Danny Marquez (6-2, 284), Leo Aparicio (5-10, 230) and Joe Layton (6-7, 268) form the biggest front wall in 2A football. Layton is a junior. J.J. Dominguez (6-3, 217), a good athlete, could start at tight end, running back or linebacker.

No school in the region returns as many starters as **Miami**. The Vandals, coached by Scott Strenge, graduated only two. "The majority of our starters were freshmen and sophomores," adds Strenge, who enters his second year at the school. "We look to be competitive this year." Although small, junior Chris Goss (5-10, 165) was an all-league linebacker as a sophomore. Still, the defense gave up 53.0 points per game. Wide receiver Mike Guadiana (6-1, 170) hopes to bounce back from an injury. Center Jesse Bunney (5-10, 190) is the Vandals' most consistent lineman. Sophomore Jeff Wade gets the nod at quarterback. Guadiana, Clint Allen and Ollie Talgo make up the receiving corp. Guard Ray Martinez and tackle Jason Ramirez should start. Moving down from 3A might help, but this league is tough, too. Miami hasn't won a game in two years.

2A METRO REGION

1. Phoenix Christian (7-3)
2. Phoenix Northwest Christian (9-3)
3. Chandler Valley Christian (3-6)
4. Phoenix Bourgade Catholic (6-3)
5. Scottsdale Christian Academy (4-5)
6. Arizona Lutheran (7-2)

If the line improves, **Phoenix Christian** will be in the hunt. For all the marbles. The skill positions, starting at quarterback, are set for a title run. Coach Keith Brown returns the best aerial show in town, starting with all-state candidate

Mark Tefteller, a slick 6-2, 185-pound field general. During a 10 game schedule, Tefteller was 151 of 251 (60%) for 2,486 yards and 26 touchdowns. Fifty-seven of his passes landed in Sean Bowman's hands, another 185-pounder (with 4.6 speed) who turned them into 975 yards and 12 TDs. In one game against Bourgade Catholic, Tefteller passed for 429 yards. "Mark would have broken all our school passing records set by Tim Rattay (former PC grad now at Louisiana Tech) had he played as many games," claims Brown. "This group is hungry and talented." The Cougars return nine starters on offense, and that's bad news for the 2A ranks. Tefteller also ran for 506 yards, so that takes heat off two-way backs Jimmy Wilson (6-2, 195), only a junior, and Jeremy Cannon (6-1, 175). Adam Draper (5-10, 175), an all-region defensive back, is a good flanker. Nathan Maroney (6-2, 215) makes for a good tight end. Willie Luzader (6-1, 205) is one of the few returning Cougars with size. He plays guard and linebacker. If defensive end Cody Butler (6-1, 190), and tackles Gary Emerling (6-0, 210) and Mike Martin (6-0, 240) step up, PC will play more than 10 games. Martin is just a junior.

Northwest Community Christian, which bowed out to Queen Creek in the state semifinals, should be tough again, with improved team speed. Coach Charlie Bell's young team, only two years removed from 8-man ball, wasted no time in reaching the 2A playoffs. "We had a very enjoyable season, winning the Metro," says Bell. "We had outstanding senior leadership." New quarterback B.J. Lee (5-10, 175) takes over and is the key figure. If he steps up the Crusaders could be in the hunt again. Fullback Jesse Ross (6-3, 205) and halfback Richard Reed (5-11, 185) make up most of the team's option backfield. Both can start at linebacker, also. Derrick Johnston (6-0, 175) is a capable receiver. Senior Dan Underwood (5-11, 230) is a good blocking tackle. Guard Adam Conovaloff (5-10, 165), only a sophomore, could start. Junior Eric Harper (5-8, 150) is the safety. However, only 10 varsity players return.

At **Valley Christian**, the Trojans ran the ball well, but a weak defense spelled doom and no wins in the conference. First-year coach Sean Loomer takes over for veteran Bernie Benson, who retired. "It will be a total rebuilding year," says Loomer, who welcomes only nine varsity players. "If we get better on defense we'll be competitive." Linebacker David Mehan (5-11, 185), an all-region pick, was the leading tackler. Halfback Mike Brewster (6-0, 185), with 759 yards, was the leading rusher. The Trojans are set at the skill positions, with John Gellner, Cameron Raber and Jacob Coate in the lineup. It's the line which needs improving. Mike Weg, a good all-round athlete, could get a shot at quarterback. He's the team's fastest player. Loomer and his new staff are not the only addition to the program. A new stadium, state of the art weight room and new locker facilities will greet the incoming squad.

Class 2A Top 20 Poll

1. Thatcher
2. Phoenix Christian
3. St. Johns
4. Willcox
5. Queen Creek
6. Benson
7. Williams
8. Phoenix NWCC
9. Heber Mogollon
10. Winterhaven San Pasqual
11. Kearny Ray
12. Florence
13. Pima
14. Winkelman Hayden
15. Orme School
16. Superior
17. Chandler Valley Christian
18. Phoenix Bourgade
19. Morenci
20. Mayer

The Golden Eagles came out of the blocks strong in Pat Lavin's first year at **Bourgade Catholic**. A heartbreaking 33-32 overtime loss to NWCC in late October kept the Eagles out of the playoffs. "We had a good season considering it was our first," says Lavin, who has to reload with a senior class of one. Honest! Center Paul Jajou (6-2, 230) might be the only senior on the varsity. But he's a dandy. He'll be called on to play defense, too. Finding a back to replace all-state tailback Eli Milstead won't be easy. He took his diploma and 1,200 yards of offense with him. Junior Mike Wilda (5-9, 165) will get the call. Until the quarterback slot gets filled, watch for a solid ground game to take shape. If so, the credit will go to the Eagles' line, with juniors Cody Johnson (6-1, 220), Kevin Schwaratz (6-3, 190) and Mark Lusson (6-4, 235) leading the way. Like Valley Christian, BC moves into a new field house, with a modern weight room and improved locker facilities.

Scottsdale Christian Academy has found the going rough in 11-man ball, but 18 letter winners return, including several key two-year starters. Guard Zach Stravitz (5-10, 185) has been on the varsity since his freshman year. Wideout/safety Jared Doe (6-2, 175) has been a two-year starter, along with linebacker Caleb Glennie. SCA returns several big bodies on the line, including 6-3, 235-pound senior Ryan Whitcomb, the biggest Eagle in camp. Still, winning four games again could be a chore.

The next school to move up a class is **Arizona Lutheran Academy**, located near South Mountain. The Coyotes, coached by Doug Meyer, return enough players (18) to make a run at 11-man ball. Last year's club reached the 1A playoffs, where Joseph City beat them in a real thriller, 29-28 in OT. "With only two seniors on the roster, we thought we were in for a long season," says Meyer. "But our underclassmen really stepped up. Our overtime loss in the playoffs was heartbreaking." The Coyotes defense looks solid. Quarterback Zack Stam (726 passing/13 TDs) needs help from a running game. Maybe it will come from Joel Wagner or junior Stephen Stine. Keston Krouse and Kai Candler are capable receivers. Matt Leak (6-2, 210), Kelly Huet (6-4, 275) and Stephen Berg (6-5, 300) help anchor one of the region's biggest lines. Berg is just a sophomore.

2A EAST REGION

1. Thatcher (13-0)
2. Willcox (7-4)
3. Pima (5-4)
4. Morenci (7-3)
5. Duncan (0-9)

Thatcher, a consistent playoff visitor, ran roughshod over 13 opponents on its way to the 2A state championship. "In my six years of coaching, that is the best football team I have seen," Seton Catholic coach Joe Timpani told the media after the Eagles steamrolled his club 30-14 in the semifinals. Like this coming year, the

Thatcher line was the difference, grinding out 457 yards in the SC win. "We could be an exciting team again," warns Jim Hughes, 22-2 in two years at the helm. "We have good depth at the skill positions and only one offensive lineman left." Young Clint Whiting (5-10, 165) gained 985 yards as a sophomore - 245 yards against Seton. Big Dane Whitmir (6-5, 245) is a two-way tackle and an all-region pick. Linebacker Clay Romero (5-9, 185), a three-year player, is one of seven defensive starters returning. Guard Phillip Alva (5-10, 185) does the kicking. He was 6/6 on field goals in the playoffs and didn't miss an extra point. Jason Hughes (6-0, 175) led the team in interceptions (7) and split time at quarterback. He's recovering from an injury. Joey Titus (6-0, 190) is the Eagles' center, with Ron Walser (6-3, 230) starting at tight end. Quintin Causey, Jake Cleckler, Alan Bryce, Jacob Romney and Jeremy Green also started.

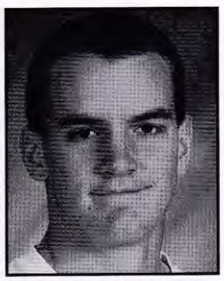
One school Thatcher didn't manhandle was **Willcox**, which dropped a 14-7 slugfest in the quarterfinals. The Cowboys will be tough again. Coach Mike Patterson's entire backfield is back. "We feel we can compete with anyone if we fill a few holes in our line," claims Patterson. All-state back Matt Allred (5-9, 180) is the home run threat, gaining 1,016 yards as a junior. Young Ryno Bethel (6-0, 170) has been a two year starter at quarterback. Nick Knippa (5-10, 185) is the other back. Kurt Stamback (6-3, 190) is a good target at split end. Mel Hammons is the center, and if some of his buddies, like Adam English, Greg Lockhart, Ryan Calhoon and Danny Estavillo beef up, the line looks solid.

Watch for **Pima** to move up the ladder, with six offensive and seven defensive starters back. The Roughriders lost four games, two by a total of two points. All-region tailback Jason Bryce (5-9, 160) gained 968 yards and scored 14 touchdowns. Defensive back Darrell John (5-11, 155) picked off six passes, and takes over at quarterback. Guard/linebacker Chris Smith (5-10, 160) and guard Luke Hoopes (6-0, 180) were second team all-region picks. Clint Cauthen and Duane Turner are two-way starters who will be counted on. "We'll be small but competitive," claims Jeff Crothers. "Our region is one of the strongest in the state, so we have to be ready to play each week."

Morenci finished regular season play on a high note, nipping rival Duncan 26-23 in overtime. But the playoff ride ended abruptly, 38-12 to Queen Creek in the first round. Key seniors picked up



Adam Draper
Phoenix Christian



Jason Bingham
St. Johns

diploma's, but quarterback Chris Roybal, backs Justin Sanderlin and Adam Cochran, linebacker Brandon DeJesus and guard Matt Wolfgang return. Eric Garcia, a good player who was hurt last year, might play again.

Still struggling, **Duncan** hopes to improve with several key players who earned post season honors. Defensive lineman Tyrel Lemons (6-1, 205) was a first team all-region pick. Linebacker Breton Lunt is a four year letterman. Two-way back Albert Montoya started. J.C. Lunt returns at quarterback, and Jacob Robbins and Mike Jensen are solid linemen.

2A SOUTH REGION

1. Benson (7-3)
2. Tombstone (2-7)
3. Tucson Palo Verde Christian (3-6)
4. Bisbee (1-9)
5. Elfrida Valley Union (3-6)

Injuries, which often plague football teams, hurt **Benson** down the stretch, but the Bobcats still reached the 3A playoffs. Cactus Shadows knocked them out early. Now, head coach Pete Bearse takes his team into the 2A South, with 14 lettermen and enough skill players to win the league. Quarterback Bourke Bowen (6-2, 175) passed for 1,587 yards and 22 touchdowns. Safety Terry Kirkpatrick (5-10, 175), an all-region pick, doubles at running back. Fullback Josh Garner (5-10, 170) rounds out the Bobcats' veer offense. Senior center Ryan Yosin is flanked by Ed Moreno, Travis Purcell and Aaron Abbott on the line. Abbott is a capable tight end.

It's time for **Tombstone** to crawl out of the cellar. It's been a long decade for the Yellow Jackets, but several young players and a senior quarterback paint a better picture. Marques Reischl (6-2, 150) is the only senior in the backfield. If the line play improves, backs Joe Thomas, Adam DuBois and Charles Dotson could produce 1,000 rushing yards between them. Thomas is just a sophomore. Flynn Edmondson is a junior wingback. Tombstone, which was 0-6 in the 2A East last year, runs the veer.

The playoff ride was short for **Palo Verde Christian**, which fell in the first round to Thatcher. But every team lost to Thatcher. Most of the Crusaders' losses were to foes outside the region, so they were able to sneak into the playoffs with three wins. Only one returning player, running back Brad Bettcher (6-2, 175), earned post season honors. He also doubles at defensive end. Two key linemen stood out, sophomore Adam Anderson (6-1, 300) because of his size, and freshman Winston Henning (5-11, 208) because of his age. Eighteen underclassmen lettered.

Bisbee returns every key player from the Pumas' young but hard luck squad which finished the season with three straight last-second losses. How young? Freshman halfback Andy Hererra saw considerable action and sophomore QB Randy Ladd started most games. Junior linebacker Erik Shisslak is a good defensive player. He also starts on the offensive line. Bisbee's lone win came against San Carlos.

Stability has been a problem at **Valley Union**. The Blue Devils have had three coaches in four years. But Ron Aguallo looks for an improved season, with most of the roster returning. Only five seniors played. Aaron White (5-10, 165) gets the call at quarterback. Josh Steinberg (6-1, 180) is a good wideout. Without a doubt, line play is a plus. Justin Springer, Jake Middlebrook, Andy Aabye and Kevin Mortenson form a stronger front line. Frank Borquez (6-5, 215) is a capable tight end. Mortenson can play fullback if called upon.

2A CANYON REGION

1. Williams (7-4)
2. Heber Mogollon (9-2)
3. Orme School (10-1)
4. Mayer (3-6)
5. Sedona Red Rock (5-5)

A slow start was no surprise at **Williams**. But the Vikings came on strong and won the 2A North for the fourth straight year. Coach Rick Shipley lost only three starters from a club which upset Phoenix Christian in the first round of the playoffs. One week later Queen Creek sent them packing with a 7-4 record. "We should be good this year," warns the veteran coach, 74-22-1 at the school. "It should be a very competitive

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Bob Miller
Dean of Students, Head Coach



Excellence,

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Peter Iverson
Class of '98

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league." Quarterback Fred Garcia (6-1, 180) and tackle Daniel Green (6-3, 220) are the key players. Both can play defense. Mark Chamberlin (6-2, 210) is an experienced lineman. The junior class looks solid, with halfback Juan Alvarado, safety Marquise Meyers, nose guard George Lockhart and end Mike Hernandez.

Back-to-back 9-2 seasons propels **Mogollon** into the 2A ranks, with almost every key player returning. In fact, the Mustangs lost only four of 26 players to graduation. Coach Ron Tenney's squad could make the easiest jump, since so many starters return. Line play is a key, and defensive tackle Ross Hunt (6-4, 225) is a solid force. Back Ben Tenney (6-0, 180) has played three different positions, most important quarterback. Jick Despain and Jared Owens started.

Graduation took away some heavy duty weapons at the **Orme School**, where the Warriors marched right to the 1A finals. St. David ended a great run in the title game, but veteran coach Bob Miller has enough good skill players to make waves in the new 2A Canyon Region. All-state wideout Eric Iverson (6-3, 175) caught 45 passes for 882 yards, averaging 19.6 yards per catch. Junior Jabari Felton-Smith (5-10, 170), a two-time state sprint champ, averaged 7.4 yards per carry and gained 812 doing it. Big Andrew Johnson (6-4, 235) was a two-way all-state lineman. The key position is quarterback, where junior Eli Smith (6-2, 180) gets the call. In a backup role he completed 12 of 22 passes (54%) for 209 yards. Junior Jake Owens (5-11, 240) looks stout at offensive guard and linebacker.

Mayer lost very little to graduation. In fact, only two seniors played. The Wildcats picked a good year to move up a class, with just about everybody returning. "We could be a contender, even with the switch to 11-man," claims veteran coach Vince Cahill, 84-38-1 at the school. Linebacker Cesar Leyva (5-11, 19) is a key player. He doubles at running back. Most skill players come from the senior class, including Chayne Probst, Chris Schuhmacher, Steve Vega, Kevin Martin, Josh Loos and David Haymore. It's a youth movement on the line, with Cody Probst, William Whitaker and Scott Wichrowski probable starters.

Sedona Red Rock saw its march to the playoffs end after one round, when Seton Catholic sent the Scorpions home early. Too many key starters graduated, so this year's run might be longer. Still, size is a premium. Players like Rene Felix (6-1, 230), Josh Linnaman (6-4, 250), Ceasar Felix (6-0, 220), Stuart Davis (6-0, 240) and Jed Hunt (6-3, 270) logged playing time.

8-MAN FOOTBALL

1. St. David (11-0)
2. Ft. Thomas (6-3)
3. Patagonia (3-3)
4. Joseph City (5-4)
5. Clifton (3-5)
6. Seligman (0-6)
7. St. Michael (1-8)

The gap between St. David and the rest of the 8-man football world gets wider each year. In fact, with former small school powers like Mogollon, Mayer, Williams, Scottsdale Christian and Arizona Lutheran moving up to 11-man competition, the future of 8-man ball is unclear. Last year **St. David** beat Orme 48-30 in the last 8-man game Orme will play. "We're ready for the move up," said Orme coach Bob Miller after the finals. "But give St. David credit. I've never seen an eight-man team like that." The Tigers have now won 22 games in a row and back-to-back state crowns - eight in their storied history dating back to a 6-man crown in 1953. Normally, this would be the year to knock them off. Only three key players, back Scott Moore (6-1, 165),

St. Johns, San Pasqual in leagues of their own



Mike Morgan
St. Johns

The football history in **St. Johns** runs deep, long and successful. Especially recently, no matter what league the Redskins played in. The credit goes to veteran coach Mike Morgan, whose overall winning percentage (.821) is one of the best in state history. Morgan and his forces move back into the 2A North, a region they once dominated. In the past, they pretty much dominated every 2A school, no matter what region. After four years in the 3A ranks, St. Johns finds itself back in the thick of a state championship race. The undersized Redskins held their own against larger 3A schools, compiling a 72-12-1 record (.857) since 1995. In Class 2A, between 1992-95, the 'Skins won three consecutive state crowns and 43 games in a row.

"The outlook seems to be brighter," says Morgan, who has seen his school's enrollment drop below 400 students. "We went to the playoffs again in 3A, and felt we should have made the final four, but we came up short." Seniors Afton Lambson and Josh Raban are the key players. Both are running backs and both play defense when called upon. Matt Belshe and B.J. Garcia could share quarterback duties. Like most players in good programs, they are flexible. Jason Bingham is a quality linebacker, with David Platt and Jared Jarvis good linemen. Young Kevin Begay will start at center. Butch Nielsen and Aaron Heap head the receiving corps. Tight end Jason Rothlisberger handles the kicking. "I think we should win our league, although Hopi could give us a run for the title," adds Morgan, who is eight wins shy of 100 at the school.

At **San Pasqual**, located far from St. Johns in Winterhaven, west of Yuma, the past has not been as bright. But things do change. Ironically, the Warriors' sudden rise as a dominate force in the 2A West Region is credited to Don Klostreich, who gained early coaching fame for building Tucson Sunnyside into a state wrestling powerhouse. There he won nine 5A state titles, including eight in a row. "We played great all year," said Klostreich, whose 9-2 squad lost out in the state quarterfinals. "We could have played a little better in the playoffs, but we had a great year." Graduation cleaned out most of the starting lineup, but several four-year players return, including two-way back Joe Jose (5-10, 165), an all-region pick. Carl Emerson (5-11, 225), normally a linebacker, takes over at quarterback. Travis Owl (6-1, 210) is the Warriors' tight end, while 250-pounders Alfredo Martinez, Joe Cachora and Bennet Yazzie man the trenches. "We're getting better," adds the head coach. "But we need a good off-season of hard work."

guard Jarrid Hunt (5-10, 205) and defensive end Gerrin Hunt (5-11, 175), return. With so many teams leaving the ranks, St. David might have another shot.

But not if **Ft. Thomas** has anything to say about it. The Apaches made the playoffs for the second straight year, playing mostly sophomores. Coach Wil Hinton could have one of the stronger teams in 8-man ball, with good athletes returning, including backs Danny McEuen (6-2, 185) and Lambert Titla (5-10, 150). McEuen, an all-region pick, gained 1,397 yards and scored 19 TDs. He's a three-year starter. Titla, just a junior, gained 279 yards in a backup role. End Roger Hosay, center Josh Wesley, guard Terry Nelee and end Harrison Talgo started. Size is a weakness. Not one player tips the scales at 200-plus pounds.

Once at state football power, **Patagonia** has fallen upon hard times. The Lobos have had four different head coaches in the past five years. The most recent, Al Gann, enters his second year with six starters and a positive outlook. The senior class is solid, with two-way back Edgar Rodriguez (5-8, 150) one of the region's best. He can play quarterback, or wideout, if Roland Padilla is the signal caller. Ryan Tiffen is set at center, with Don Nelson a running back. Underclassmen Matt Maynard, Chad Lorta and Javier Pelayo should start.

First-year coach Eldon Larsen kept **Joseph City** marching in the right direction, where the Wildcats reached the state semifinals. Hard running Brandon Larson (5-10, 210), a tailback/nose guard, was the big gun. In fact, most of Jo City's key players were juniors, including quarterback Joey Richards, guard Earl Roberson, fullback T.C. Fish and end Dan Bushman. It was Larson who, as a sophomore, gained 317 yards on 34 carries during a 48-14 win over Maricopa in 1997.

Since **Clifton** returns seven defensive starters, it's easy to see why head coach Bill Thomas is optimistic. Junior Josh Aguilar (5-10, 175) is the Trojans best player. He plays in both backfields, or at linebacker if called upon. Fullback John Mann is a tough runner who also plays linebacker. Joe Florez is a good receiver. Ron Brinton, a 220-pound guard, looks like the Trojans' best lineman. Chris Rivera, Ernie Martinez and Orlando Esquivel could start.

Seligman looks improved if players like receiver Cam Querta (5-9, 165), quarterback Anson Watahomigie (6-0, 205) and halfback Preston Walema (5-9, 170) stay healthy, and stay in town. Three key linemen moved out last year and the Antelopes struggled. Coach Roy Stewart is looking for improved play from Robert Stewart, Cleveland Fielding and Michael Fabisiak to shore up the defense.

St. Michael's new coach will greet 13 lettermen, including four-year starter Winston Benally (6-1, 230), a two-way lineman. The Cardinals' best defender had 12 quarterback sacks, although linebacker Sherman Keyannie led the team in tackles. Flanker Martinez Gilbert caught six touchdown passes. Tailback Ben Gonnic was the leading rusher.

Recently, **Fredonia** has been hit harder by the economy than a hard running fullback. The Lynx played the entire campaign with just two seniors in the lineup. Split end Jerry Johnson (6-3, 208), linebacker Zachary Tait (5-9, 166) and halfback Clint McCormick (5-9, 155) are game tested, along with teammates Rick Thomas, Dick Wheatley, Jim Lathim, Nate Tait and Josiah Nash. But depth is still a problem.

Loyal 200

Only four football coaches in Arizona history have won 200 or more games at the same school. Entering the 1999 campaign, Phoenix St. Mary's head coach Pat Farrell is just three wins shy of 200. The all-time leaders include:

Wins	Coach	Years	School
227	Emil Nasser	1947-81	Winslow
218	*Karl Kiefer	1965-90	Tempe McClintock
215	*Vern Friedli	1976-98	Tucson Amphitheater
200	Ralph Moran	1953-84	Wickenburg
197	*Pat Farrell	1978-88	Phoenix St. Mary's
194	*Bill Mitton	1978-98	Phoenix Trevor Browne
184	*Jesse Parker	1976-94	Mesa Mountain View
167	Earl Putman	1966-89	Phoenix Moon Valley
153	"Mont" Griffiths	1961-97	Fredonia
146	Walt Beamis	1962-88	Phoenix Christian
144	*Paul Moro	1985-98	Lakeside Blue Ridge
138	Earl Clupper	1959-80	Phoenix South Mountain
136	*Larry Fetkenhier	1984-98	Glendale Cactus
133	Edgar "Mutt" Ford	1945-61	Mesa

**Active coaches*

'98 CLASS 1A All-State Team

Offense

QB	Greg Mortensen, St. David	6-1, 205
RB	Austin Judd, St. David	5-10, 175
RB	David Stickel, Orme School	5-11, 202
SE	Aaron Weimer, St. David	6-2, 170
SE	Eric Iverson, Orme School	6-2, 182 (jr)
OL	Andrew Johnson, Orme School	6-4, 225 (jr)
OL	Ross Hunt, Heber Mogollon	6-4, 225 (jr)
OL	Brian Smith, Orme School	6-1, 179
K	Eric Iverson, Orme School	6-2, 182 (jr)

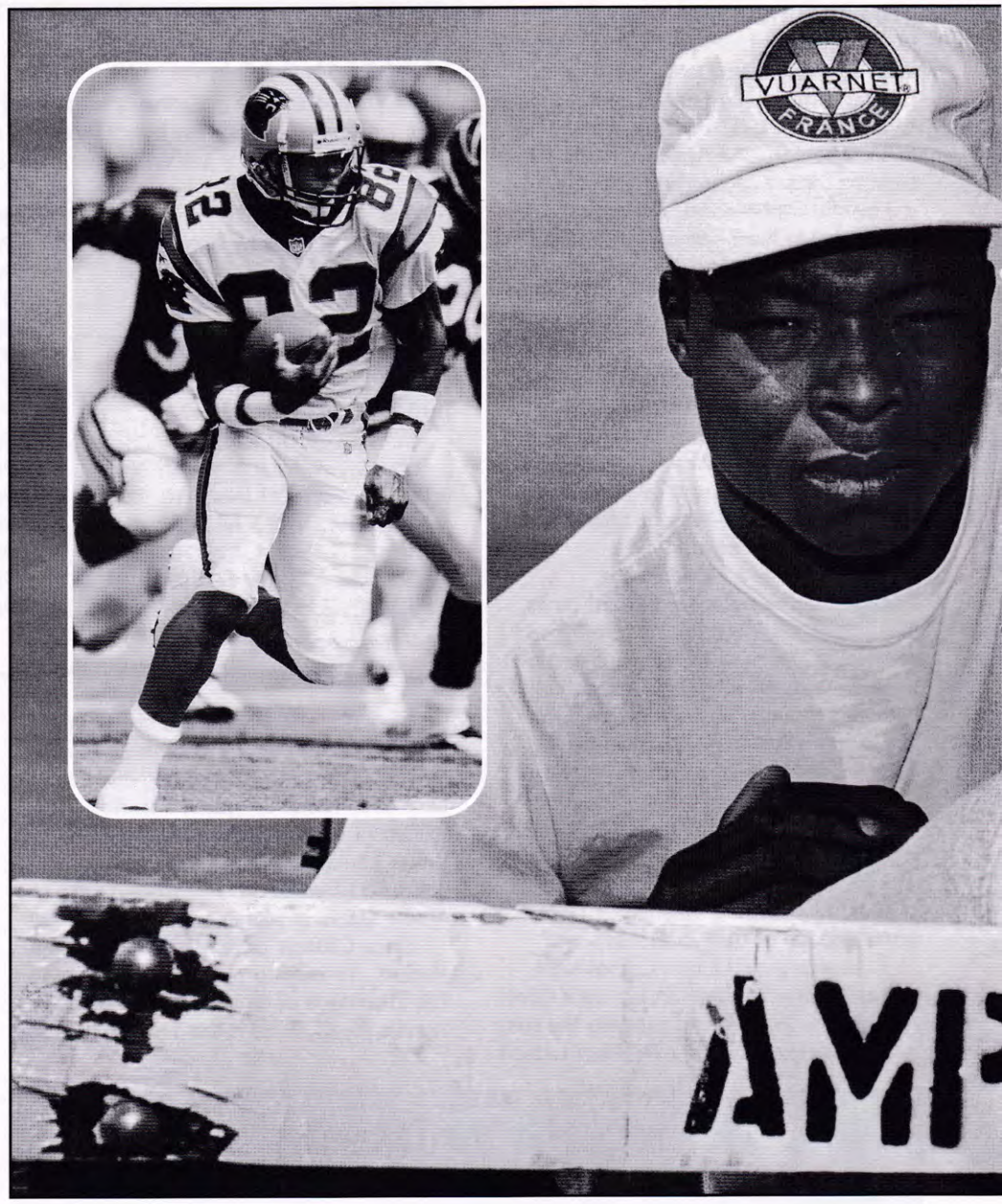
Defense

DL	Travis Carter, Orme School	6-0, 208
DL	Brandon Larson, Joseph City	5-10, 195 (jr)
DL	Andrew Johnson, Orme School	6-4, 225 (jr)
LB	Greg Mortensen, St. David	6-1, 205
LB	Ceser Leyva, Mayer	5-11, 180
LB	Arend Jacquez, St. David	6-1, 190
DB	Austin Judd, St. David	5-10, 170
DB	Eric Iverson, Orme School	6-2, 182 (jr)

SPEED CITY

The marriage between football and track in Arizona has been a happy one at the state's football powers for years

By BARRY SOLLENBERGER



In Arizona, football is king in the high school ranks. Always has been. If football is king, track & field sits on the throne next to it.

Based on tradition, talent, performance on a national level and fan support, track is top dog among Arizona's spring sports. The marriage between football and track in Arizona's high school ranks has been a happy one, especially at the state's football powers.

Always has been.

But nowhere in this part of the country is the mixture of football and track more apparent than in Texas, arguably the best high school sports state in the country today.

Last fall, Phoenix Cardinals linebacker Terry Irving, a graduate of Galveston Ball, wasn't surprised to hear that his former high school produced the most active NFL players in the league in the past two years.

"If you want to know what type of athlete comes through a school, check out its track records. If they are on the ball, the school's track records will be posted somewhere in the gym. On the wall, in the lobby, or wherever. In football recruiting, track will tell you. That's the barometer."

"Every year a bunch of guys leave and a new crop of great players come in," Irving told *The Arizona Republic*. "One reason for the talent is the school always had a great track program. You should have seen the athletes in our secondary my senior year."

Irving was one of five Galveston Ball products on NFL rosters last fall. The others were Kansas City running back Kimble Anders, Tennessee cornerback George McCullough, Washington Redskins defensive back Tim Denton and St. Louis Rams linebacker Eric Hill, a former Cardinal.

Three other high schools, Long Beach (Ca.) Poly, and Texas schools Dallas Lake Highlands and Beaumont Westbrook, also had five players in the NFL. In the history of professional football, no high school in America has sent more graduates into the NFL than Long Beach Poly, and most of those athletes ran track.

In Arizona, Maryvale and Tempe McClintock each had three grads on '98 NFL rosters, an impressive number considering the state's smaller population.

In fact, during the decade of the '90s, close to 100 former Arizona schoolboy products have played in the National Football League. And just like those from Texas, the majority of these athletes had one thing in common. They competed in track while in high school.

A recent survey by *Coach & Athletic*



Tucson Amphi's Mario Bates (left), one of the state's all-time great track stars, is an all-pro kick returner in the National Football League. (Tim Loehrke photo)

Director magazine emphasized the happy coaching relationship in Texas between football and track. Speed is uppermost in the Lone Star State, which has over 1,000 high schools. Not surprisingly, the majority of Texas football coaches are assistant track coaches. And in track, the shoe is on the other foot. The majority of the state's head track coaches are assistant football coaches. It is no coincidence that the best track program in west Texas today resides at Odessa Permian, one of the state's most storied football programs.

"One reason for the talent is the school always had a great track program. You should have seen the athletes in our secondary my senior year."

Each year speed is the name of the game at the Texas state meet, which last spring drew 20,652 fans to Mike Myers Stadium in Austin. The relays, especially the 400 and 1,600-meters, are loaded each year with sprinters recruited from their school's football teams. Year after year, the nation's premier sprint relay times come out of Texas.

Throughout the Lone Star State's rich football history, every football power, from Abilene to Odessa, from Port Arthur to Houston or Dallas, has just as rich a tradition in track & field.

It's not by accident.

Few states with a similar population (4.7 million) have as rich a tradition in high school track as Arizona. The Cactus State, arguably the third best high school sports state west of the Mississippi River, has produced more than its share of great performers, national record holders, All-Americans, collegiate stars, NCAA champions and Olympic medalists.

"If you want to know what type of athlete comes through a school, check out its track records," said legendary Arizona State football coach Frank Kush in 1973. "In football recruiting, when I'm on a high school campus for the first time, anywhere, if the gym's closed I'll track down

ALL-TIME ARIZONA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL VICTORIES

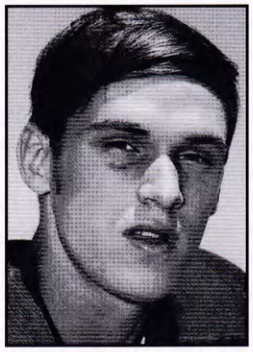


Wins	School	Years
570	Mesa	1920-98
499	Tucson	1912-98
480	Safford	1925-98
440	Phoenix St. Mary's	1938-98
426	Winslow	1915-98
414	Round Valley	1921-98
412	Douglas	1906-98
409	Gilbert	1923-98
393	Snowflake	1929-98
392	Flagstaff	1923-98
384	Tucson Amphi	1939-98
376	Tempe	1924-98
363	Miami	1923-98
360	Peoria	1933-98
353	Phoenix Union	1913-81

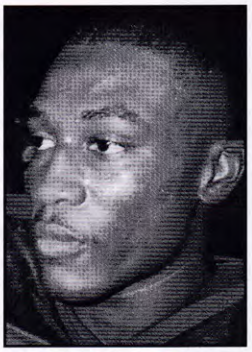
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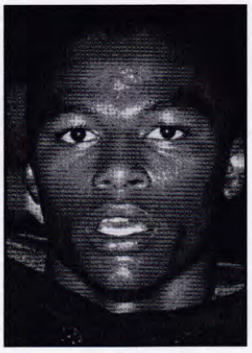
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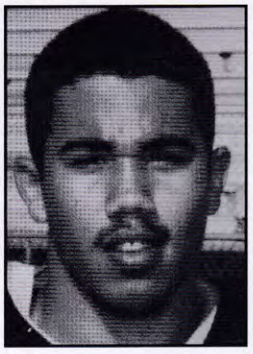
ROBERT HOLCOMBE
Mesa



WHIZZER WHITE
Mesa High



KYRAN JONES
Peoria



BOBBY WADE
Desert Vista

HONORING ARIZONA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL RUNNING BACK

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.....Don Washington, Agua Fria (jr)
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
1949.....Danny Seivert, Phoenix St. Mary's
1948.....Gib Dawson, Douglas

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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a janitor, have him open it up. If they are on the ball, the school's track records will be posted somewhere in the gym. On the wall, in the lobby, or wherever. Track will tell you. That's the barometer."

If that is the gauge, Arizona high school track is terrific, and the record books prove it. Arizona's high school ranks have produced seven national record holders: Tucson hurdlers Joe and Fred Batiste, North High pole vaulter Jimmy Brewer, North shot putter Dallas Long, North discus thrower Karl Johnstone, Arcadia discus thrower Jim Howard, and South Mountain sprinter Dwayne Evans, in that order.

This excludes numerous age group and class record holders, like Tucson Amphi's Michael Bates, today an all-pro kick returner with the Carolina Panthers. In 1944, Tucson's record breaking shuttle hurdle relay team was anchored by Fred Batiste, Joe's younger brother, and like his older brother a football star. Even Dallas Long, North High's Olympic shot put champ, was an all-state lineman in football.

Karl Kiefer has coached in the Arizona high school football circles longer than any active coach in the state. The former Tempe all-state end, who later was a captain of the football team at Arizona State, happens to be the winningest football coach in Arizona history. His 268 wins since 1965 leads the pack. Today he is the head football and track coach at Tempe Mountain Pointe. By no surprise, the Pride has won three 5A state track titles in its short history.

Kiefer last won a state football championship in 1989, while at Tempe McClintock. Not surprisingly, his all-star backfield of Brian Drew, Chris Colter, Robbie Wheaton and David Matthews made up three-fourths of a nationally ranked (1:27.7) 800-meter relay team.

"If I had to do it all over again, I would have been more involved in track at McClintock," said Kiefer recently. "It's a complement to both programs. Your football team is like a track team, with such an emphases on running. If you plan it right, your backs are sprinters, the line are weightmen.

"Speed, jumping and throwing are an integral part of football. It's not a coincidence that our best teams at McClintock, or here (Mountain Pointe) could run. They had great speed. To coach both takes a lot of time. But it's all worth it. I can see why in Texas the head football coaches are assistants in track."

Last spring, state shot put champ Clifford Starks (58'5") and discus runnerup Rich Hightower (181'0") played football for Mountain Pointe. Both were juniors. Both are good. Both are tutored by Troy Hickel, who is also the Pride's line coach. By design. Since 1992, Hickel has coached eight region champions, six state runnerups and two state champions.

Last spring, Arizona's top four sprinters recorded nationally ranked times in either the 100 or 200-meter dashes. All four, North High's Rashaun Ross (10.54/21.04), Shadow Mountain's Shawn McDonald (10.55/21.48), Desert Vista's Chris Snow (10.71/21.74) and Westwood Sammy Moore (10.63/21.75), were football stars. Today, Snow is in minor league baseball.

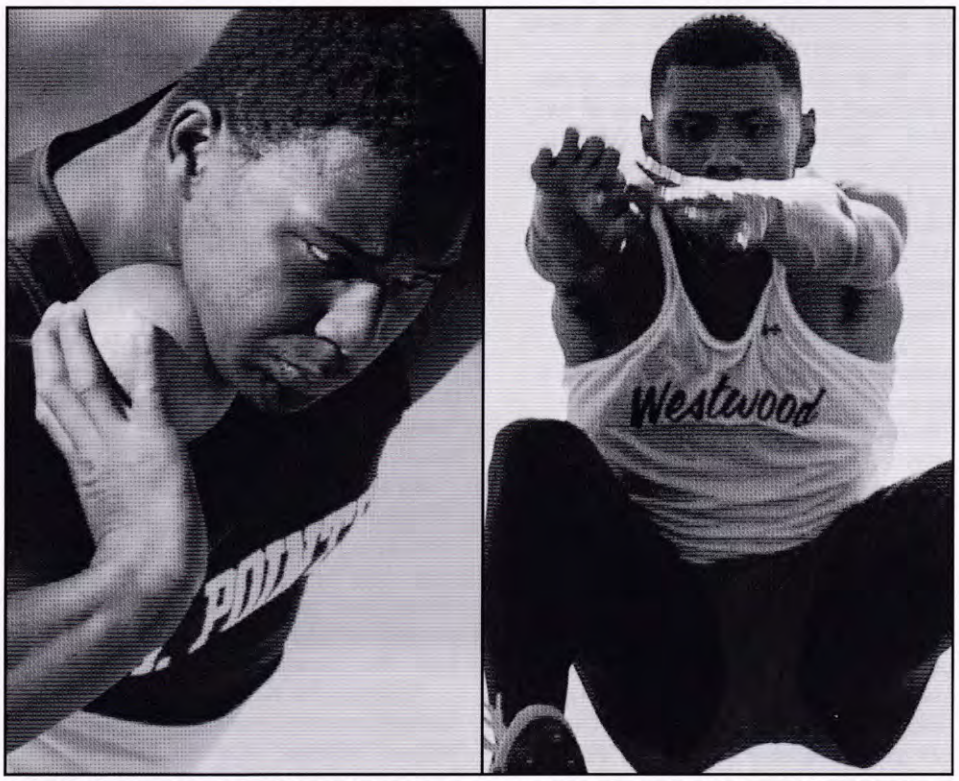
Moore, who was just a junior, is arguably the state's top football prospect for 1999, and a nationally ranked long jumper as well. In fact, in the state meet, Moore had a 24-10 jump nullified by a foul. Desert Vista quarterback John Rattay, another high profile recruit for the upcoming season, was a 14.36 high hurdler last spring. In Tucson, Moore will get plenty of competition in the jumping events next spring, as Rincon cornerback Shorty Hardin, a 24-foot long jumper, and the Rangers move into the 5A ranks for the 1999-20 school year.

Double duty

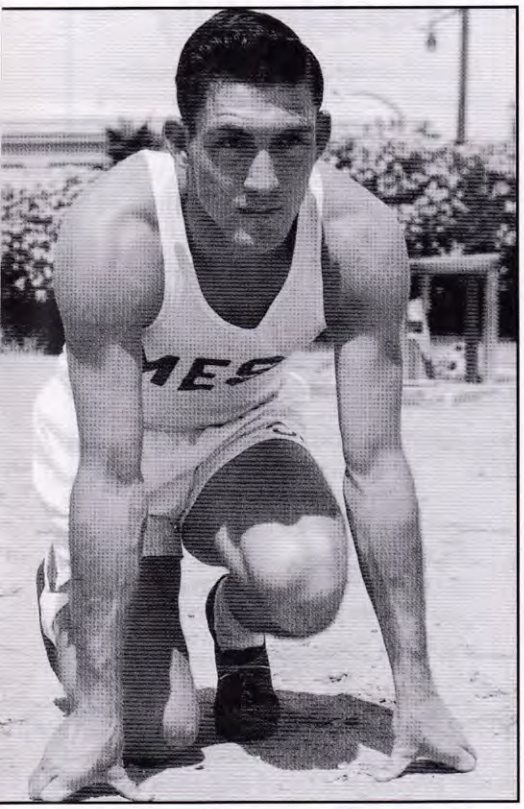
Current Arizona high school football coaches who double as their school's head track coach:

HEAD COACH/HIGH SCHOOL
Charles Beall, Northwest Christian
Jeff Crothers, Pima
Charles Hammock, Deaf School
Nemer Hassey, Tucson Sahuaro
Dennis Johnson, Tempe McClintock
Wayne Jones, Marana Mtn. View
Karl Kiefer, Tempe Mountain Pointe
Jimmy Law, Window Rock
Tim McBurney, Tempe Union
Kelly Moore, Morenci
Jim Paul, Nogales
Hal Pigusch, Shadow Mountain
Jim Rattay, Tempe Desert Vista
Shannon Simon, Tucson ASDB
Ollie Whaley, Monument Valley

During the Frank Kush era at Arizona State (1958-79), nowhere in college football was speed more emphasized. Seldom did a spring go by without members of Kush's football teams contributing the the Sun Devils' track program, coached then by Senon "Baldy" Castillo. Henry Carr, J.D. Hill, Steve



Two of the state's top football prospects, Mountain Pointe tackle Clifford Starks (left) and Westwood receiver Sammy Moore, were state champs in track & field. (Scott Trimble/The Tribune)



Whizzer White, a two-time football player of the year, won six gold medals at the state track meets.

Holden, Bennie Hawkins, the list goes on. A-State's opponents and NFL scouts had it figured out, too.

"They have the greatest array of running backs in America, and they all run track," said Wisconsin football coach John Cotta in 1968. "They are probably the best offensive team in the country," said New Mexico's Rudy Feldman in 1972. "There is not a college team or a professional team in the U.S.A. that can match Arizona State's speed."

"There is no substitute for speed," added ABC's Bud Wilkenson, himself a former coaching legend at Oklahoma. "Arizona State is truly the fastest collegiate team in America."

The Sun Devils beat Florida State 45-38 in Fiesta Bowl I, played on Dec. 27, 1971. In the locker room after the game, Florida State head coach Larry Jones told the media, "In all my years of being associated with football, I've never seen such speed on a football field." Echoed Missouri coach Al Onofrio one year later, after Fiesta II, in the same locker room,"There's no way you can stop speed like Arizona State's unless you have speed too."

That emphasis on speed is reflected in both the football and track programs today at Florida State, as well as two other national powers, Tennessee and Florida.

"We encourage the participation between the track and field squad and the football team," says Florida State head coach Bobby Bowden. "Coach (Terry) Long and the Florida State track and field staff have worked with our athletes' speed and have helped them to improve themselves. We are really proud and thankful for the track program here at Florida State."

Deion Sanders, Dexter Carter, Warrick Dunn, Terrell Buckley, Martin Mayhew, Ken Lanier and Corey Fuller are recent examples of former Seminole football stars who ran on Florida State's track team before landing in the National Football League.

In January, prior to the Fiesta Bowl matchup between Tennessee and Florida State for the national championship, Volunteer head coach Phillip Fulmer told KTAR sports show host Brad Cesmat, "Here at Tennessee, we have always had a great relationship between our (football) program and track. Dating back to the 1960s with Doug Dickey, we have always worked close with track. It's a game of speed you know."

When the book is written on the history of Arizona schoolboy football, it will show that each and every powerhouse is just as successful in track. There are few exceptions. Especially in public schools. One example would be Phoenix St. Mary's, which, for various reasons, does not even field a track team.

But at the state's most historic public school programs - like Phoenix Union, Phoenix Carver, Tucson, Mesa, Mesa Westwood, Mesa Mountain View, Winslow, Safford, Eloy Santa Cruz or Bisbee - the two sports worked hand in hand.

It's interesting to note that the majority of Arizona's high school players of the year, dating back to statehood, were also track stars. Last spring, for example, Desert Vista running back Bobby Wade clocked 48.93 seconds in the 400 meter dash. And he wasn't the first.

At Mesa, the state's all-time winningest football program, legendary athletes like Wilford "Whizzer" White and Andy Livingston were state champions in track & field, and players of the year in football. White, who would later play with the Chicago Bears, won six gold medals in two events, the long jump and the 440 yard dash, at the state meets. Livingston, one of the state's all-time great two-sport stars, ran outstanding sprint times (9.7/21.5) and threw the shot put 59-feet.

"We encourage the participation between the track and field squad and the football team ... We are really proud and thankful for the track program here at Florida State."

The football ability of the Batiste family, prior to and during World War II, is one of the state's best kept secrets. Joe, Fred and Frank, Tucson High grads, were all nationally ranked track stars, with Joe by far the best. He was a member of the 1940 Olympic team - later cancelled by the war - in the hurdles and the decathlon. Lost in history is the fact that all were dynamite football players for Rollin T. Gridley's Big Red Machine.

"We always worked real close with our track team," said Gridley, who still lives in Tucson. "In fact, our track coaches always worked on our football staff. The boys did both sports back then."

And they do today.

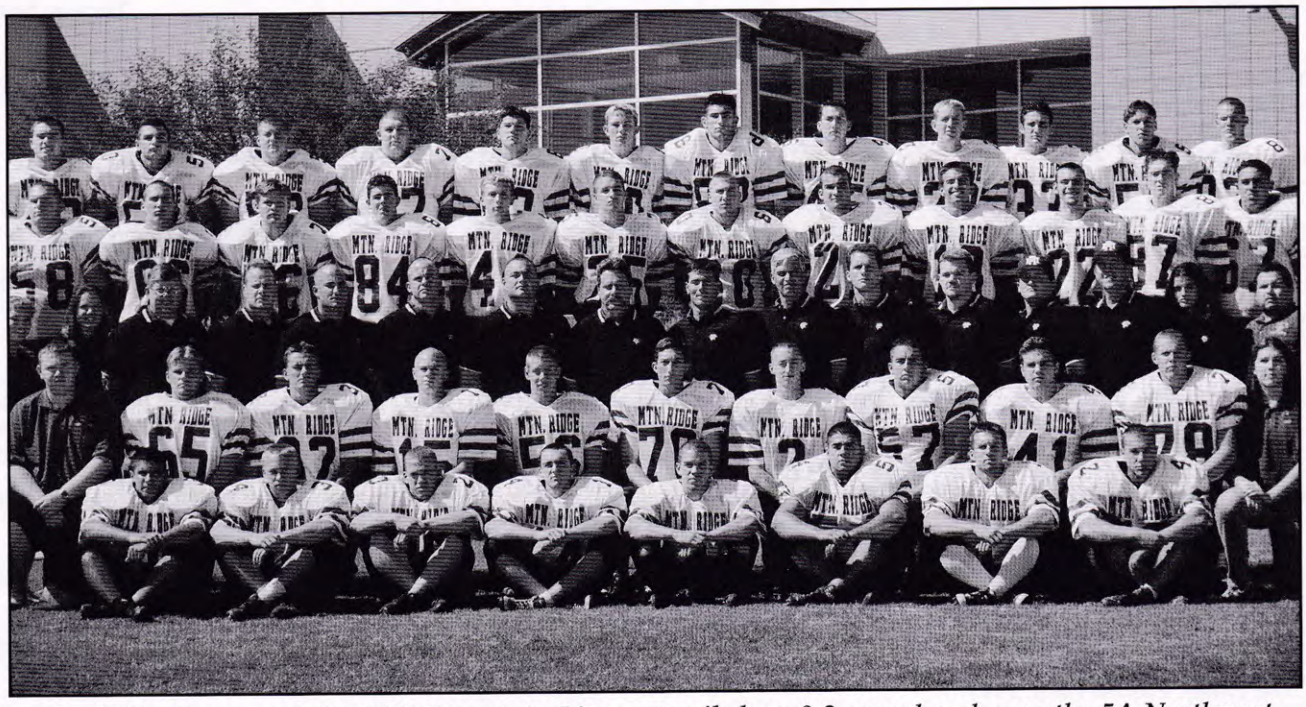
The *National Sports News Service*, founded by Art Johlfs, claims to have honored the top high school teams, coaches and players in the U.S.A. since 1927. Johlfs, who died in 1982, insisted that the era of specialization in high school sports was always exaggerated.

"There are exceptions, of course," said Johlfs in a 1979 interview for *Phoenix Metro Football* magazine. "You may see it the most in basketball, where a lot of the kids play just that sport. But the good high school athlete, no matter what state, will show up in two or more sports.

"You see it the most in football and track," he added. "Throughout the country, especially in public schools, a football coach is foolish not to work close with track. When you see track coaches who discourage kids from playing football, they have a problem. At the high school level, the coaches need to work together. It's the best time of the kids' lives. Why hold them back? One of the real reasons football is so strong in states like Texas and California is track and field." ●

Congratulations 5A-NW Region Champions

Mountain Ridge HIGH SCHOOL



Coach Jim Ewan and the 1998 Mountain Lions compiled an 8-3 record and won the 5A Northwest Region championship in the school's second complete season of varsity play.

Mountain Ridge High School
Glendale, Arizona

*** Lions Beau Vaughan, Skip Ast, Jose Virgil, Jason Dimmick, Russ Trollope, Kevin Callahan, Chuck Rowe, Matt Hayward, Jeff Sharp, Scott Sharpe and Kip Thomas honored as 5A-Northwest first & second team all-region selections**

● Coach Jim Ewan has compiled 76-41-4 record in high school & college

● This year's seniors are 18-6-1 in three years

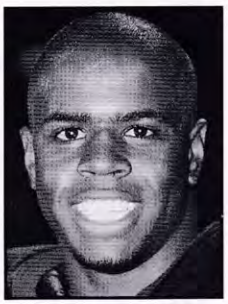
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Mario Bates
Tucson Amphi

ALL-TIME ARIZONA HIGH SCHOOOL FOOTBALL RECORDS

Sponsored by BlueCross BlueShield



Nathan Wize
Tucson Sabino

TOUCHDOWNS (GAME)
8.....Trent Thompson, Chinle, 1986 (jr)
8.....Santos Olague, Tucson Sabino, 1998
7.....Ted Bland, Tucson, 1931
7.....Alvin Leon, Baboquivari, 1977
7.....Coury Hankins, South Mountain, 1994
7.....Mike Brown, Saguaro, 1995
7.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1996 (jr)
7.....Antrel Bates, Tucson Amphi, 1997

TOUCHDOWNS (SEASON)
51.....Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino, 1997
41.....Bobby Wade, Desert Vista, 1998
39.....Kevin Schmidtke, Mountain View, 1993
38.....Brian Drew, McClintock, 1989
38.....Scooter Sprotte, Blue Ridge, 1994
37.....Art Malone, Santa Cruz, 1965
37.....Tavon Cooper, Peoria, 1994
36.....Alvin Moore, Coolidge, 1977
35.....Stan Gill, Flagstaff, 1981
35.....Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, 1989 (jr)
35.....Mike Brown, Saguaro, 1995
35.....Richard Zuniga, Boys Ranch, 1997
34.....Derrick Ray, Cactus, 1988
34.....Mario Bates, Tucson Amphi, 1990
34.....Paul Shields, Paradise Valley, 1993
34.....Jeremiah Navarro, Blue Ridge, 1995
34.....Micah Barton, Phoenix Christian, 1996
34.....Antrel Bates, Tucson Amphi, 1997
34.....Travis Gammage, Cortez, 1998

TOUCHDOWNS (CAREER)
85.....Kevin Schmidtke, Mtn. View, 1991-93
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
70.....Travis Palmer, Camp Verde, 1988-91
67.....Bobby Wade, Desert Vista, 1997-98
64.....Nick Mangosing, Apollo, 1996-98
64.....Robert David, Blue Ridge, 1996-98
63.....George Greathouse, Carver/
.....Phoenix Union, 1952-55
63.....Sean Reeder, Cactus Shad., 1985-88
62.....David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1983-85
62.....Scooter Sprotte, Blue Ridge, 1992-94

POINTS (GAME)
48.....Trent Thompson, Chinle, 1986 (jr)
48.....Richard Zuniga, Boys Ranch, 1997
48.....Santos Olague, Tucson Sabino, 1998
44.....Alvin Leon, Baboquivari, 1977
42.....Ted Bland, Tucson, 1931
42.....Coury Hankins, South Mountain, 1994
42.....Mike Brown, Saguaro, 1995
42.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1996 (jr)
42.....Antrel Bates, Tucson Amphi, 1997
40.....Mike Swick, Miami, 1924
40.....Robert Johnson, Miami, 1985
40.....Kit Landry, Williams, 1971

POINTS (SEASON)
306.....Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino, 1997
258.....Richard Zuniga, Boys Ranch, 1997
246.....Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, 1989 (jr)
246.....Kevin Schmidtke, Mountain View, 1993
246.....Bobby Wade, Desert Vista, 1998
234.....Alvin Moore, Coolidge, 1977
234.....Cory Lizarraga, Blue Ridge, 1997
229.....Stan Gill, Flagstaff, 1981
228.....Brian Drew, McClintock, 1989
228.....Scooter Sprotte, Blue Ridge, 1994
222.....Art Malone, Santa Cruz, 1965
222.....Tavon Cooper, Peoria, 1994
216.....Paul Shields, Paradise Valley, 1993

POINTS (CAREER)
524.....Kevin Schmidtke, Mtn. View, 1991-93
460.....Derrick Ray, Glendale Cactus, 1986-88
456.....Mike Mitchell, Brophy Prep, 1990-92
440.....Paul Shields, Paradise Valley, 1991-93
434.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1995-97
420.....Travis Palmer, Camp Verde, 1988-91
404.....Jeremy Hathcock, Blue Ridge, 1988-90
402.....Bobby Wade, Desert Vista, 1997-98
390.....Robert David, Blue Ridge, 1996-98
388.....Nick Mangosing, Apollo, 1996-98
386.....Sean Reeder, Cave Creek, 1985-88
384.....Ernie Montez, Thatcher, 1988-91
383.....George Greathouse, Carver/
.....Phoenix Union, 1952-55
378.....Jerry Bridgman, Buckeye, 1955-58
377.....Stan Gill, Flagstaff, 1979-81

RUSHING YARDS (GAME)
469.....Stanley Jackson, Chinle, 1976
426.....Aaron Craig, Window Rock, 1993
403.....Joey Capps, Mohave, 1993
402.....Burton Belton, Winslow, 1958
388.....Kyran Jones, Peoria, 1996 (jr)
383.....Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino, 1997
381.....Alvin Leon, Baboquivari, 1977
376.....Cippy Correa, Antelope, 1973
358.....Glenn Rogers, Agua Fria, 1982
353.....Brian Galbreath, Cortez, 1991
352.....Joel Huerta, Coronado, 1995 (so)
347.....Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino, 1997
344.....Brian Pringle, Sunnyslope, 1970
343.....Russell Trejo, Casa Grande, 1994
342.....Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino, 1997

RUSHING YARDS (SEASON)
3,101...Nathan Wize, Tucson Sabino, 1997
2,961...Scooter Sprotte, Blue Ridge, 1994
2,740...Mario Bates, Tucson Amphi, 1990
2,601...Keith Brown, Mountain Pointe, 1995
2,515...Kevin Schmidtke, Mountain View, 1993
2,349...Russell Trejo, Casa Grande, 1994
2,273...Mutt Hall, Show Low, 1996
2,253...Mike Cade, Santa Cruz, 1978
2,240...Antrel Bates, Tucson Amphi, 1997
2,230...Tim Vining, Cactus, 1994
2,224...Micah Barton, Phoenix Christian, 1996
2,201...Mike Mitchell, Brophy Prep, 1992
2,200...Glenn King, Casa Grande, 1950

RUSHING YARDS (CAREER)
5,711...Ernie Montez, Thatcher, 1988-91
5,669...Mike Mitchell, Brophy Prep, 1990-92
5,440...Kevin Schmidtke, Mtn. View, 1991-93
5,204...Sean Reeder, Cactus Shad., 1985-88
5,069...Scooter Sprotte, Blue Ridge, 1992-94
4,985...Travis Palmer, Camp Verde, 1988-91
4,900...Robert David, Blue Ridge, 1996-98
4,880...David Winsley, Flagstaff, 1983-85
4,836...Mario Bates, Tucson Amphi, 1988-90
4,551...George Greathouse, Carver/
.....Phoenix Union, 1952-55
4,490...Russell Trejo, Casa Grande, 1991-94
4,480...Hadley Hicks, Bisbee, 1948-51
4,461...Stan Gill, Flagstaff, 1979-81
4,458...Mike Cade, Santa Cruz, 1976-78
4,417...Jerry Bridgman, Buckeye, 1955-58
4,307...Whizzer White, Mesa, 1944-46

CARRIES (GAME)
48.....Joey Capps, Mohave, 1993
45.....Jose Valenzuela, Apache Jct., 1989
44.....Mike Wolfe, Salpointe, 1965
44.....Forrest Valora, Trevor Browne, 1975





Between 1990-92, Brophy Prep halfback Mike Mitchell rushed for 5,669 yards and scored 76 touchdowns (Phoenix Gazette photo).

44 .....Carlos Cochrane, Ironwood, 1991 (jr)
43 .....Steve Corson, Mingus Union, 1974
43 .....Forrest Valora, Trevor Browne, 1975
42 .....Mike Wolfe, Tucson Salpointe, 1965

AVERAGE YARDS PER CARRY (SEASON)
20.3 .....Junior Tate, Casa Grande, 1953 (so)
13.9 .....Max Hancock, Safford, 1946
13.6 .....Ramon Ruiz, Clifton, 1967
13.6 .....Marcus Bell, St. Johns, 1994
13.4 .....Sid Udall, Round Valley, 1973
13.4 .....Mike Gonzalez, Flagstaff, 1984
13.4 .....Kevin Butler, Santa Cruz, 1990
13.3 .....Joe Batiste, Tucson, 1938 (jr)
13.0 .....Bruce Reed, Florence, 1983

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN RUN
99 .....Frank Estavillo, Safford, 1930
99 .....Sammy Johnson, Mesa, 1952
99 .....Manuel Chacon, Santa Cruz, 1954
99 .....Oscar Nogales, Ajo, 1962
99 .....Bob Bledsoe, Flagstaff, 1963
99 .....Craig Ponciak, Phoenix Gerard, 1964
99 .....Wayne Jones, Dysart, 1972
99 .....Pete Finau, Kearny Ray, 1977
99 .....Jerry Harper, Scottsdale Chaparral, '80
99 .....Steve Moncibaez, Mingus, 1985 (so)
99 .....Greg Johnson, Tuc. Palo Verde, 1985
99 .....Tom Collins, Glendale Apollo, 1985
99 .....Randy Carr, Phoenix Central, 1986
99 .....Phil Hayward, Deer Valley, 1993 (jr)
99 .....Trung Canidate, Phoenix Central, 1994
99 .....Phil Hayward, Deer Valley, 1994
99 .....Jason Kislingbury, Winslow, 1994 (so)
99 .....Juan Huerta, San Manuel, 1996 (jr)
99 .....Daniel Durnez, Camp Verde, 1997

PASSING YARDS (GAME)
482 .....Mike Strack, Peoria Centennial, '97 (jr)
479 .....Marty Rincon, Westview, 1993
452 .....Mike Bitsuie, Ganado, 1995 (jr)
449 .....Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)
440 .....Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)
435 .....Gentry Gillespie, Round Valley, 1991
426 .....Brad Chilcote, Tucson Sahuaro, 1985
425 .....Dennis Bene, Tucson Salpointe, 1983
424 .....Rodney Peete, Tucson Sahuaro, '82 (jr)
404 .....Mike Makings, Scottsdale, 1971
403 .....Rick Johnson, Paradise Valley, 1983
402 .....Richard Lucero, South Mountain, 1997

PASSING YARDS (SEASON)
3,462 ...Marty Rincon, Westview, 1993
3,103 ...Frank Jimenez, Florence, 1995
3,094 ...John Rattay, Desert Vista, 1998 (jr)
3,009 ...Chris Snyder, Sunnyslope, 1994
2,923 ...Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)
2,906 ...Michael Bitsuie, Ganado, 1996
2,768 ...Mark Brooks, Greenway, 1995
2,736 ...Brad Chilcote, Tucson Sahuaro, 1985
2,721 ...Brandon Tomerlin, Superior, 1997 (jr)
2,719 ...Gary McEwen, Snowflake, 1982
2,709 ...Ruger Fontes, Nogales, 1997
2,686 ...Bobby Valdez, Tucson Sunnyside, 1986
2,683 ...Ryan Kealy, St. Mary's, 1995
2,646 ...Tim Rattay, Phoenix Christian, 1994
2,598 ...Jason Lunsford, Phoenix Cortez, 1997
2,566 ...Jonathan Beasley, Cactus, 1994 (jr)
2,539 ...Kent Kiefer, McClintock, 1985

PASSING YARDS (CAREER)
6,441 ...Mark Brooks, Greenway, 1993-95
6,350 ...Ryan Kealy, St. Mary's, 1993-95
6,346 ...Kent Kiefer, McClintock, 1983-85
6,137 ...Olen Valdez, Sunnyside, 1993-95
6,064 ...Marty Rincon, Westview, 1991-93
5,984 ...Isaac Panana, Hopi, 1994-96
5,774 ...Adam Rodriguez, Desert View, '85-'88
5,731 ...Bobby Valdez, Sunnyside, 1984-86
5,454 ...David Moran, Bradshaw Mtn., 1992-95
5,291 ...Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988-90
5,281 ...Tony Cortez Rose, Douglas, 1973-76
5,139 ...Jonathan Beasley, Cactus, 193-95
5,002 ...Frank Jimenez, Florence, 1993-95

TOUCHDOWN PASSES (GAME)
7 .....Tommy Scott, Gilbert, 1926
7 .....Jarrett Huma, Hopi, 1988 (so)
7 .....Tim Rattay, Phoenix Christian, 1994
6 .....Duncan Brown, Mesa, 1924 (jr)
6 .....Charlie Beal, Mesa, 1943
6 .....Ray Guana, Safford, 1957
6 .....Gary Carpenter, North, 1968
6 .....Audie McKee, Flag. Coconino, 1983
6 .....Richard Acosta, Nogales, 1985
6 .....Ricky Garcia, Florence, 1985
6 . .....Willy Nikolaus, Show Low, 1990
6 .....Chris Snyder, Sunnyslope, 1994
6 .....David Moran, Bradshaw Mtn., 1994 (jr)
6 .....Malin Lewis, Ajo, 1997
6 .....Marco Burruel, Maryvale, 1997

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

TOUCHDOWN PASSES (CAREER)
83 .....Ryan Kealy, St. Mary's, 1993-95
74 .....David Moran, Bradshaw Mtn., 1992-95
66 .....Tony Cortez Rose, Douglas, 1973-76
60 .....Todd Mortensen, Tempe, 1994-96
60 .....Isaac Panana, Hopi, 1994-96
58 .....Marty Rincon, Westview, 1991-93
58 .....Mark Brooks, Greenway, 1993-95
56 .....Jonathan Beasley, Cactus, 1993-95
56 .....Mike Bitsuie, Ganado, 1994-96

LONGEST TOUCHDOWN PASS
99 .....Frank Zellner to Gloyes Lemons,
.....Buckeye, 1955
99 .....Tony Cortez Rose to Bill Salzbrenner,
.....Douglas, 1975
99 .....Doug Stitler to Curt Reiman,
.....Brophy Prep, 1978
99 .....Dave Lytle to Todd Schulz,
.....Tombstone, 1979
99 .....Keola Bandman to Matt Hanners,
.....Page, 1986

RECEPTIONS (GAME)
21 .....John Mistler, Tucson Sahuaro, 1975 (jr)
19 .....Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)


what if?
What if my kid's in college in Connecticut?
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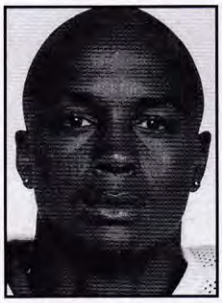
19.....Clifton Jones, Florence, 1995 (jr)
18.....Randy Nikolaus, Show Low, 1982 (jr)
18.....Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
18.....Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)
17.....Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
17.....Marcus Erkel, Tucson Rincon, 1997
16.....Mickey Hatcher, Mesa, 1973

RECEPTIONS (SEASON)
101.....Clifton Jones, Florence, 1995 (jr)
89.....Randy Nikolaus, Show Low, 1982 (jr)
84.....George Ochoa, Douglas, 1979
84.....Travis Brun, Deer Valley, 1996
83.....Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
81.....John Mistler, Tucson Sahuaro, 1975 (jr)
81.....Marcus Erkel, Tucson Rincon, 1997
79.....Calvin Dacus, Tucson Sahuaro,1998 (jr)
78.....Rod Denetso, Ganado, 1995
77.....Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)
77.....Mike Johnson, Parker, 1989
76.....Jason Birdsong, Glen. Cactus, 1989 (jr)
76.....Damian Segovia, Phx. Greenway, 1995
76.....Calvin Dacus, Sahuaro, 1998 (jr)
75.....Justin Taplin, Tempe, 1996
75.....Bristol Oluma, Ganado, 1996 (so)
74.....Tariq McDonald, Phx. St. Mary's, 1995

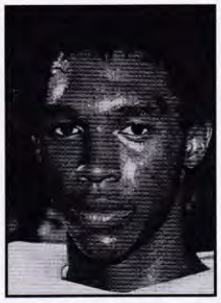
RECEPTIONS (CAREER)
185.....Bristol Olomua, Ganado/Red Mountain, ...1996-98
166.....Justin Taplin, Tempe, 1993-96
163.....Clifton Jones, Florence, 1994-96
158.....Glenn Posey, Sunnyside, 1984-86
152.....Mike Effing, Flowing Wells, 1980-82
149.....John Mistler, Tucson Sahuaro, 1974-76
149.....Bryan Marshall, Hopi/ .....Gila Bend, 1988-90
149.....Rod Denetso, Ganado, 1994-95
148.....Jason Birdsong, Cactus, 1988-90
142.....Caine Palone, San Pasqual, 1994-97
140.....George Ochoa, Douglas, 1978-79

RECEIVING YARDS (GAME)
325.....Clifton Jones, Florence, 1995 (jr)
321.....Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
318.....Bryan Marshall, Hopi, 1988 (so)
315.....Mark Marcos, Peoria Centennial, 1997
313.....Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
304.....Dennis Tate, Tucson, 1972
302.....Pete Klaass, Paradise Valley, 1983 (jr)
299.....Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988
296.....Larry Bandura, Scottsdale, 1971
292.....John Mistler, Tucson Sahuaro, 1975 (jr)

RECEIVING YARDS (SEASON)
1,760...Damian Segovia, Greenway, 1995
1,662...Jimmy Connor, Greenway, 1998
1,601...Clifton Jones, Florence, 1995 (jr)
1,492...Eric Drage, Tucson Santa Rita, 1988
1,471...Rod Denetso, Ganado, 1995
1,357...Rod Denetso, Ganado, 1994 (jr)
1,342...Mark Marcos, Peoria Centennial, 1997
1,298...Justin Taplin, Tempe, 1996
1,276...Mike Johnson, Parker, 1989
1,226...Mickey Hatcher, Mesa, 1973
1,222...John Mistler, Tucson Sahuaro, 1975 (jr)
1,220...Mike Funk, Hopi, 1988



Justin Taplin
Tempe



Billy Burris
Florence

1,216...Frankie Hernandez, Sunnyside, 1998
1,201...Jason Birdsong, Glendale Cactus, 1989

RECEIVING YARDS (CAREER)
3,333...Damian Segovia, Greenway, 1993-95
2,724...Justin Taplin, Tempe, 1993-96
2,626...Caine Palone, San Pasqual, 1994-97
2,613...Mike Effing, Flowing Wells, 1980-82
2,560...Clifton Jones, Florence, 1994-96

TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS (GAME)
5.....Dwight Bennett, Glendale, 1966
5.....George Krekelberg, Camp Verde, 1987
5.....Bristol Olomua, Red Mountain, 1998

TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS (SEASON)
23.....Jimmy Connor, Greenway, 1998
21.....Damian Segovia, Greenway, 1995
20.....Tariq McDonald, St. Mary's, 1995
18.....Bill Salzbrenner, Douglas, 1975
18.....Eric Drage, Tucson Santa Rita, 1988
18.....Clifton Jones, Florence, 1995 (jr)
17.....Tim Kohner, Phoenix Christian, 1994
17.....Rod Denetso, Ganado, 1994 (jr)
17.....Brian Poli-Dixon, Tucson Sabino, 1996
17.....David O'Hara, Phoenix Cortez, 1998

TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS (CAREER)
42.....Bristol Olomua, Ganado/Red Mountain, ...1996-98
35.....Damian Segovia, Greenway, 1993-95
33.....Caine Palone, San Pasqual, 1994-97
32.....David Tefteller, Phx. Christian, 1993-95
31.....Justin Taplin, Tempe, 1993-96
31.....Rod Denetso, Ganado, 1994-95
31.....Clifton Jones, Florence, 1994-96

INTERCEPTIONS (GAME)
5.....Dick Gwinn, Scottsdale Judson, 1964
5.....Mike Koza, Tucson Santa Rita, 1974
5.....Aaron Smith, Tucson Sabino, 1996

INTERCEPTIONS (SEASON)
18.....Rudy Quihuis, Tucson Pueblo, 1967
16.....Brandon Tomerlin, Superior, 1996 (so)
15.....Mike Vere, Phoenix Bourgade, 1972
14.....Mickey Bell, Glendale Cactus, 1979
14.....Andy Zwingle, Tucson Peoria, 1979
14.....Aaron Smith, Tucson Sabino, 1996
14.....Cory Lizarraga, Blue Ridge, 1997
13.....Shawn Benson, Mesa, 1981
13.....Scotty Malm, Phoenix Christian, 1986

INTERCEPTIONS (CAREER)
32.....Brandon Tomerlin, Superior, 1995-98
30.....Harold Smith, Florence, 1972-74
29.....Billy Burris, Florence, 1987-89
26.....Philip Echeverria, Buckeye, '85-87
25.....Rudy Quihuis, Tucson Pueblo, 1966-67
25.....David Moran, Bradshaw Mtn., 1992-95
24.....Jay Jones, Douglas, 1977-79
24.....Troy Gilliland, Parker, 1983-85
24.....Carlos Artis, Washington, 1988-90

FIELD GOALS (GAME)
5.....Jeremy Kelley, Mountain View, 1996

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, Mtn. View, 1994-96
29.....Jeff Black, Tucson Sahuaro, 1986-88
26.....Quin Rodriguez, Dobson, 1984-86
24.....Kyle Pooler, Glendale Cactus, 1987-89

LONGEST FIELD GOAL
62.....Kyle Pooler, Cactus, 1989
60.....Ramey Peru, Mesa Dobson, 1998
58.....Jim Sanson, St. Mary's, 1994 (jr)
57.....Bill Zivic, Tucson Palo Verde, 1977
57.....Jeff Black, Tucson Sahuaro, 1988
57.....Mike Johnson, Centennial, 1995
57.....Todd Purdin, Saguaro, 1995
57.....Todd Purdin, Scottsdale Saguaro, 1995
57.....Bryce Solberg, Flagstaff, 1997 (jr)

PATS (GAME)
12.....Alex Shores, Page, 1974 (jr)
11.....Ed Brooks, Phoenix Union, 1914
11.....Joey Mariscal, Florence, 1987

PATS (SEASON)
81.....Alan Bayze, Tucson Sabino, 1997
78.....Sergi Sausedo, Agua Fria, 1998 (jr)
70.....Cleveland Colter, Marana, 1968
70.....Don Gallardo, Cactus, 1994 (jr)
69.....Tony Camino, Peoria, 1987
66.....Cleveland Colter, Marana, 1967 (jr)
66.....Kyle Bell, McClintock, 1989

PATS (CAREER)
169.....Josh Lane, Phoenix Christian, 1994-97
142.....Kyle Pooler, Cactus, 1987-89
142.....Jim Sanson, St. Mary's, 1993-95
136.....Cleveland Colter, Marana, 1967-68

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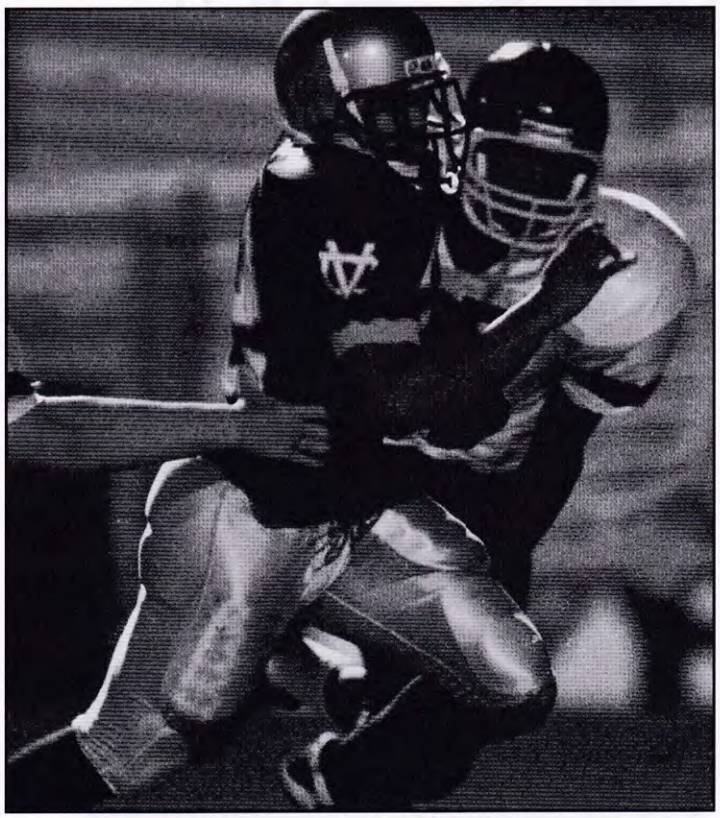
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Desert Vista back Bobby Wade (left), bound for the University of Arizona, and Glendale Apollo fullback Nick Mangosing (32), a Purdue signee, highlight a backfield which lit up scoreboards each Friday night.

Thunder's Wade Tops '98 Super All-State

By SAMMY WRIGHT

Versatile Bobby Wade and teammate John Rattay of defending 5A state champion Desert Vista took top billing in our Super All-State squad - the 28th such team picked since 1970. The list recognizes Arizona's best regardless of class, and has been regarded as the state's premier post season honor roll for years.

Player of the Year finalist included Wade, whose school landed the Vic Housholder Trophy because of his performance, Glendale Apollo's Nick Mangosing, Red Mountain's Bristol Olomua, Westview's Andrae Thurman, Superior's Brandon Tomerlin, Shadow Mountain's Shaun McDonald and Phoenix Cortez speedster Travis Gammage.

Rattay, one of the region's top recruits for '99, was the only junior on the offense. The slick throwing quarterback led the Thunder to the state finals by passing for a 5A record 3,094 yards and 36 touchdowns. The state record for touchdown passes in a single season (41) is held by current Arizona State quarterback Ryan Kealy. Wade, who scored the game winning touchdown on a 70 yard sprint in the 5A finals, rushed for 1,620 yards and found the goal line 41 times, another 5A record. So is his 246 single season points. The University of Arizona signee picked off 12 passes in the Thunder's secondary.

With Mangosing, a 6-5, 260-pounder, in the lineup, Apollo was 22-1 in two years. Illness kept him out of the Hawks' 37-21 playoff loss to Cortez last fall. In the past two years, "Big Nick" gained 2,517 yards on 325 carries, scored 51 touchdowns and signed with Purdue. Gammage, the state 4A Player of the Year at Cortez, burned opponents for 2,149 yards (best in the state), 34 touchdowns and 204 points.

Little Superior, a 2A school with less than 200 students, had three Division I prospects in its lineup and two landed at Arizona State. Anthony Aguilar (6-4, 295), a tight end on offense and a linebacker on defense, will continue his career with teammate Brandon Tomerlin, the Panthers gifted quarterback who managed to intercept a state record 32 passes as a safety.

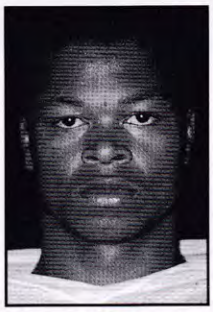
Two slick wideouts, Westview's Andrae Thurman (Arizona) and Red Mountain's Bristol Olomua (BYU) round out the receiving corps. Since transferring from Ganado, it was Olomua who drew all the attention. He set state career records for receptions (185) and touchdowns (42) at the two schools. Last fall he caught 47 passes for 805 yards and 15 TDs - five against Mesa Dobson.

Agua Fria's Alan Parker, Mingus Union's Nick Johnson, Mountain Pointe's Jeff Stanley, and Corona del Sol's Brandon Phillips and Marcus Venturo form an offensive line which could compete in any state. Although Johnson (6-8, 308) received all the pre-season attention, it was Phillips, a University of Arizona signee, who landed the Brian Murray Award, symbolic of the state's best interior lineman. Parker signed with Nevada, Johnson A-State.

The kicking game is solid, with Alhambra punter Marcos Moreno (45.7) and Dobson place kicker Ramey Peru



James Smith
Camelback



Travis Gammage
Cortez

simply the best. Peru, who will join Wade, Thurman and Phillips at Arizona, made seven of nine field goals (the two misses were blocked), including a school record 60-yarder against Mesa. Eighteen of his kickoffs reached the end zone.

Besides Tomerlin and Wade, the secondary features Phoenix Camelback star James Smith (Cal) and Mesa Mountain View safety Leo Christensen, a key defender on the best 5A defensive club in the state. Smith, playing on a 2-8 team, did more than his share in the secondary, then found time to rush for a school record 1,620 yards. His athletic ability showed in track, where his best time in the high hurdles (13.96) was the best in Arizona in eight years.

Brian Gaffney of Phoenix Brophy Prep, winner of the Larry Gordon Award, heads a tough group of linebackers, including Collen Blackburn of state 4A champ Tucson Sabino, and early-to-be Texas Longhorn Austin Sendlein of Scottsdale Chaparral, one of two juniors on the defense. Gaffney, bound for Stanford, played a big role in the Broncos march to the state finals.

With St. Mary's Chad Howell (A-State), Glendale Cactus' Norman Boebert (Michigan), Sabino's Joe Price and Mountain View's James Norman on the line, who needs linebackers?

If opposing teams kicked to this club, Shaun McDonald or Sammy Moore would burn them. Both are nationally ranked track stars. Five times McDonald, an ASU signee, scored on kick returns. His speed (10.55/21.48) was the talk of the spring. Moore, possibly the state's best all-around athlete, scored twice on punt returns and averaged 21.4 per try. He also averaged 23.4 yards on kickoff returns. His speed (10.63/21.75) and long jumping ability (24-4) make him a big time recruit.

During the '98 collegiate season, 160 former Arizona products dotted Division I-A rosters on football scholarships. This does not include players at the junior college level, NAIA teams, or smaller Division I schools such as NAU, which play quality football. More than half of the 160 players played high school football in the state's 4A ranks or below. Peoria High was the leader, with 11 former Panthers on major college rosters. Four schools were tied at seven: South Mountain, Tucson Sabino, Mesa Dobson and Mesa High. The Pac-10 was the conference leader (74), with the WAC a distant second (30). The University of Arizona continues to lead all schools with 23 scholarshiped Arizonans on its roster, followed by ASU (22), New Mexico (9), UCLA (7) and Oregon (7).

Two historic winning streaks came to and end last fall. In the 3A finals, Payson ended the state's all-time best string at 63 when the Longhorns beat Blue Ridge 29-20 in the state finals at Mesa Community College. Blue Ridge finished 11-1 on the season. In 5A, Brophy Prep ended Mountain View's 40 game unbeaten streak in the state semifinals, 10-3.

'98 Super All-State

OFFENSE

Pos.	Player/High School/Size	Head Coach
QB	John Rattay, Phoenix Desert Vista, 6-4, 192 (jr)	Jim Rattay
RB	Bobby Wade, Phoenix Desert Vista, 6-0, 190	Jim Rattay
RB	Nick Mangosing, Glendale Apollo, 6-5, 260	Gregg Parrish
RB	Travis Gammage, Phoenix Cortez, 5-11, 175	Rob Roberson
TE	Anthony Aguilar, Superior, 6-4, 295	Bryan Munoz
WR	Andrae Thurman, Tolleson Westview, 6-0, 175	George Martinez
WR	Bristol Olomua, Mesa Red Mountain, 6-4, 210	Jimmy Jones
OL	Alan Parker, Avondale Agua Fria, 6-5, 255	Mickey Bell
OL	Nick Johnson, Mingus Union, 6-8, 308	Mike Epperson
OL	Marcus Venturo, Tempe Corona del Sol, 6-2, 295	Gary Venturo
OL	Brandon Phillips, Tempe Corona del Sol, 6-7, 280	Gary Venturo
OL	Jeff Stanley, Tempe Mountain Pointe, 6-2, 255	Karl Kiefer
PK	Ramey Peru, Mesa Dobson, 6-1, 160	Mike Clark
P	Marcos Moreno, Phoenix Alhambra, 5-11, 195	Frank Lautt

DEFENSE

DB	Brandon Tomerlin, Superior, 6-2, 192	Bryan Munoz
DB	James Smith, Phoenix Camelback, 6-0, 177	Phillip Wooley
DB	Bobby Wade, Phoenix Desert Vista, 6-0, 190	Jim Rattay
DB	Leo Christensen, Mesa Mountain View, 6-3, 185	Bernie Busken
LB	Collen Blackburn, Tucson Sabino, 6-2, 230	Jeff Scurran
LB	Brian Gaffney, Phoenix Brophy Prep, 6-2, 225	Tim Sanford
LB	Austin Sendlein, Scottsdale Chaparral, 6-3, 235 (jr)	Ron Estabrook
DL	Norman Boebert, Glendale Cactus, 6-6, 251	Larry Fetkenhier
DL	Chad Howell, Phoenix St. Mary's, 6-4, 204	Pat Farrell
DL	Joe Price, Tucson Sabino, 6-2, 265	Jeff Scurran
DL	James Norman, Mesa Mountain View, 5-11, 210	Bernie Busken
RS	Shaun McDonald, Shadow Mountain, 5-9, 166	Harold Pigusch
RS	Sammy Moore, Mesa Westwood, 5-10, 166 (jr)	Bob Young

'98 STATE-WIDE AWARDS

5A Player of the Year
Bobby Wade, Desert Vista

4A Player of the Year
Travis Gammage, Cortez

3A Player of the Year
Hunter Walden, Payson

2A Player of the Year
Brandon Tomerlin, Superior

1A Player of the Year
Greg Mortensen, St. David

'98 All-State Teams

*CLASS 5A

Offense:

QB John Rattay, Tempe Desert Vista, 6-4, 192 (jr)
RB Bobby Wade, Tempe Desert Vista, 6-0, 190
RB James Smith, Phoenix Camelback, 6-0, 177
RB Kenny Clayton, Tempe Corona del Sol, 5-9, 165
TE Elton Johnson, Tempe Desert Vista, 5-11, 190 (jr)
WR Bristol Olomua, Mesa Red Mountain, 6-4, 210
WR Andrae Thurman, Tolleson Westview, 6-0, 175
OL Pat Walsh, Phoenix Brophy Prep, 6-4, 265
OL Marcus Venturo, Tempe Corona del Sol, 6-2, 295
OL Jeff Stanley, Tempe Mountain Pointe, 6-2, 255
OL Brandon Phillips, Tempe Corona del Sol, 6-7, 280
OL Joe Gilbert, Kingman, 6-3, 245
PK Ramey Peru, Mesa Dobson, 6-1, 190
P Marcos Moreno, Phoenix Alhambra, 5-11, 195

Defense:

DB Bobby Wade, Phoenix Desert Vista, 6-0, 190
DB James Smith, Phoenix Camelback, 6-0, 177
DB Leandre Lewis, Phoenix Trevor Browne, 5-10, 165
DB Leo Christensen, Mesa Mountain View, 6-3, 185
LB Brian Gaffney, Phoenix Brophy Prep, 6-2, 225
LB Mike Barth, Tempe Mountain Pointe, 6-0, 205
LB Mark Riggs, Mesa Mountain View, 6-3, 205
DL Chad Howell, Phoenix St. Mary's, 6-4, 204
DL Rasheen Rice, Phoenix Maryvale, 6-1, 271
DL James Norman, Mesa Mountain View, 5-11, 210
DL Justin Douglas, Mesa Mountain View, 6-3, 230
RS Shaun McDonald, Shadow Mountain, 5-9, 166
RS Sammy Moore, Mesa Westwood, 6-0, 175 (jr)

*CLASS 4A

Offense

QB Reggie Robertson, Tucson Sahuaro, 6-2, 175 (jr)
RB Nick Mangosing, Glendale Apollo, 6-5, 260
RB Travis Gammage, Phoenix Cortez, 5-11, 175
RB Pablo Henriquez, Tucson Catalina, 6-0, 210
TE Jason Johnson, Phoenix Thunderbird, 6-6, 210
WR Calvin Dacus, Tucson Sahuaro, 6-0, 165 (jr)
WR Jimmy Connor, Phoenix Greenway, 5-10, 150
OL Alan Parker, Avondale Agua Fria, 6-5, 255
OL Nick Johnson, Cottonwood Mingus Union, 6-8, 308
OL Jonah Bense, Flagstaff Sinagua, 6-4, 315
OL Josh Kemberling, Tucson Sabino, 6-2, 230
OL Alex Lazar, Scottsdale Chaparral, 6-0, 265 (jr)
K Bryce Solberg, Flagstaff, 6-0, 170

Defense

LB Collen Blackburn, Tucson Sabino, 6-2, 230
LB Austin Sendlein, Scottsdale Chaparral, 6-3, 235 (jr)
LB Tony Brunetti, Peoria, 6-0, 202
DL Joe Price, Tucson Sabino, 6-2, 265
DL Norman Boebert, Glendale Cactus, 6-6, 251
DL Jared Wolfgramm, Tempe Union, 6-5, 215 (jr)
DL Brian Dawson, Marana Mountain View, 6-2, 225
DB Travis Gammage, Phoenix Cortez, 5-11, 175
DB Robert Ramirez, Avondale Agua Fria, 6-0, 185
DB Santos Olague, Tucson Sabino, 5-10, 180
DB Clay Hardt, Marana, 6-1, 170
P Miles Mason, Tucson Sabino, 6-3, 200

CLASS 3A

Offense

QB Hunter Walden, Payson, 6-1, 180
RB Robert David, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 5-9, 170
RB Garrett, Johnson, Show Low, 6-2, 220
RB Julius Wortham, Arizona Boys Ranch, 5-11, 190
TE Marc Bennett, Payson, 6-2, 205
WR Lamar Slaughter, Coolidge, 6-4, 190
OL Stephen Frost, Show Low, 6-2, 225
OL Nathan Palmer, Coolidge, 6-1, 205
OL Ty Hulbert, Payson, 5-8, 185
OL Ricky Jones, Arizona Boys Ranch, 6-0, 220
OL Ben Stidham, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 5-10, 205
K Josh Barnhart, Payson, 5-10, 175

Defense

LB Travis Bell, Show Low, 6-0, 200
LB Brian Vozza, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 6-0, 190 (jr)
LB Jimbo Armstrong, Payson, 6-2, 200 (jr)
LB Matt Rodriguez, Eloy Santa Cruz, 6-0, 190
DL Tim Siquieros, Coolidge, 6-2, 210
DL Mike Barker, Payson, 6-2, 205
DL Jacob Belshe, St. Johns, 6-3, 246
DL Jeff Brown, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 6-4, 175
DB Lee Wheeler, Coolidge, 5-11, 175 (jr)
DB Chad Ashcroft, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 5-11, 150
DB Jeremy Hoff, Payson, 6-1, 175
DB Nate Jackson, Lakeside Blue Ridge, 5-10, 175

*CLASS 2A

Offense

QB Mark Tefteller, Phoenix Christian, 6-2, 180 (jr)
RB Eli Milstead, Phoenix Bourgade, 5-8, 172
RB Darren Spetz, Chandler Seton Catholic, 6-0, 180
RB Matt Allred, Willcox, 5-9, 180 (jr)
TE Anthony Aguilar, Superior, 6-5, 298
WR Rick Huisman, Phoenix Christian, 6-3, 180
WR Isaac Palomarez, Queen Creek, 6-3, 195
OL Jesse McDonald, Chandler Seton Catholic, 6-2, 275
OL Mark Johnson, Winterhaven San Pasqual, 6-5, 295
OL Dane Whitmer, Thatcher, 6-4, 240 (jr)
OL Billy Curtis, Morenci, 6-3, 235
OL Peter Rhee, Chandler Seton Catholic, 6-0, 205
K Phillip Alva, Thatcher, 5-9, 170 (jr)

Defense

LB Steve Alder, Pima, 6-0, 175
LB Danny Padilla, Superior, 6-2, 237 (jr)
LB Anthony Tassotti, Chandler Seton Catholic, 6-3, 220
DL Mark Johnson, Winterhaven San Pasqual, 6-5, 295
DL Jared Merkley, Queen Creek, 5-9, 180
DL Anthony Aguilar, Superior, 6-5, 298
DL Jesse McDonald, Chandler Seton Catholic, 6-2, 275
DB Brandon Tomerlin, Superior, 6-2, 182
DB Jake Wright, Northwest Community Christian, 5-11, 173
DB Ethan Estes, Thatcher, 6-0, 175
DB Bobby Lorona, Winkelman Hayden, 6-0, 160
RS Brandon Tomerlin, Superior, 6-2, 182

Selected annually by the editors and staff of **Arizona Football Magzine, Barry Sollenberger, Publisher.*

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'99 Sun Devil Stadium Schedule

Aug. 20 .....Cards vs Tennessee
Sept. 3.....Cards vs Oakland
Sept. 6.....Devils vs Texas Tech
Sept. 18.....Devils vs New Mexico St.
Sept. 27.....Cards vs San Francisco
Oct. 2 .....Devils vs UCLA
Oct. 10 .....Cards vs New York Giants
Oct. 17 .....Cards vs Washington
Oct. 23 .....Devils vs Washington State
Oct. 31 .....Cards vs New England
Nov. 13 .....Devils vs Stanford
Nov. 14 .....Cards vs Detroit
Nov. 21 .....Cards vs Dallas
Nov. 27 .....Devils vs Arizona
Dec. 5.....Cards vs Philadelphia
Dec. 11.....A.I.A. Class 4A & 5A
.....High School Finals (DH)
Dec. 19.....Cards vs Buffalo

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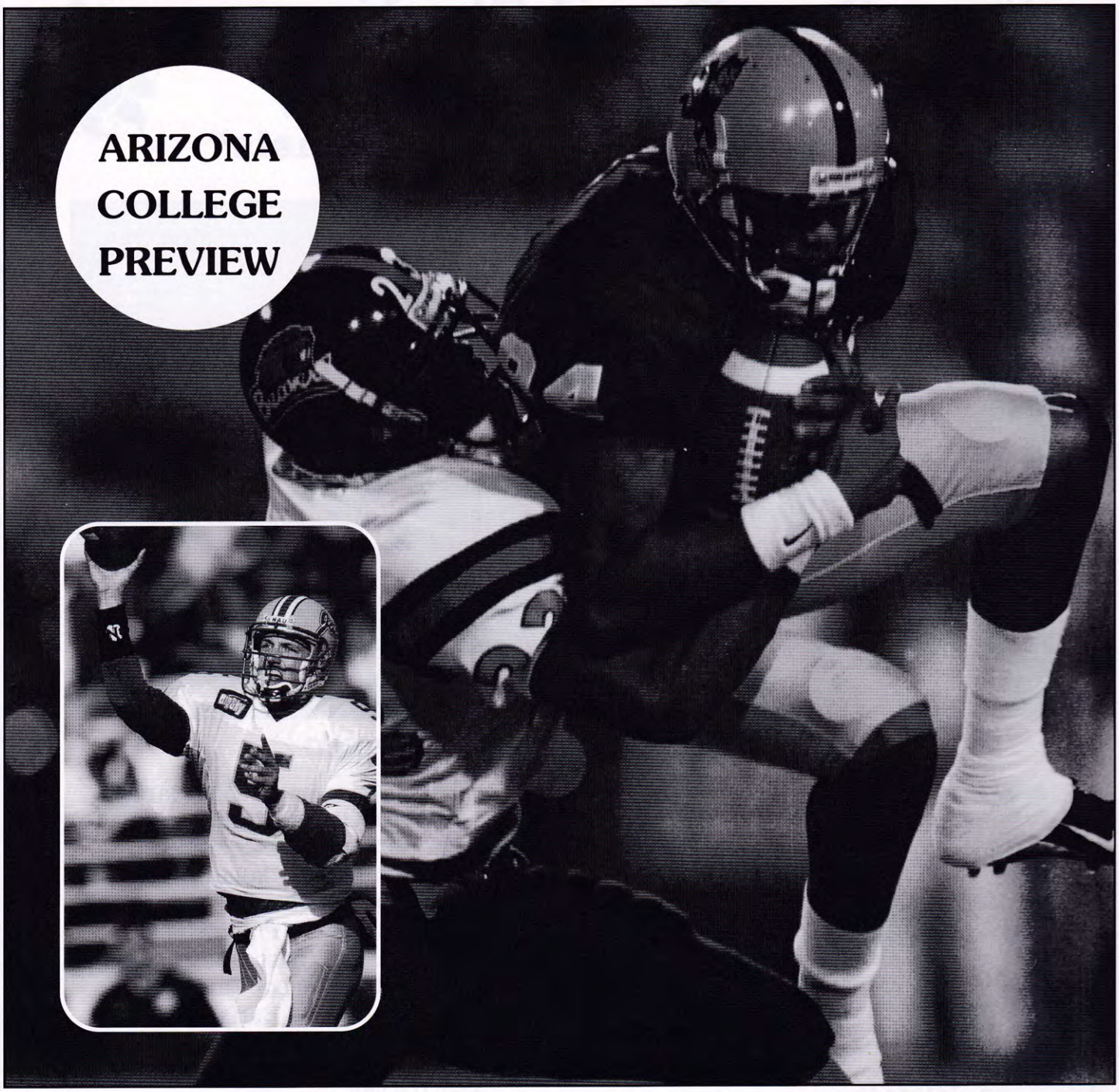
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ARIZONA COLLEGE PREVIEW



Lumberjack quarterback Travis Brown (Moon Valley) and Arizona State wide receiver Tariq McDonald (Phoenix St. Mary's) are just two of many former Arizona products in the college ranks today (Rick D'Elia photo).

By Joseph B. Sollenberger

Call it the Year of the Tailback.

For the first time in recent memory, Arizona, Arizona State and Northern Arizona will all feature high-caliber, top-flight backs this fall.

Barring injury, all three backs – UofA's Trung Canidate, ASU's J.R. Redmond and NAU's Ronney Jenkins – should rush for more than 1,000 yards. Canidate and Redmond are Heisman Trophy candidates.

All eyes are on Canidate (5-11, 199), who burst on to the national scene last year, rushing for 1,321 yards and a nation-leading 7.3 yards per carry. He helped lead the Wildcats to a school-best 12-1 season and a No. 4 finish in both wire-service polls. He is the linchpin of an Arizona team that returns 16 starters and is expected to contend for the national championship.

Redmond (6-0, 210) rushed for 883 yards last season despite missing two games with an ankle injury and playing three others at less-than-full strength. He was still selected to the Associated Press all-American second team as an all-purpose player after averaging 155.8 yards

per game. His health will be crucial as the Sun Devils attempt to bounce back from a disappointing 5-6 campaign. Both Canidate and Redmond are seniors.

ASU fans should remember Jenkins (5-11, 175). As a sophomore at Brigham Young last season, he tore up the Devils for 171 yards rushing in a 26-6 BYU win. For the season he rushed for 1,307 yards, but then he was kicked out of school for disciplinary reasons. He transferred to NAU and now anchors a squad that returns 17 starters from a 6-5 team.

ARIZONA

Optimism for a banner season has never been higher in Tucson.

In addition to Canidate, coach Dick Tomey welcomes back six starters on offense, including senior quarterback Keith Smith (5-11, 202). Junior signal-caller Ortege Jenkins (6-2, 224), who started four games last year, also returns. With these two behind center, Arizona has perhaps the nation's best quarterback situation.

Last season, Smith set a Pac-10 record for passing efficiency (174.17), completing 113 of 165 attempts for 13 touchdowns and seven interceptions.

In 1997, Jenkins set a Pac-10 freshman record with 19 touchdown tosses. Last season he threw just five, but his fall was not void of highlights. He executed perhaps college football's "play of the year" when he did a 360-degree flip, somersaulting into the end zone against Washington for a touchdown with :04 left, giving Arizona a dramatic 31-28 win in Seattle.

He and Smith will split time for the third straight season.

The Wildcats' offensive attack does not end with the quarterbacks and Canidate. Senior wide receiver Dennis Northcutt (5-11, 172) needs 19 receptions to become the school's all-time leader. On the offensive line, senior tackle Manu Savea (6-2, 296), sophomore guard Steven Grace (6-2, 275), junior center Bruce Wiggins (6-3, 275) and junior tight end Brandon Manumaleuna (6-2, 286) are all returning starters.

Defensively, the Wildcats must overcome the loss of all-American cornerback/return man Chris McAlister who picked off five passes (one for a touchdown) and also returned a kickoff and a punt for scores. Still, with nine defensive starters back, Tomey is confident.

"We could have a better defense because everyone else is better, more experienced and more effective," Tomey says. "We feel like we could be a better defensive team this year."

Senior linebackers Marcus Bell (6-2, 231) and DaShon Polk (6-2, 230) are the defensive anchors. Bell, from St. John's High School, was a 1998 first-team all-Pac-10 selection after registering 139 tackles, including 83 solo. He also broke up six passes, forced two fumbles, recovered another, and led Arizona with 14 tackles for losses. Polk was a second-team all-Pac-10 pick after making 56 tackles, including 4.5 sacks.

The Wildcats return seven other defensive starters: junior defensive ends Joe Tafoya (6-4, 260) and Mike Robertson (6-2, 230), senior safeties Greg Payne (5-10, 192) and Rafell Jones (5-10, 193), senior cornerback Kelvin Hunter (5-9, 169), sophomore defensive tackle Keoni Fraser (6-0, 287) and senior linebacker Scooter Sprotte (5-11, 221).

The early schedule isn't favorable. The Wildcats face a major test Aug. 28 at Penn State in the Pigskin Classic, before heading to Fort Worth, Texas, to play Texas Christian. They also travel to Pasadena for a date with UCLA (Oct. 30) and to Tempe to meet ASU (Nov. 27). USC (Oct. 9) and Washington (Nov. 6) visit Tucson.

ARIZONA STATE

For the Devils, Monday, Sept. 6 can't come soon enough. On that date, they meet Texas Tech in the season opener and start making amends for last season's 5-6 debacle. At least, that is their plan.

A year ago, the Devils were a preseason top-10 pick and dreamed of playing in the Fiesta Bowl. They instead stumbled to an 0-2 start en route to a bowl-less season. "I don't believe in making excuses," Snyder says. "Last year there was all this hype about how good everybody was. We are not interested in that this year. What we have to do right now is find out who we are."

Snyder has brought in 13 junior-college transfers, a total exceeded only by San Jose State (15) among Division 1-A programs, to provide depth on both sides of the ball.

Offensively, the Sun Devils were potent last year, and they should be again with seven starters returning. Like Redmond, junior quarterback Ryan Kealy (6-2, 200) is a top-honors candidate. Kealy suffered through an injury-plagued, inconsistent sophomore campaign, but he ended on a high note, shredding Arizona for 511 yards and four touchdowns in a 50-42 loss. For the season, he completed 57.5 percent of his passes for 2,161 yards with 19 touchdowns and nine interceptions.

"When Ryan is out there having fun and not having to worry about so many things is when we are most successful," ASU offensive coordinator Dan Cozzetto said. "We as a coaching staff have to take a look at what we are asking him to do and make sure we are featuring what he does best."

Unfortunately, Kealy will be throwing to inexperienced targets. The Sun Devils lost their top three wide receivers who combined for 77 percent of the team's receptions. Still, junior Tariq McDonald (6-1, 180), who caught 28 passes last season and also teamed with Kealy at Phoenix St. Mary's, returns.

"I am looking for Tariq McDonald to have a great year," Cozzetto says. "I consider Tariq one of the best receivers in the Pac-10. When Tariq is in the game, he always knows exactly where Ryan is going to go with the ball. It reminds me of how Jake (Plummer) was with Keith (Poole)."

Sophomore flanker Justin Taplin (6-0, 180), who flashed promise last year as a return man, could start, as could sophomore tight end Todd Heap (6-5, 225). Juniors Marvel Smith (6-6, 305) and Victor Leyva (6-4, 300), and senior Thomas Schmidt (6-6, 305) anchor the offensive line.

Defense, or lack of it, was a problem for ASU last season. It remains a concern: The Sun Devils return just four starters from a unit that surrendered 30.7 points per game.

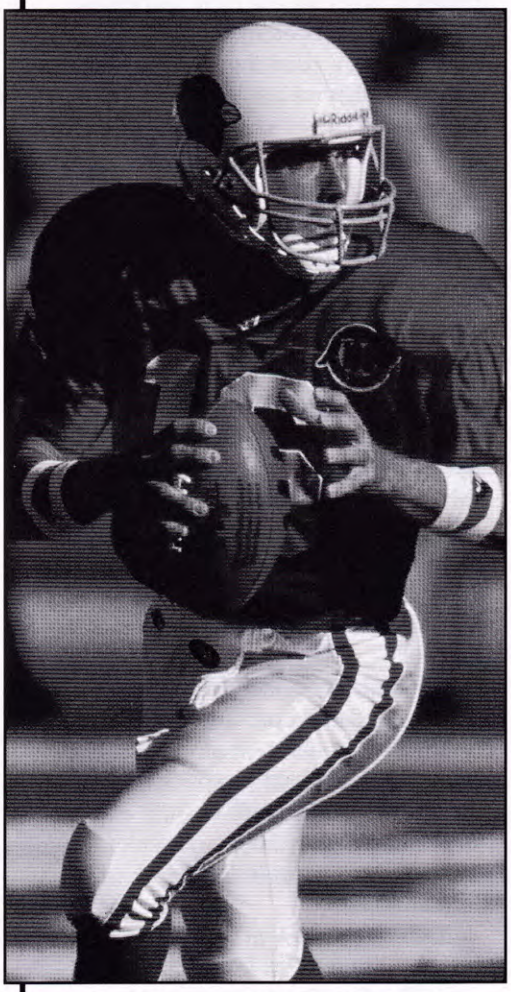
Big seasons are expected from senior cornerback Courtney Jackson (6-1, 190) and senior rush-end Erik Flowers (6-4, 248). Junior linebacker Adam Archuleta (6-0, 208), sophomore linebacker Eric Fields (6-3, 225), senior tackle Junior Ioane (6-4, 304) and sophomore safety Willie Daniel (6-0, 209) also return.

The schedule isn't kind. The Devils open at home against the Red Raiders, face a grueling October three-game

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STEVE BUSH .....Cincinnati Bengals
DAVID DIXON.....Minnesota Vikings
ERIC GULIFORD .....New Orleans Saints
PAUL JUSTIN .....Cincinnati Bengals
JASON KYLE.....Seattle Seahawks
RANDALL McDANIEL..Minnesota Vikings
KYLE MURPHY.....Oakland Raiders
CRAIG NEWSOME....Green Bay Packers
ANTHONY PARKER .....Tampa Bay Bucs
JEFF PAULK.....Atlanta Falcons
JAKE PLUMMER .....Arizona Cardinals
KEITH POOLE.....New Orleans Saints
DAMIEN RICHARDSON...Carol. Panthers
DERRICK RODGERS.....Miami Dolphins
JUAN ROQUE.....Detroit Lions
GREY RUEGAMER.....Miami Dolphins
DAN SALEAUMUA.....Seattle Seahawks
JASSON SIMMONS.....Pittsburgh Steelers
DEREK SMITH .....Washington Redskins
PHILLIPPI SPARKS.....New York Giants
JEREMY STAAT.....Pittsburgh Steelers
ISRAEL STANLEY.....New Orleans Saints
SHAWN SWAYDA .....Atlanta Falcons
J.T. THOMAS .....St. Louis Rams
PAT TILLMAN.....Arizona Cardinals
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stretch (UCLA, at Notre Dame, at Washington), travel to Oregon and USC on successive weeks, and face Arizona in the season finale in Tempe.

NORTHERN ARIZONA

NAU coach Jerome Souers is breathing much easier these days.

Before last season, Souers' first in Flagstaff, the Lumberjacks took the field for spring ball with only 44 players in uniform, including walk-ons after a senior-dominated team went 6-5 in 1997. A disastrous seemed likely.

But somehow, someway, Souers' squad scratched and clawed its way to another 6-5 season, winning its final two games, overcoming a mid-season three-game slide. "We went through some adversity during the middle of last season for various reasons," Souers said. "The kids persevered through that, and finishing the season on an up note certainly signified a sense of development and accomplishment."

With 17 starters returning plus Ronney Jenkins' addition, optimism is high.

"The players know each other better, and they know the staff," Souers said. "We all have a better understanding of the expectations we can place on our players, and the team knows what we expect of them. We have more bodies and more experience."

Senior quarterback Travis Brown (6-4, 210), from Phoenix Moon Valley, is a three-year starter and has thrown a touchdown pass in 26 of his 30 games. Junior wide receiver Francis St. Paul (5-9, 175) scored seven touchdowns and averaged 16.7 yards per grab last season.

On the offensive line, junior center Jake Petersen (6-3, 290), sophomore tackles Eric Damko (6-6, 285) and Robert Haws (6-7, 302), and sophomore guard Nick Yerton (6-3, 290) are returning starters.

Senior linebacker Afa Faraimo (5-11, 195), a first-team all-Big Sky pick, anchors the defense. Senior defensive tackle Derek Allen (6-4, 265) and senior linebacker Jake Crissup (5-10, 215) garnered second-team all-conference honors. Junior safety Raymond Perryman (6-0, 200) also returns. Unfortunately for the Lumberjacks, six of their 11 games are on the road, including dates at Cal-State Sacramento and at Cal-State Northridge.

UofA PLAYERS FROM ARIZONA HIGH SCHOOLS

Player	Yr.	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	High School (City)
Alex Roseman	So.	PK	5-9	175	Sabino (Tucson)
Scooter Sprotte	Sr.	LB	5-11	219	Blue Ridge (Lakeside)
Orlando Rodriguez	Fr.	PK	5-10	190	Sunnyside (Tucson)
Chris Olsen	So.	QB	6-1	195	Dobson (Mesa)
Trevor Wilde	Jr.	LB	5-10	212	Horizon (Scottsdale)
Trung Canidate	Sr.	RB	5-11	199	Central (Phoenix)
Vernon Holmes, Jr.	Fr.	LB	6-3	215	Agua Fria (Avondale)
James Hinrichs	Sr.	DB	5-8	171	Palo Verde (Tucson)
Marcus Bell	Sr.	LB	6-2	231	St. Johns (St. Johns)
John Denny	Fr.	LB	6-3	200	Cholla (Tucson)
Michael Johnson	Sr.	K	5-11	223	Centennial (Peoria)
Scott McKee	Fr.	LB	6-3	195	Sabino (Tucson)
Chris Cutler	Fr.	DL	6-0	225	Sahuarita (Sahuarita)
Adrian Koch	Jr.	LB	5-8	212	Desert View (Tucson)
Tom Edwards	So.	LB	6-0	219	Sahuaro (Tucson)
D.J. Vasquez	Sr.	DL	5-11	220	Horizon (Phoenix)
Matt Gorczyca	Jr.	LB	5-10	220	Sabino (Tucson)
David Floyd	Jr.	OL	6-3	270	Centennial (Peoria)
Joshua Camarena	Jr.	DL	6-1	270	Tucson (Tucson)
Bryan Kula	So.	OL	6-2	314	Brophy Prep (Phoenix)
Robert Ramsey	Fr.	OL	6-4	253	Flagstaff (Flagstaff)
Darren Safranek	Fr.	OL	6-7	256	Catalina Foothills (Tucson)
Michael Hairgrove	Fr.	WR	6-2	198	Flowing Wells (Tucson)
Nate Campbell	Jr.	C	6-2	205	Canyon Del Oro (Tucson)
Eli Wnek	So.	DL	6-2	240	Ironwood (Glendale)
Aaron Huisman	Fr.	LB	6-3	214	Phoenix Christian (Phoenix)
Austin Bates	Fr.	WR	6-1	193	Catalina Foothills (Tucson)
Andrae Thurman	Fr.	WR	6-0	170	Westview (Avondale)
Bobby Wade	Fr.	RB	6-0	190	Desert Vista (Phoenix)
Brandon Phillips	Fr.	DL	6-6	270	Corona del Sol (Tempe)
Clay Hardt	Fr.	DB	6-1	170	Marana (Marana)
Matt Perry	Fr.	DL	6-2	270	Gilbert (Gilbert)
Matt Molina	Fr.	LB	6-2	215	Chaparral (Scottsdale)
Pablo Henriquez	Fr.	RB	6-0	210	Catalina (Tucson)

ASU PLAYERS FROM ARIZONA HIGH SCHOOLS

Player	Yr.	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	High School (City)
Tony Aguilar	Fr.	DL	6-4	300	Superior (Superior)
Mike Aguirre	Jr.	WR	5-11	200	Mountain View (Mesa)
Josh Amobi	Fr.	LB	6-2	210	Shadow Mountain (Phoenix)
Adam Archuleta	Jr.	LB	6-0	208	Chandler (Chandler)
Mike Barth	Fr.	DB/K	6-0	205	M. Pointe (Ahwatukee)
Willie Daniel	So.	DB	6-0	209	St. Mary's (Phoenix)
Ryan Delnoce	Jr.	OL	6-2	264	Arcadia (Scottsdale)
Roderick Denetso	Jr.	WR	5-8	190	Ganado (Ganado)
Brandon Falkner	Fr.	DB	6-0	195	Peoria (Peoria)
Tyree Gillespie	So.	WR	6-3	200	Cactus (Phoenix)
Griffin Goodman	Jr.	QB	6-1	185	Mountain View (Mesa)
Joey Graves	Fr.	WR	6-1	191	Casa Grande (Casa Grande)
Gerald Green	Sr.	RB	5-9	190	Mesa (Mesa)
Todd Heap	So.	TE	6-5	225	Mountain View (Mesa)
Matt Hendricks	Fr.	OL	6-0	250	Corona del Sol (Tempe)
Evan Hickson	Fr.	DL	6-1	230	Mountain View (Mesa)
Chad Howell	Fr.	DL	6-5	215	St. Mary's (Phoenix)
Josiah Igono	Fr.	DB	5-9	175	Tempe (Tempe)
Brian Jennings	Sr.	TE	6-5	230	Red Mountain (Mesa)
Nick Johnson	Fr.	OL	6-8	315	Mingus Union (Cottonwood)
Clifton Jones	Jr.	WR	6-2	183	Florence (Florence)
Kyran Jones	Fr.	TB	6-0	170	Peoria (Peoria)
Levi Jones	So.	OL	6-6	290	Santa Cruz (Eloy)
Ryan Kealy	Jr.	QB	6-2	200	St. Mary's (Phoenix)
Kyle Kosier	So.	OL	6-6	258	Cactus (Glendale)
Shaun McDonald	Fr.	WR	5-9	170	Shadow Mountain (Phoenix)
Tariq McDonald	Jr.	WR	6-1	180	St. Mary's (Phoenix)
Jason Moore	Sr.	TE	6-6	235	Horizon (Scottsdale)
Marquise Muldrow	Jr.	OL	6-4	304	Maryvale (Phoenix)
Nick Murphy	So.	P	6-1	190	Desert Mountain (Scottsdale)
Damien Niko	Fr.	OL	6-5	295	Mountain View (Mesa)
Jerry Schwartzberg	Fr.	RB	5-10	195	Chaparral (Scottsdale)
Justin Taplin	So.	WR	6-0	180	Tempe (Tempe)
Brandon Tomerlin	Fr.	DB	6-2	200	Superior (Superior)
Stephen Trejo	Sr.	LB	6-3	255	Casa Grande (Casa Grande)
Patrick Wilson	Fr.	DB	5-10	190	Ironwood (Glendale)
Quincy Yancy	Sr.	DL	6-8	245	Ironwood (Glendale)

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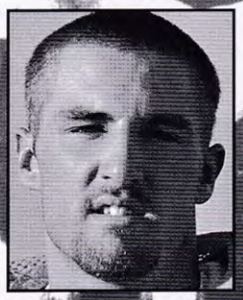
HONORING ARIZONA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL LINEBACKER



Riki Gray
Amphi



Jeff Johnson
Peoria



Steve Trejo
Casa Grande



Randy Hakes
Arcadia



Jim Sprotte
Blue Ridge

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 .. Charles Matthews, Eloy Santa Cruz
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)
1975 .. Alan Edwards, Morenci
1974 .. Roark Shirley, Tempe Marcos de Niza
1973 .. Richard Rucker, Canyon del Oro
1972 .. Tim Peterson, Ajo
1971 .. Larry Gordon, Phoenix Union

1970 .. Bob Breunig, Phoenix Alhambra
1969 .. Bill Crowe, Tempe McClintock (jr)
1968 .. Larry Delbridge, Coolidge
1967 .. Jeff Quinn, Mesa Westwood
1966 .. Jay Ray Rokey, Mesa Westwood
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
1958 .. Sam King, Mesa
1957 .. Art Acosta, Tucson
1956 .. Floyd Smith, Phoenix Union

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Junior College Preview

By JEFF KRIDER

Last season was a good one for **Arizona Western**. The Matadors (7-4) won seven games, the ACCAC, finished the regular season ranked 15th in the nation, and played in the Empire State Bowl in New York City. Although the season ended with a thud, a 30-6 loss to Nassau Community College, Bob O'Mera was the state coach of the year, and seven Matadors were selected to the ACCAC all-region team.

"We want to be better and our team has worked hard this off-season to prepare themselves," says O'Mera, who has had coaching stops in Kansas and Idaho. "Like all junior college teams we must rely heavily on freshmen. We have a good nucleus returning and we had an excellent recruiting year, but we won't know how good we are until fall practice starts."

The key player is halfback Vishone Kennion (6-0, 195, 4.5), an all-region pick who went down with an injury on his first carry in the Empire State Bowl. Defensive back Malcom Moore (5-11, 175), another burner, and offensive tackle Joe Stevenson (6-4, 290) are D-1 prospects. Little Artie Martinez was an all-region kicker. Andy Andrist (6-0, 255) and Kent Rambo (6-2, 335) join Stevenson on the line, so the ground game is set. In the Matadors' spread option, they'll be blocking for running backs Jeremy Alls (6-2, 210) and Zeke Moreno (5-11, 230). The staff is happy with Jerome Furnace (6-0, 225) and Anthony Stevenson (6-0, 220) at linebacker. Rudy Montijo (6-3, 210) starts at strong safety. Dusty Alexander (6-2, 305) and Eltoro Smith (6-2, 260) anchor the defensive front.

Strong recruiting gives **Mesa** a promising look, also. The returning class, with 15 starters, isn't bad either. The Thunderbirds, 7-4 after a 17-14 loss to Garden City in the Valley of the Sun Bowl, have three of the region's best players in running backs Louis Hinchey (5-9, 195) and Justin Frisk (5-9, 210), along with offensive tackle Travis Scott (6-6, 290). Hinchey, with 4.5 speed, gained 902 yards on 144 carries. The 'Birds are solid at tackle, with the likes of Scott, Bryan Saveilo (6-4, 265), Tony Damiani (6-4, 275) and Juan Parra (6-5, 290) in the lineup. Incoming quarterbacks Jon Roberts (Casa Grande) and Mike Strack (Peoria Centennial) will have some speedy wideouts to throw to, including Shawn Broadus and Travis McNichols.

Defensively, two key transfers, both linebackers, should help right away. Former Mesa all-stater Scott Fuller (6-3, 230) and Arcadia standout Joe Young (6-2, 240) are back in the picture.

Mesa's future, with an outstanding recruiting class, looks good. "My gut feeling is this is the best recruiting class I've had since I've been here," says Rice, on the eve of his eighth season. Among the key recruits are former Mountain View linebacker Tyler Wheeler, who is returning from a church mission, McClintock center Mickey Mahlmeister, Mountain Pointe tight end Chris Ensminger, Coronado linebacker Mike Renfro, Arcadia lineman John Harvey, Santa Rita quarterback Donnie Bunyon, Superior tackle Jerry Young and Mesa linebacker Tyler Johansen.

The Valley of the Sun Bowl pits the Maricopa County school with the best record in the Western States Football League against an out-of-state invite. Kansas schools have made more than their share of trips lately. Mesa and Glendale have made a habit of it also.

Last year, good play by the opponents and the injury bug brought **Glendale** to a 5-5 finish, but Mike Grossner's squad should bounce back. Still, the Gauchos were one missed field goal from a bowl game. "We should be strong on defense, with nine returning players," says Grossner. "We will be young but talented on offense."

No doubt about it, GCC has three of the better players in the region in defensive end Adrian Watson (6-3, 245), linebacker Steve Rangel (6-4, 240) and cornerback Robert Canidate (5-8, 180), brother of Heisman candidate Trung, a running back at the University of Arizona. Free safety Josh Pearson (5-11, 195), a decathlon star in the spring, is a big time hitter. Strong safety Seth McKinnon (6-0, 205) was the team's second leading tackler. Wideout TyJuan Swasey (6-1, 210), a transfer from Scottsdale, was a prep star at Phoenix Carl Hayden and could be a standout. Frosh receiver Rashaun Ross (6-0, 180) was the state 5A sprint champ (10.54/21.04).

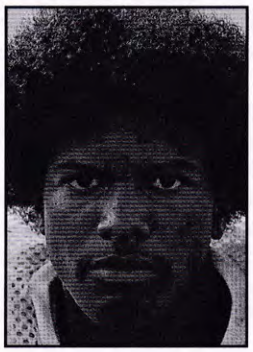
More than 30 players return at **Eastern**, where the Gila Monsters struggled through a 3-7 campaign. As usual, the skill positions look strong. Wideouts Eric Moody and Jay Sharp caught more than 50 passes each. Casey Faulkner (6-4, 250) and Josh Necas (6-4, 235) are good targets at tight end. Mini-back Trey Alexander (5-6, 175) gained 593 yards and scored six times. But the key position will be quarterback, since all-region pick Griffin Goodman moved to the Pac-10 and Arizona State.

No school in the ACCAC returns as many lettermen as **Scottsdale**, where Ken Giovando could greet as many as 47 in August. Among the group of incoming frosh a quarterback needs to step forward. That's a must. Both sides of the line look solid. Tony Camp (6-3, 290) is one of the region's best offensive linemen. Ken Welch (6-8, 275) might be the biggest tight end in junior college football. Clint Elsworth (6-4, 260), Joe DiMarco (6-0, 250) and Steve Sylvester (6-3, 245) give the Artichokes (2-8) a strong defensive front. Bryan Lindsay (6-1, 215) is a solid linebacker. The secondary is tough, with Brian Clark, Joe Pastore, George Pastore and Reggie Neal set to go. All four can fly. The running game rest on the shoulders of Stephen Neal and Justin Neilson, with Khalid Meals a speedy wideout. Nick Murphy handles the kicking.

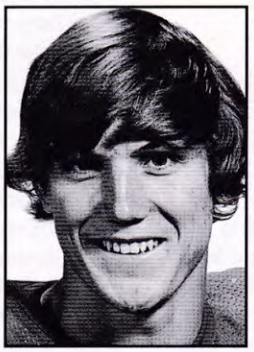
Gary Cook, a former assistant at **Phoenix College**, is now the Bears' new coach, replacing John Allen after a 1-9 finish. The once proud football power has gone 5-33 over four years, so improvement is the name of the game. The Bears have good depth, especially at tight end. "If we get major contribution from the freshmen class, especially on the line and at wide receiver, we'll be better," claims Cook. "We will throw the ball well."

The passing game starts at quarterback, and Phoenix has a dandy, former South Mountain all-stater Richard Lucero (6-2, 195). The 1997 winner of the Fred Enke Award, given to the state's best high school quarterback, has two studs at tight end in Kevin McGann (6-3, 235) and Scott Asai (6-4, 245), two potential D-1 prospects. Big Mike Harris (6-2, 325) will anchor the Bears' young line. The rest of the offense will be filled with freshmen. Phoenix looks sound at linebacker, with Shane Johnson (6-2, 215) and Ryan West (6-3, 245) ready to go. Ryan Bakke (6-2, 245) is set at defensive end. Robert Gray and Jamarei Bryant, both with 4.5 speed, start on the corners.

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Ryan Kealy
St. Mary's

HONORING ARIZONA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL QUARTERBACK

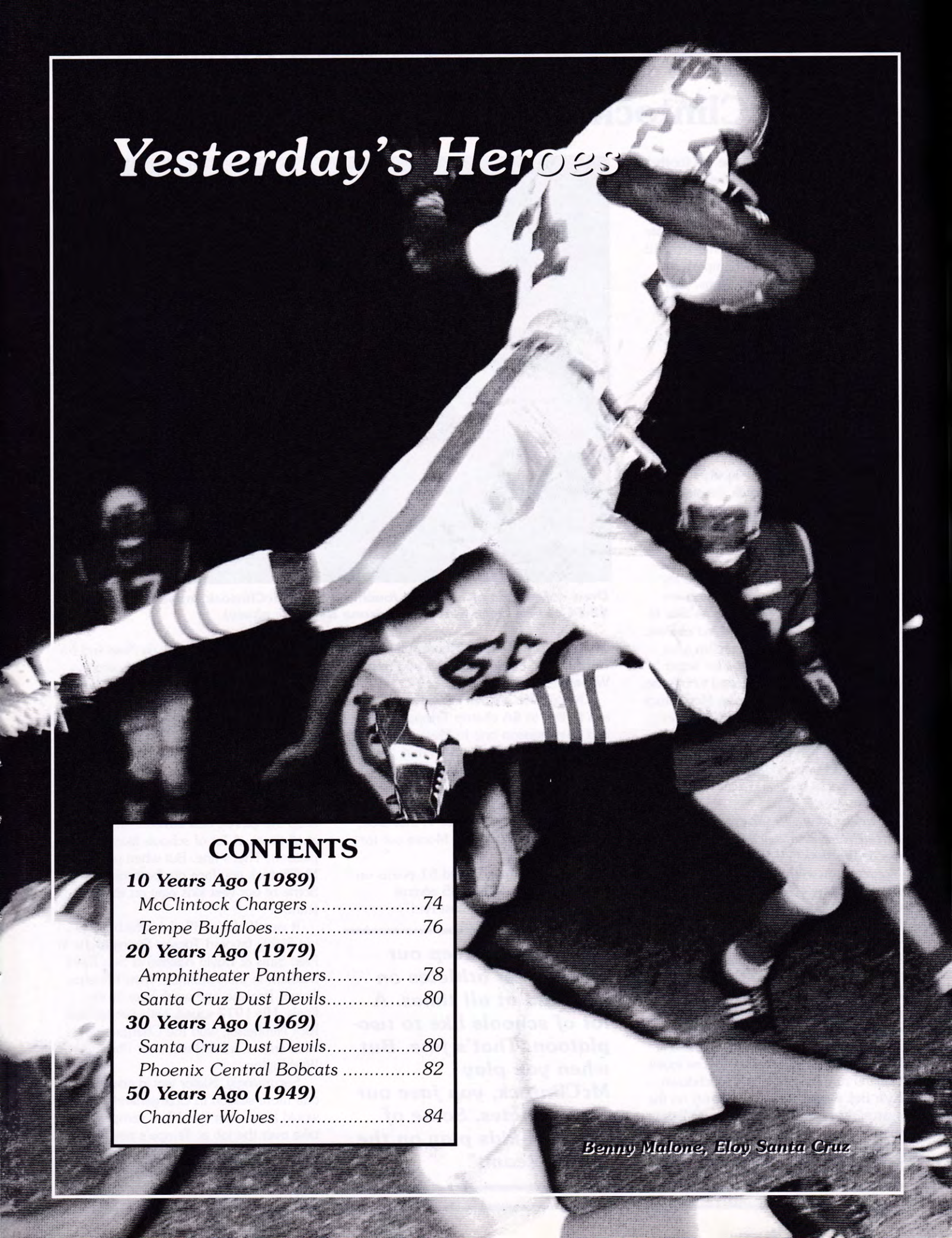
1998 ..... John Rattay, Tempe Desert Vista (jr)
1997 ..... Richard Lucero, South Mountain
1996 ..... Todd Mortensen, Tempe
1995 ..... Ryan Kealy, Phoenix St. Mary's
1994 ..... Chris Snyder, Sunnyslope
1993 ..... Jason Maas, Yuma
1992 ..... Jason Verdugo, Tucson Canyon del Oro
1991 ..... Anthony Sanders, 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 ..... Mark Whipple, Phoenix Camelback
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 ..... Carlos Rodriguez, Morenci
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
1948 ..... Don Ahee, Tucson
1947 ..... Dan Russell, Mesa

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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Yesterday's Heroes



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Phoenix Central Bobcats *82*

50 Years Ago (1949)

Chandler Wolves *84*

Benny Malone, Eloy Santa Cruz

10 years ago (1989)

McClintock, Drew Simply the Best

Ten years ago this fall the 5A football season belonged to Brian Drew and his speedy band of McClintock Chargers. In more ways than one.

The most important was the 5A state championship, won by the Chargers, 42-14 over defending state champ Mesa Westwood. Exactly 16,352 fans, plus a city-wide TV audience, watched a mismatch.

Drew was the man of the hour. His record-setting performance at tailback and the Chargers' staunch defense overwhelmed the Warriors. The 5-9, 180-pound senior - later the state player of the year - rushed for a 5A title game record 215 yards on 24 carries and scored three touchdowns.

All of his scores came in the second half, enabling him to break the state record for TDs in a single season with 38. The previous record (37) was set in 1965 by Art Malone, a legendary back from Santa Cruz High in Eloy.

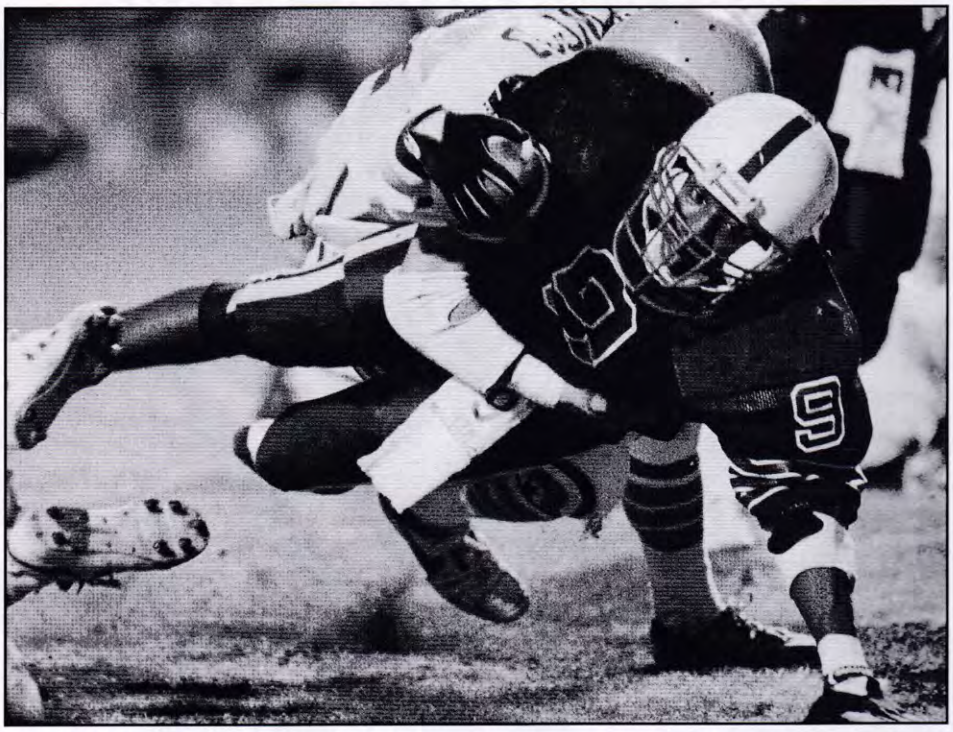
"It feels great," said Drew, who finished the season with 1,668 yards on 239 carries. "I didn't think I'd be able to do it because we started off kind of slow. In the second half, I loosened up a lot more and the line blocked a lot better."

Drew's night wasn't limited to offense. He intercepted two passes as McClintock (13-2) forced four turnovers, two interceptions and two fumbles. "It sure helps to have guys like Drew," McClintock coach Karl Kiefer added. "He's one of our best backs ever, and we've had a lot of great ones."

"Brian Drew was the difference," agreed Westwood coach Jerry Loper, whose Warriors (11-3) had beaten Mountain View in the 5A finals on the same field one year earlier. "Without him or with another person in there, we might have had a whole lot better chance of winning. He made the big plays on both sides of the ball. He was sensational."

But McClintock wasn't all Brian Drew. Its defense set the tone early, on the second play from scrimmage. Westwood quarterback Chris Gonzalez was clobbered by defensive end Grady Stretz, and linebacker Jason Kyle scooped up the loose ball and ran 18 yards for a touchdown. Kyle Bell's extra point, one of 66 on the season, was good. The game was less than one minute old.

But it was the speed and talent of McClintock at the skill positions which doomed Westwood and a dozen other foes. Quarterback Dan Moore, plus backs Chris Colter, David Matthews and Robby Wheaton were too much.



Drew scores one of his three touchdowns as McClintock zapped Westwood 42-14 at Sun Devil Stadium (Arizona Republic photo).

Overall, McClintock lost an early-season thriller to 4A champ Tempe, 25-24, and a late-season one to Mesa, 28-27. During the remaining games they looked like one of the best teams in the country. Ironically, the Chargers' worst season ever (2-8) was the year before. But the injury bug played a big role in that slide, knocking key players like Moore out for the season.

The '89 champs scored 51 points on Tucson Amphi, 46 and 35 against Mountain View, 49 against Red Mountain, 62 on Marcos de Niza and 65 against Glendale Apollo in high scoring affairs. They set a state 5A record by totaling 5,444 yards and a school record with 589 points. It was only the second time in Arizona history that a school had played 15 football games.

"We try and keep our eleven best athletes on the field at all times. A lot of schools like to two-platoon. That's fine. But when you play McClintock, you face our best athletes. Some of our best kids play on the kickoff team."

"This was the best season we had since 1980," concluded Kiefer, 210-70-3 at that point in his career. "We try to keep our eleven best athletes on the field at all times. A lot of schools like to two-platoon. That's fine. But when you play McClintock you face our best athletes. Some of our best kids play on the kickoff team."

It was Kiefer's '80 club which knocked out highly favored Tucson Sunnyside (a la Fred Sims & David Adams) at Sun Devil Stadium in the semifinals, then Phoenix Trevor Browne one week later in the finals. His 1977 squad, with quarterback Rick Neuheisel, won the Chargers' first state crown, a 14-9 win over Phoenix Washington.

Surprisingly, Kiefer would coach only one more season in Chargerland. He would leave after the 1990 campaign to take over the job at Tempe's newest school, Mountain Pointe. He was replaced by assistant Dennis Johnson, today the Chargers' head coach.

'89 McCLINTOCK CHARGERS



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THE '89 SEASON:

CHARGERS 51 .....Tucson Amphi 8
CHARGERS 46 .....Mountain View 8
CHARGERS 24 .....Tempe Union 25 (L)
CHARGERS 34.....Mesa Westwood 21
CHARGERS 49.....Red Mountain 6
CHARGERS 62 .....Marcos de Niza 26
CHARGERS 27.....Mesa Dobson 16
CHARGERS 36.....Gilbert 7
CHARGERS 19.....Corona del Sol 7
CHARGERS 41 .....Chandler 13
CHARGERS 27.....Mesa 28 (L)

PLAYOFFS:

CHARGERS 65.....Glendale Apollo 7
CHARGERS 35 .....Mountain View 13
CHARGERS 31 .....Tucson Sahuaro 13
CHARGERS 42.....Mesa Westwood 14

10 years ago (1989)

Tempe's Buffs Fit To Be Tied

Unfortunately for Tempe and Agua Fria high schools, not a lot was accomplished in the 1989 Class 4A finals. The game, played in Tempe at Sun Devil Stadium, ended in a 10-10 draw.

In the first officially year for 4A competition, Agua Fria (11-2-1), the defending state champs, and Tempe (13-1-1) were declared co-champions. As the old saying goes, "it was like kissing your sister."

Today, title games go into overtime if regular play ends in a tie. But not in '89. Rules allowing for tie-breakers during regular season and playoff games existed, but not for the finals. It was the first time in 30 years that a championship game among big-school teams ended in a tie. (The '59 large school finals, between South Mountain and Yuma, ended 7-7.)

Entering the finals, the favorite was Tempe, which made a brief appearance during the season in *USA TODAY's* national poll. The Buffaloes, coached by Jim Murphy, were loaded, one of the most talented teams in the school's history. How talented? Good enough to beat the state 5A champs in the same year.

Four Buffs landed on the first team 4A all-state squad, versatile Dan-iel Taplin, linebacker Jerome Moss, wideout Brian Watkins and tackle Paul Northcutt. Quarterback Lee Schrack passed for 1,975 yards. Moss, from a running back position, ran for 1,223 yards. Jeff McDonald was a terrific kicker, averaging 44.8 yards per punt, booting 47 extra points and seven field goals. Their only loss was the regular-season finale in Scottsdale, 18-12 to Coronado. However, they avenged that in the playoffs.

McDonald booted a 29-yard field goal with 1:42 left in the game to tie it. "I thought if we kicked the field goal and we could hold them, we could drive and kick another one," said Murphy after the game. "We've got a good kicker."

Agua Fria coach Tom Wheatley disagreed. "We've been playing for 14 weeks and they've been playing for 15 and I don't like ties," he said. "But the kids played hard and both teams deserved to win."

For Tempe, the game of the year might have been in September, against city rival McClintock. Both teams made history.

Never before in Arizona had state champions from different classes met during the same year. Tempe won 25-24, in spite of Brian Drew, the Chargers' well deserved player of the year. Drew, who would go on to score a record 38 touchdowns, returned the opening kickoff 94 yards for a touchdown. Actually, McClintock returned two kickoffs for scores and cashed in on a fumble for another. Then the Chargers, error-free for three quarters, fell apart. McDonald kicked two field goals and the game's only extra point for the winners.



During Tempe's 25-24 win over McClintock, fullback Dan-iel Taplin looks for running room on a sweep (Tribune photo).

Veteran sports writer Skip Bryant covered the game for *The Phoenix Gazette*. "I've seen a lot of high school games in my time," said Bryant afterwards. "Some good and some bad. But that one ranks right up there with one of the best I've ever seen."

Tempe's win, played on their turf before a packed house, prevented McClintock coach Karl Kiefer from winning his 200th game. Ironically, Kiefer was once an all-state lineman for the Buffs. He later was a team captain at nearby Arizona State, where Tempe coach Murphy also played.

"I've seen a lot of high school games in my time. Some good and some bad. But that one ranks right up there with one of the best I've ever seen."

Murphy and his players agreed it was a game that will long be remembered. "We talked about McClintock's ability to break the big play before the game," he said. "The one thing we didn't want to do was give up big yardage on the reverse, let them get the big pass play or let them break a big play of any kind. They have such tremendous speed.

"So we kicked off deep to start the game and they ran it back. Then we squib-kicked it, and they (Andrew McCormick) run that back. But our defensive coordinator, Jimmy Williams, came up with a defense that gave them different looks constantly. We felt we had to keep them off-balance and we did a good job of it."

The game, one of the finest in Tempe city history, reached a climax when Schrack hit Moss on a 15-yard touchdown pass, setting up McDonald's game-winning kick.

Murphy's assistants were Tim McBurney, Curtis Cook, Bob Wakefield and the late Jimmy Williams, himself a former Buff, and one of the finest linebackers ever to come out of the Tempe Union School District.

TEMPE UNION BUFFALOES



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Coach Jim Murphy & assistants Tim McBurney, Jimmy Williams, Curtis Cook & Bob Wakefield.

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THE NEAR-PERFECT SEASON:

BUFFS 7	Peoria 0
BUFFS 28	Tempe Marcos de Niza 0
BUFFS 25	Tempe McClintock 24
BUFFS 39	Flagstaff 6
BUFFS 7	Prescott 0
BUFFS 37	Phoenix North 6
BUFFS 18	Agua Fria 14
BUFFS 55	Apache Junction 0
BUFFS 56	Casa Grande 7
BUFFS 42	Scottsdale Arcadia 7
BUFFS 12	Scottsdale Coronado 18

PLAYOFFS:

BUFFS 37	Phoenix Greenway 22
BUFFS 28	Scottsdale Coronado 6
BUFFS 35	Glendale Cactus 3
BUFFS 10	Agua Fria 10

20 years ago (1979)

Amphi's 'Bone Smothers Mesa

"It was no contest. From the start of the high school football season to the end, it was all Amphi."
- Bill Betterton
Arizona Daily Star
December, 1979

Jerry Loper jump started the program in 1971. Vern Friedli took the Green Machine and ran with it.

The program resides in Tucson, at Amphitheater High, the second oldest public school in the Old Pueblo.

When Loper, who would later coach at Mesa Westwood, left after the Panthers won the 1975 state crown, the school hired Vern Friedli as its 11th head coach. Amphi's 23-22 win over Phoenix Maryvale in Loper's last game was a warning bell that the school had arrived.

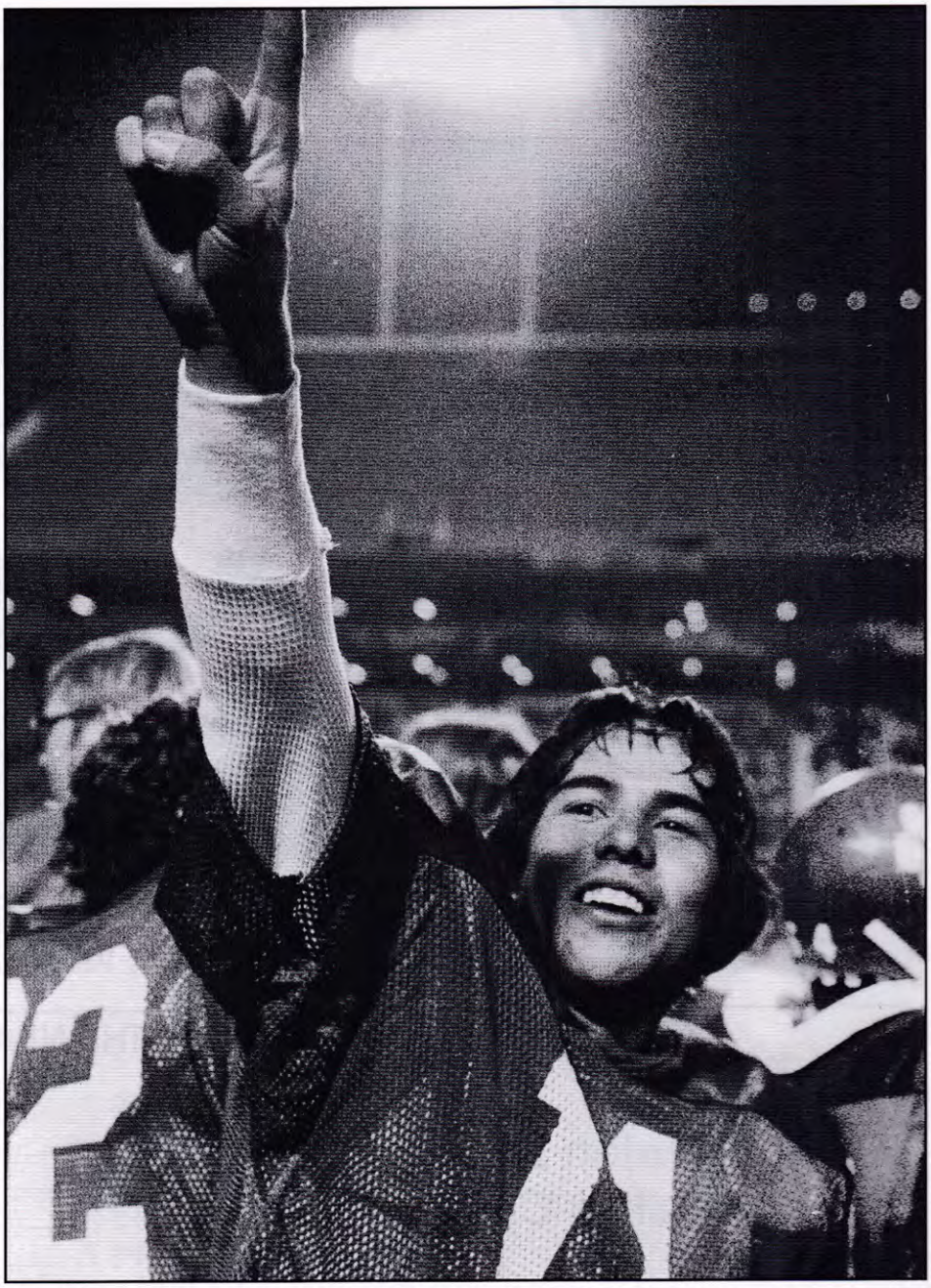
But when Friedli and the Panthers stuffed Mesa 27-0 in the 1979 finals, that was proof. At Sun Devil Stadium, Amphi's wishbone ground the Jackrabbits, minus a banged up Vai Sikahema, into the turf. The state champs defense was perfect. So was the Panthers overall record (13-0). Amphi sent nine booster busses to the game.

It shouldn't have been a surprise. Quarterback Sam Molina returned to run the 'bone, along with five other offensive starters. Amphi had enough firepower to move the ball against any defense in the state. Halfbacks Arlen Bethay and Joey Canizales led the Panthers' run-oriented attack. Opening the holes on the line were center Craig Geyer, tackle Neal Hamilton, guards David Osteen and Tim Jones, along with tight end Sky Moore.

Bethay, one of the smallest (5-9, 175) backs in the city, gained over 1,500 yards in Amphi's balanced attack, and handled the place kicking. Molina's running and slick ball handling was too much.

But defense wins championships, and Amphi's was the best in the state. The Panthers had loads of help, especially with Ron Conway, Kurt Werner and Jones in the lineup.

"We are disappointed in the outcome, obviously. But give Amphi credit. Their defense just stuffed us. It was the best we faced all year."



Amphi quarterback Sam Molina, before 10,061 fans in Tempe, shows the crowd who's No. 1 (Phoenix Gazette photo).

"We are disappointed in the outcome, obviously," said Mesa head coach Ben Arredondo afterwards. "But give Amphi credit. Their defense just stuffed us. It was the best we faced all year."

Bethay rushed 27 times for 148 yards in the finals. Running mate Canizales gained 106. "We just came out and ran right at them," claimed Bethay, who scored twice. "I was running through the biggest holes ever. This is the best line in the state."

"We did what we do best," said the 43-year-old Friedli after the game. "We stuck with the run and had great success because we executed so well. And the defense ... what else can you say about our defense. It was unbelievable."

This coming season is Friedli's 24th at Amphi. Since his arrival, the Panthers have won 79% of their games. He is 215-56-1 at the school, 259-93-2 overall. Few coaches can match that, and few schools have beaten Amphi.

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A PERFECT SEASON:

AMPHI 27	Tucson Rincon 0
AMPHI 21	Canyon del Oro 6
AMPHI 21	Sierra Vista Buena 6
AMPHI 35	Tucson Pueblo 7
AMPHI 27	Tucson Catalina 3
AMPHI 18	Tucson Salpointe 7
AMPHI 46	Tucson 13
AMPHI 15	Tucson Sunnyside 0
AMPHI 47	Tucson Cholla 7
PLAYOFFS:	
AMPHI 36	Sierra Vista Buena 22
AMPHI 41	Mesa Westwood 7
AMPHI 7	Glendale Apollo 3
AMPHI 27	Mesa 0

20/30 years ago (1979/69)

Trampled by the Dust Devils

Eloy is located south of Casa Grande, halfway between Phoenix and Tucson, and is one of many small Arizona towns flanking historic Interstate 10. Blink and you're libel to miss it.

Unless you were a college football coach between 1965 and 1990.

Eloy, population 5,000 (or less), originally known for its cotton and agricultural products, became better known for its high school football, almost overnight.

"The first coach we sent down there was Don Baker (former ASU assistant), said legendary Arizona State coach Frank Kush years later. "He came back and said, "Hell, there's a back down there better than anything we've seen in Phoenix since we got here."

The back was Art Malone. His year was 1965, and when the dust had cleared after the '65 football season, Santa Cruz High had made a shambles of Arizona's small school football ranks. Malone, along with teammate Paul Ray Powell, would go on to a stellar career at Arizona State, and later the pros.

For the town of Eloy, it was just the beginning. In the next 25 years, the Devils would send more players into college football than any school its size in the southwest United States. Four different coaches wore seven state crowns.

Like 1965, the '69 Devils were coached by Lonnie Foster. "You can't win if you don't have players," admits Foster. "We had some great athletes then. Better than at Chandler, where I later coached. In fact, better than most of the bigger schools we played against."

In 1969, the high profile players were Ben Malone (Art's brother) and Larry Shorty, two future college stars of their own. In less than 10 games, Malone scored 30 touchdowns and rushed for 1,775 yards. Nobody could cover the pass combination of Larry Foote to Shorty. David Cade was the other back. The Devils beat Canyon del Oro in their opener and were off to the races.

In November they beat bitter rival Coolidge 28-12, before an estimated 5,000 fans in Eloy - almost the population of the town. In the 3A semifinals, Malone gained 207 yards and scored five touchdowns during a 62-12 blowout of Snowflake. Cade scored on an 84-yard sprint and Dickie Gates kicked six extra points. Malone carried the ball 28 times in the state finals, a 22-13 win over Ajo.

"It does not take bright lights and busy streets of a large city to call attention to high school football talent, especially the type exhibited by Ben Malone of Santa Cruz High in Eloy," wrote Fred Treadwell of *The Arizona Daily Star*. "Malone should serve as an inspiration to all prepsters in the smaller schools in Arizona."



In less than 10 games, Ben Malone scored 30 touchdowns and rushed for 1,775 yards.

Ten years later the Devils were coached by Ed Jones. For just one year. At Eloy, that's all it took. Fresh off a wild 40-36 win over Willcox in the '78 finals, the '79 Dust Devils were primed for a repeat. Thirteen weeks after football started they were perfect. The results were the same, only the names changed. This time the box score read names like Mossy Cade, Larry Strange, James Malone and Eddie Chase.

"It does not take bright lights and busy streets of a large city to call attention to high school football talent, especially the type exhibited by Ben Malone of Santa Cruz High in Eloy."

They guided an Ed Jones-coached club through an unbeaten campaign and the state title, a hard fought 13-7 battle with Kearney Ray. Their stiffest competition came from Coolidge, a 22-21 Dust Devil win. Cade, the state player of the year, was a prep All-American in two sports, football and track. His time in the high hurdles (13.69) is an all-time Arizona best to this date. He finished his college career as an All-American at Texas, and was the No. 1 draft pick of the San Diego Chargers.

But times change. Within 10 years enrollment dropped to 440 students, and only 22 varsity football players. And for the first time in years, Santa Cruz played a football season without a Cade or a Malone on the roster.

They had moved on.

SANTA CRUZ DUST DEVILS



Saluting our '79 Class 3A State Champions!

Head coach Ed Jones, assistant Steve Combs & the Devils were perfect!

THE '69 DUST DEVILS:
(12-0-0)

Devils 19 .....Canyon del Oro 8
Devils 30 .....Miami 14
Devils 50 .....Nogales 0
Devils 36 .....Kearny Ray 22
Devils 34 .....San Manuel 7
Devils 61 .....Willcox 2
Devils 53 .....Superior 0
Devils 27 .....Ajo 0
Devils 28 .....Coolidge 12

PLAYOFFS

Devils 32 .....Morenci 0
Devils 62 .....Snowflake 12
Devils 22 .....Ajo 13

THE '79 DUST DEVILS:
(13-0-0)

Devils 27 .....Marana 0
Devils 12 .....Sahuarita 6
Devils 20 .....Nogales 6
Devils 40 .....Parker 6
Devils 46 .....Ajo 0
Devils 14 .....Willcox 0
Devils 27 .....Buckeye 14
Devils 22 .....Coolidge 21
Devils 28 .....Apache Junction 6

PLAYOFFS

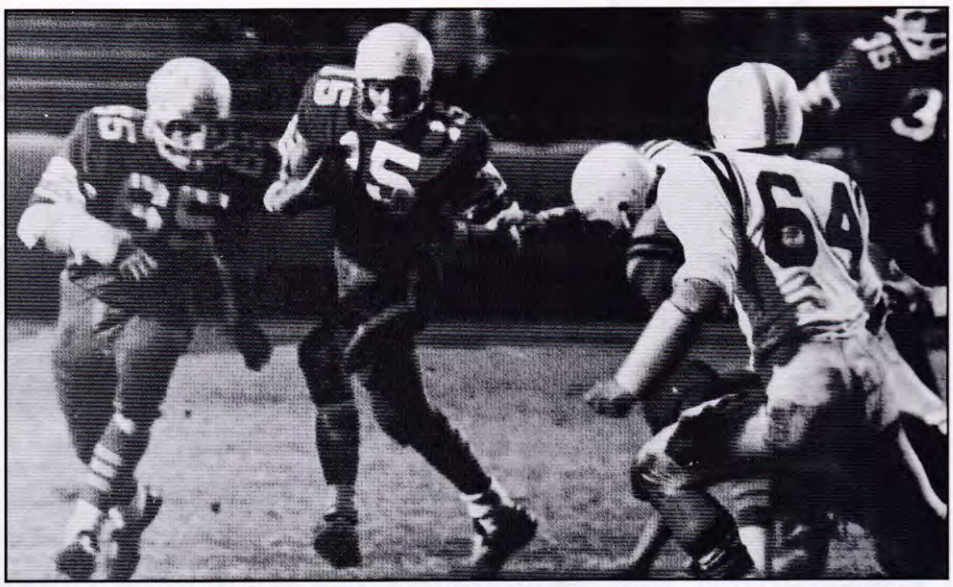
Devils 38 .....Mohave 7
Devils 31 .....Morenci 7
Devils 26 .....Apache Junction 0
Devils 13 .....Kearny Ray 7

30 years ago (1969)

Central Bursts Knights' Bubble

With the audacity of a flea attacking an elephant, Central jumped St. Mary's last night and came away from the fray with a 14-7 victory.

-Hardy Price
The Arizona Republic
December, 1969



Jerry Davis (15) follows all-state guard Joe Cattaneo on a sweep at Sun Devil Stadium. St. Mary's Tim Killeen (64) is about to be run over.

Ed Doherty, coach of the two-time defending state champs, was pacing the sidelines at Sun Devil Stadium. His unbeaten and heavily favored Knights, with their gold-clad pants, were favored over Central High in this game, the 1969 state finals.

"That's a very good football team over there," he said, almost to himself, but loud enough for several members of the press to hear.

That statement itself was amazing. Central High? The same Central that not too long ago lost 22 games in a row? And it could have been worse. They might have lost more. In 1963, near the end of the slide, a late November game with Tucson Pueblo was cancelled because President Kennedy was shot.

But this was before Ray Laing showed up. Good times don't last forever, and neither do the bad. Just ask the Bobcat fans. Thousands of them. Before and since.

On this date, before a state high school record crowd of 20,800, Central beat Doherty and his Knights 14-7 for its first ever football title. The win was the first over St. Mary's by any school in 25 games, and only the second in 37 contests. The Knights were bidding for their third straight state title.

Just another team through most of the season despite its unbeaten record, Laing's 'Cats were upset-mined from the start. Although St. Mary's scored first, on a quarterback sneak by Tom Baker, Central looked like a winner early.

The Bobcats were led by senior quarterback Jerry Davis, who figured in both touchdowns and a key two-point conversion. He rushed for 66 yards on 15 carries, and bulled his way for several crucial first downs.

The Knights' lead was cut short when Davis ran 10 yards for a second quarter score. Then, midway through the third stanza, Davis connected on an 8-yard scoring strike to Bud Shroyer. The two teamed up for a two-point conversion for the final 14-7 margin.

Central's defense, led by Bud Roberts (who blocked five punts during the season), Dan Doyle and Bob Jones, bottled up the potent St. Mary's offense, led by sophomore sensation Baker. Meanwhile, the Bobcat offense was able to wear down the Knights behind the blocking of Joe Cattaneo and Terry Mager, and the punishing running of fullback Steve Cohen.

Davis, who would later play for the University of Arizona, completed 105 of 207 passes for 1,518 yards and 17 touchdowns in leading Central to the crown. He rushed for 472 yards.

The fierce blocking of Cattaneo, who weighed only 175 pounds, made it easier for Davis and Cohen to run the ball. With Cattaneo as the key blocker, Central's offense was able to outplay every defensive line it faced.

"We're a team with three head coaches, and as long as I'm here that's the way we'll operate. I'm pleased beyond words. There was no bitterness in the championship game. It was very clean and tough and had to be one of the best I've seen."

The victory was indeed a major reversal of the early years of Central High frustration. Just two years earlier the 'Cats were 2-8, not to mention that 23-game span in which they were 0-22-1. It had to have brought smiles to many former players, including all-stars like Dave Areghini, Alan Moutran, Tom Fife, Ed Gallardo, Jay D. Schlueter and Mike Hogan, all-state performers during hard times.

Even if Central had lost to the Knights in the finals, Ray Laing would have been everybody's pick as coach of the year. But he took care of that on the field. As usual, he passed on the credit for Central's success to others.

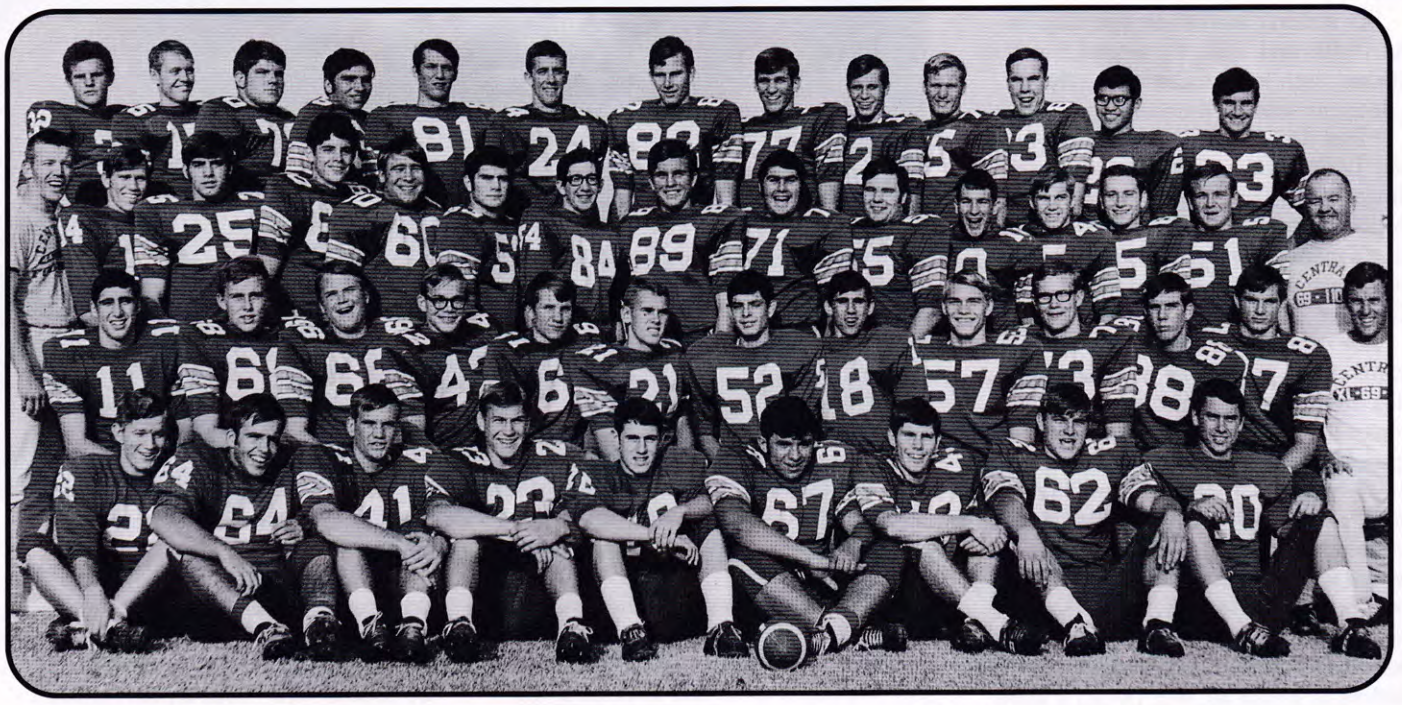
"We're a team with three head coaches, and as long as I'm here that's the way we'll operate," he told the Phoenix Press Box Association one week later. "Here are the real reasons why we win," he insisted, introducing assistants George Endres and Dan Stone.

"I'm pleased beyond words," he added. "There was no bitterness in the championship game. It was very clean and tough and had to be one of the best I've seen. We're just glad to be state champions. Even if it never happens again."

But it would.

After back-to-back state championship by Tucson High, Central would regain the throne, when Laing-coached Bobcats beat next door neighbor Brophy Prep in the 1972 finals, 21-0.

'69 CENTRAL HIGH BOBCATS



Saluting the State Champions 30 Years Later...

...Head Coach Ray Laing and assistants George Endres and Dan Stone

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THE PERFECT SEASON:

CENTRAL 32 .....Phoenix Carl Hayden 6
CENTRAL 42 .....Phoenix Alhambra 8
CENTRAL 30 .....Phoenix West 0
CENTRAL 32 .....Phoenix Brophy 14
CENTRAL 30.....Phoenix Union 14
CENTRAL 25 .....Phoenix Maryvale 16
CENTRAL 14.....Phoenix Camelback 7
CENTRAL 20.....South Mountain 0
CENTRAL 28 .....Phoenix North 6
CENTRAL 27.....Phoenix East 0

PLAYOFFS:

CENTRAL 14.....Phoenix Camelback 7
CENTRAL 21 .....Tempe McClintock 14
CENTRAL 14.....Phoenix St. Mary's 7

50 years ago (1949)

Chandler's Wolf Pack Was Perfect

Just before the birth of the Class 4A Conference, when the Chandler Wolves and the Tempe Buffaloes squared off each season, most games carried no more weight than any other East Valley League clash.

But it didn't used to be that way. In the 1940s and '50s, the annual matchup allowed each team the opportunity to redeem its season, if necessary.

"That was the game of the year," former Tempe coach John Zucco once said. "It was our Thanksgiving game, like the Detroit Lions and the Dallas Cowboys. That's when we played, also. It could make or break your season if you beat Chandler. That was it."

The rivalry started in 1925, when the teams would travel on a truck bed and play the game on Thanksgiving Day. Ironically, the first contest between the schools ended in a tie.

When the two schools went different ways, because of East Valley growth and declining enrollment at Tempe, they left behind some memorable games. In 1948, the *Chandler Arizonan*, a weekly newspaper distributed on Friday, ran the game story on the front page, even thought the contest, a 13-13 tie, was played a week earlier.

The biggest game in the rivalry was played one year later, when it featured two undefeated teams fighting for the right to be called state champs. The game, played before an estimated crowd of 6,000 fans at Goodwin Stadium, on the campus at Arizona State, was to showcase for the last time Chandler halfback Bob Tarwater. But the Wolves ace went out with a shoulder injury in the second period.

"It wasn't from a hard it, like you'd think," recalls Tarwater, a retired dairy farmer who still lives in Chandler. "I fell and landed wrong. It was dislocated."

Everett Worthington, a junior fullback, and Art Odom picked up the slack. They showed their colors with key runs all night, and Odom scored twice in a 14-7 season ending triumph. The Wolves' defense muffled Tempe's Marvin Williams and Chandler was declared mythical Class B (now 3A) champs for 1949.

The Wolves coach was Clarence Skousen, who piloted Chandler through several successful seasons. Ken Knox was his assistant. Following the season Skousen was honored by the Arizona Coaches Association as the state's top mentor. Two Wolves, Tarwater and guard David Hampshire, earned first team recognition on the Super All-State team.



Tarwater, the Wolves' big gun, scored 20 touchdowns for the state champs, but was knocked out of the Tempe game with a shoulder injury.

"We had a lot of fine athletes in the school then," recalls the 93-year-old Skousen from his Chandler home. "They were good in other sports, too. Not just football."

Skousen, who played on Chandler's first football team in 1923, came back to the school in 1939 after fielding good teams in Coolidge and Thatcher. By 1941, the Wolves had become a state power. But midway through the 1942 season he joined the Navy, leaving behind a team that lost only one game. Bob Orr and Russell Goddard filled in for Skousen during the war.

But it was the '49 Wolf Pack which topped all in Chandler's history, going undefeated and amassing 358 points in 10 games. The key player was Tarwater, a stocky, hard running back who scored 20 touchdowns - four on kick returns. Besides Hampshire, tackle Floyd Johnson, end Louis Tarbart, end Rudy Serrano and Worthington were the key players. Andy Carrillo booted 34 extra points.

"It was the game of the year. It was our Thanksgiving game, like the Detroit Lions and the Dallas Cowboys. It could make or break your season if you beat Chandler."

Tarwater, who continued his playing days at nearby Arizona State, tipped the scales at 185 pound and was a four-year varsity player. He was known throughout the state as a dangerous broken field runner. Hampshire, a demon on both offense and defense, ranks among the best linemen ever to don a CHS uniform. He used his 240 pounds to good advantage in blocking and tackling, and won three varsity letters.

In October, Chandler fans knew the Wolves were for real after a 38-21 win over Casa Grande's explosive Cougars. The wild, see-saw game featured fleet backs and electrifying plays, especially from Chandler.

Worthington scored on a 75-yard dash, Tarwater went 80 yards on a punt return and Tarbart sprinted 30 with a pass interception.

The Wolves were on their way to becoming the most historic football team in Chandler's history.



Saluting the 1949 Chandler Wolves

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With Arizona Coach of the Year Clarence Skousen, and all-state players Bob Tarwater & Dave Hampshire, the Wolves were perfect!

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Athletic Director
Richard Gray,
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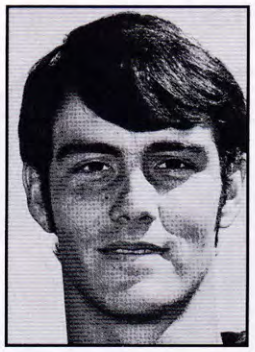
1949 CHANDLER WOLVES (10-0-0)

WOLVES 33	Globe 0
WOLVES 38	Eloy 0
WOLVES 20	Florence 13
WOLVES 61	Ajo 7
WOLVES 38	Casa Grande 21
WOLVES 48	Superior 0
WOLVES 34	Buckeye 12
WOLVES 47	Coolidge 13
WOLVES 25	Nogales 0
WOLVES 14	Tempe 7

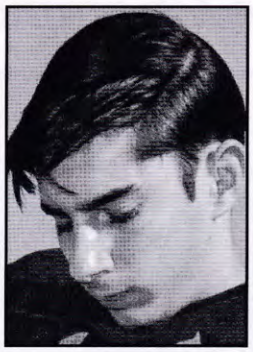
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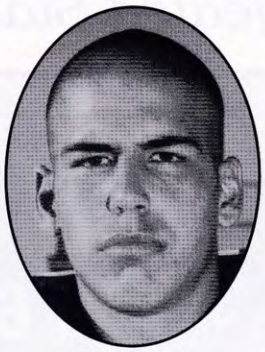
GOLDEN TOE AWARD



Danny White
Mesa Westwood



Luis Vega
Phoenix West



Ramey Peru
Mesa Dobson



Jim Sanson
St. Mary's



Lee Pistor
Phoenix Central

HONORING ARIZONA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOL KICKER

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)
1955..... Art Bruce, St. Johns Indians (P)
1954..... Chester Beach, Ajo (P)

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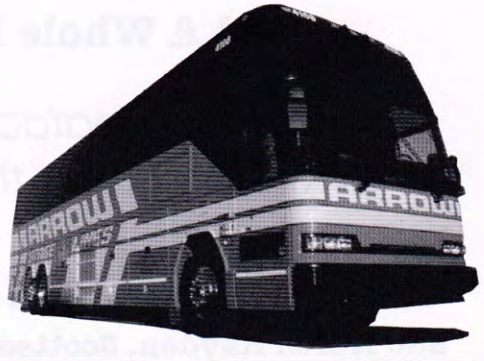
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SPORTS QUIZ

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW FOOTBALL ...

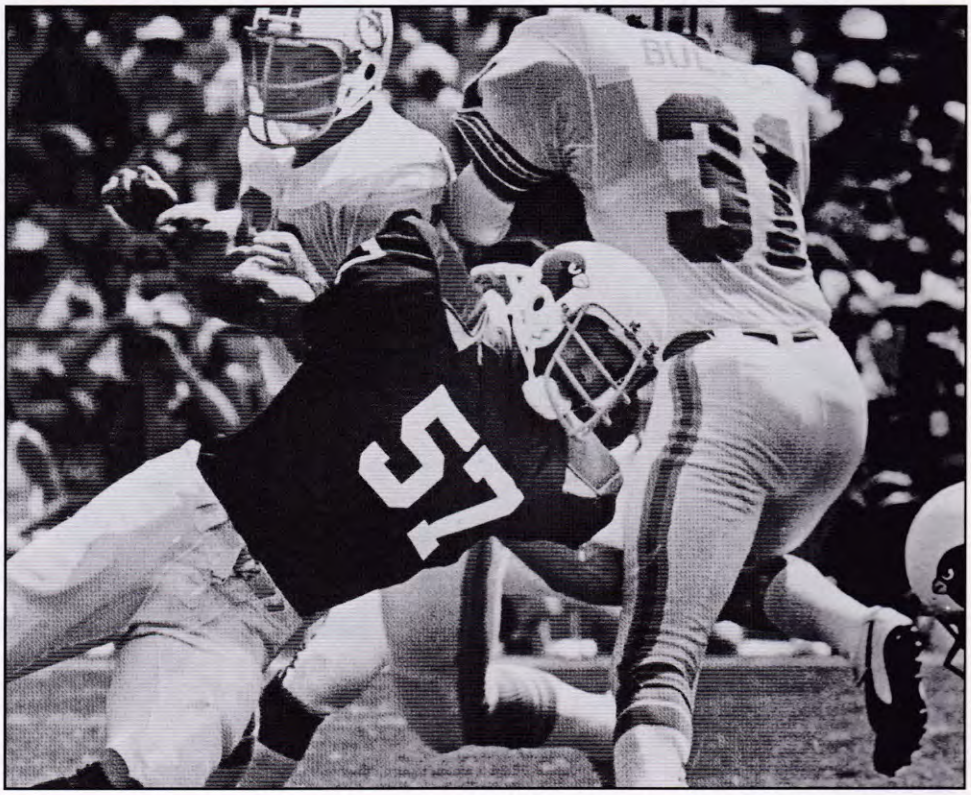
1) The high school ranks of Tucson have sent more than its share of players into the NFL, including former all-state linebacker Mark Arneson (photo), later of the St. Louis Cardinals. What high school did Arneson attend?

2) Last year this Arizona high school had more graduates in Division I-A schools on football scholarsihps (11) than any school in the Grand Canyon State. Who was it?

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

3) This active Arizona high school coach is just three wins shy of 200 victories at the same school:

a) Pat Farrell, Phoenix St. Mary's
b) Jeff Scurran, Tucson Sabino
c) Paul Moro, Blue Ridge
d) Vern Friedli, Tucson Amphi
e) Karl Kiefer, Mountain Pointe



Former all-state linebacker Mark Arneson, who later played for the University of Arizona and the NFL St. Louis Cardinals, played at what Tucson high school?

4) A record Arizona high school crowd of 23,487 watched these two schools play each other in 1988:

a) Tucson Amphi & Tucson Sabino
b) St. Mary's & Brophy Prep
c) Mesa Westwood & Mountain View
d) Mesa High & Mountain View

5) In 1930, this Arizona school was the No. 1 ranked team in the nation, the highest ranking ever by an Arizona high school football team:

a) Phoenix North
b) Tucson
c) Phoenix Union
d) Mesa
e) Jerome
e) Flagstaff

6) Every one of these historic Arizona high schools is matched with its proper mascot except which one?

a) Douglas Bulldogs
b) Bisbee Pumas
c) Phoenix Carver Monarchs
d) Jerome Wolves
e) Miami Vandals
f) Globe Tigers
g) McNary Green Devils

ANSWERS

1) Tucson Palo Verde.
2) Peoria.
3) Pat Farrell.
4) Westwood & Mountain View
5) Phoenix Union.
6) Jerome Muckers

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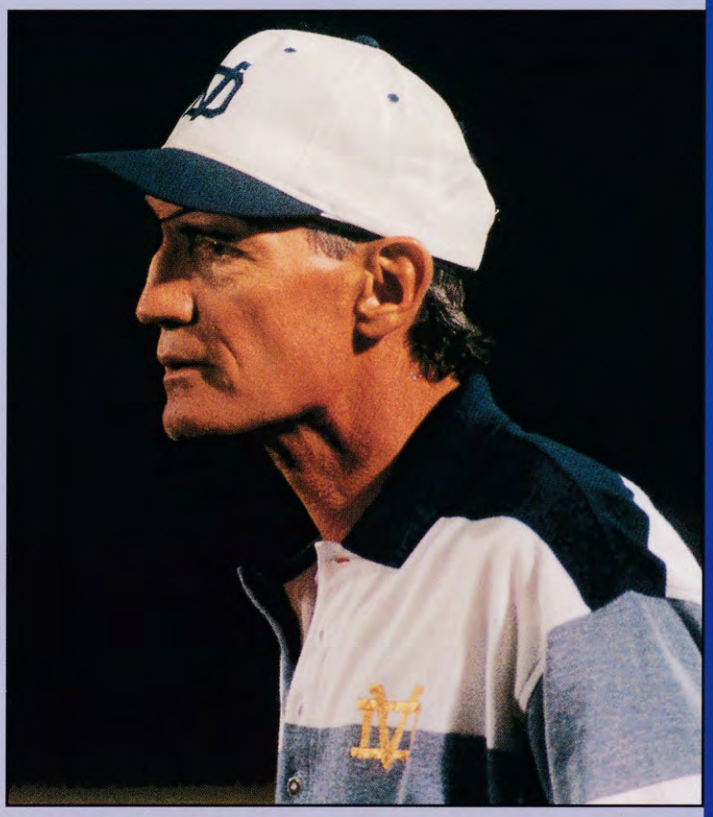
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Arizona Coach of the Year

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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
1968.....Ike Sharp, Douglas
1967 .....Ed Doherty, Phoenix St. Mary's



DESERT VISTA HEAD COACH JIM RATTAY. (Amy Blodgett photo)

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
1958 .....Phil Kreuger, Yuma Union
1957 .....Vern Braasch, Phoenix West

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