

SPORTS

PREP FOOTBALL SET TO KICK-OFF FRIDAY NIGHT

By W.G. Ramirez

As the smell of pigskin is in the air, local high school student bodies are anxiously awaiting opening night for the 1992 prep football season.

Tomorrow night, 12 of the 13 teams in the Class AAA Southern Conference will commence their drive towards a playoff appearance.

Defending state champion Eldorado will be tested right away, hosting a tough and cocky Clark Charger team. It will be a rematch of last year's zone championship game, won by the 'Devils 32-3.

Four of the six teams in the Sunrise Division will welcome new coaches, including the Sundevils.

Cary Mitchell took Eldorado to an 11-1 record and the state title last season but has moved on to help the Rancho Rams. Darwin Rost, Mitchell's defensive coordinator for the last four years, takes over the 'Devil program. Rost expects the transition to the head football coaching position to be smooth.

Four players from Eldorado's state championship team have moved on to Division I college programs.

Quincy Harrison, Cliff Robinson, Chris Myers and Max Mitchell

all played key roles in the 'Devils success last season and have left their alma mater with gaping holes.

Eldorado's defense, ranked second in the conference last season, returns three starters.

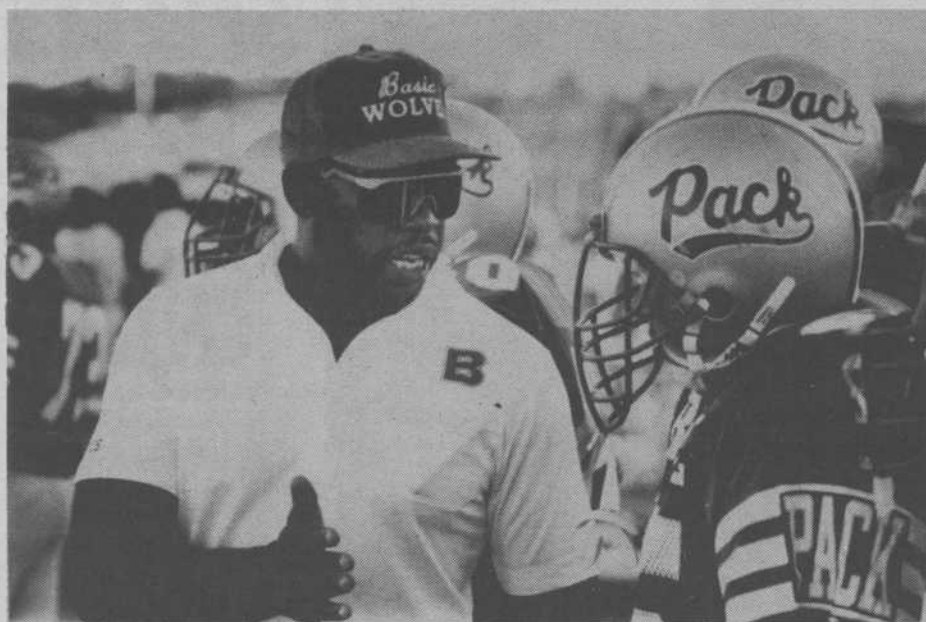
Eldog's biggest threat could be over at Rancho with Mitchell at the helm. Mitchell took four years to rebuild the Sundevils program and sees similarities in taking over the Rams. He does concede that Rancho has advantages over the Eldog system he took over four years back.

Mitchell's main problem could be at the QB position where seniors Sharim Johnson and Andrew Dixon will battle for the starting assignment. He said that with the quarterbacks behind in their work, Rancho will have to rely more on the run and simple pass plays early in the season.

Jason Mack, who rushed for 748 yards on 134 carries last season, returns to lead the Rams' offense.

Mitchell expects his first-year varsity players to combine well with the 14 seniors returning from last year's team.

Head Coach Bob Johnson is feeling mighty confident about a third straight playoff appearance with his Chaparral Cowboys this season. Johnson's confidence



Cliff Frazier will take over the Basic Wolves football program this season

is about as heavy as his offensive line which weighs in at 980 lb..

Mike Sage, 260 lb., Carlos Santos, 220 lb., Dan Nihipali, 225 lb., and Paul Faulk, 275 lb., will lead the barrage of runners that will be bursting through the line this season for the Cowboys.

Allowing nearly 300 yards per game, the Cowboys were the worst defensive team in the conference last season.

Basic, Valley and Green Valley will all face a tough rebuilding season.

The Basic Wolves and brand new head coach, Cliff Frazier, will have the best chance to contend for a playoff berth against the other top teams in this division.

The Sunset Division could see the rise of the Clark Chargers this season. Junior Jay Snowden will make the calls in the offensive backfield while RB Ron Merckerson is being touted as the best player in Nevada. Merckerson suffered a slight ankle injury but should be ready for tomorrow night's opener at Eldorado.

Thanks to the opening of three new high schools last year, Western's football program was practically bled dry of a lot of its talent. The Warriors cruised to seven straight victories last year, finishing 8-2 with a zone tournament berth. Things will not be the same this season as the Warriors will face a tough rebuilding period.

One team that has the talent to surprise everyone in this division is the Las Vegas Wildcats. New head coach Tyrone Armstrong has put some meat on his offensive line hoping that holes will open frequently for his backs Ray Flowers and Donnie Davis. Vegas may boast one of the fastest backfields in the confer-

ence.

Armstrong isn't predicting a playoff berth for his Wildcats but states that if his team does what they're able to, success will follow.

Another school that could challenge for the division title will be Bishop Gorman. Kwame Coleman and Jeff Kuhns are battling for the starting QB position.

Head Coach Mark Gibson says both candidates have worked hard over the summer. All-conference DE Mark Windham will lead a defensive that returns several starters. The Gaels return 10 starters among its 17 returning lettermen.

Bishop Gorman, which finished 4-5 the last two seasons, should fare much better this season.

Bonanza, Cheyenne and Cimarron-Memorial will all feel the effects of a losing season while trying to rebuild their programs.

CHEYENNE DESERT SHIELDS

- HEAD COACH : George Perry
- 1991 RECORD : 0-8
- KEY PLAYERS RETURNING : WR Chancellor Davis, WR Sean Long, RB DeShone Myles
- OFF. FORMATION : Pro-Set
- DEF. FORMATION : 3-4
- KEY GAMES FOR '92: Sept. 4, Chaparral; Sept. 18 @ Gorman; Oct. 9, Las Vegas; Oct. 16, @ Clark

Second-year team with no key losses

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SENTINEL-VOICE PREP FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD

Friday, September 4, 1992

Basic at *Gorman
Chaparral at Cheyenne
Clark at Eldorado
Green Valley at Cimarron-Memorial
Rancho at Bonanza
Valley at Las Vegas

**Silver Bowl*

| SUNRISE DIVISION | | SUNSET DIVISION | |
|------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| BASIC | 0-0 0-0 | BISHOP GORMAN | 0-0 0-0 |
| CHAPARRAL | 0-0 0-0 | BONANZA | 0-0 0-0 |
| ELDORADO | 0-0 0-0 | CHEYENNE | 0-0 0-0 |
| GREEN VALLEY | 0-0 0-0 | CIMARRON-MEMORIAL | 0-0 0-0 |
| RANCHO | 0-0 0-0 | CLARK | 0-0 0-0 |
| VALLEY | 0-0 0-0 | LAS VEGAS | 0-0 0-0 |
| | | WESTERN | 0-0 0-0 |