

NATIONAL POWERHOUSE OAK HILL HIGH SCHOOL CAPTURES THE LAS VEGAS HOLIDAY PREP CLASSIC

By Bill Lee

National scholastic powerhouse Oak Hill ventured to Las Vegas for the 16th annual Las Vegas Holiday Prep Classic and displayed an array of excellent talent. The Warriors, from Mouth of Wilson, Virginia, were off and running since the opening tip-off last Saturday. The five-day tournament hosted 29 high schools from across the nation including eight squads from Las Vegas.

Unfortunately, Cheyenne, Cimarron-Memorial, Clark, Eldorado, Las Vegas, Rancho, Valley and Western were unsuccessful in placing in this year's tournament, as ten other teams were ultimately recognized for placing in the highly regarded annual event.

Oak Hill's Jermaine Smith, who has verbally committed to attend UNLV next fall, was named the tournament's MVP. His defensive skill was the key to him being named MVP. Smith helped in leading the Warriors to the championship victory Wednesday afternoon inside UNLV's South Gym before a standing room only crowd. Teammate Jerry Stackhouse, arguably the nation's most highly regarded forward, led all scorers in the finals with 24 points, several of which came via spectacular alley-oops, served up by guard Jeff McInnis.

REBELS

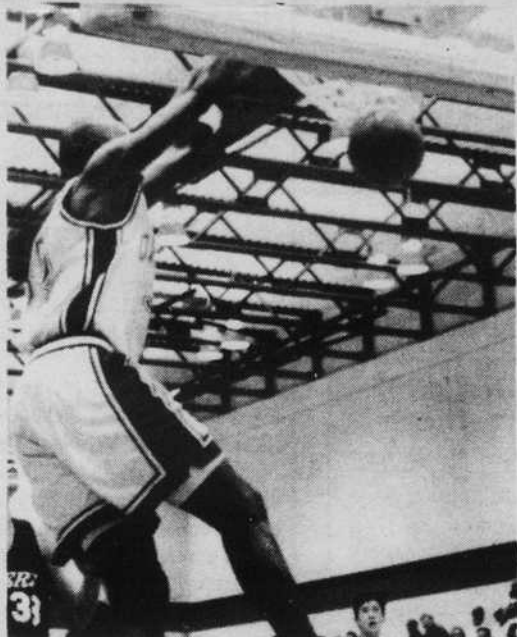
(Continued from Page 14)
his ecstatic broadcasts.

This is what will happen right here in Las Vegas. Vitale has already labeled Rider as one of the top 5 swingmen in the country. Just think, Rollie's been kickin' it with the big boys in the Big East, on a regular basis. He will get this team so fired up, and they will be fired up!

UNLV hosts Cal-St. Fullerton this Saturday before making a one-game road swing. The Runnin' Rebels will then play five straight home games, beginning with Missouri on January 11. Two conference games, against Pacific and San Jose St., proceed big matchups against Texas A&M and Georgetown.

January 23 will be the day John Thompson and Othella Harrington, along with the rest of the Hoyas, will visit Rollie and tell him how much they miss him in the Big East.

I don't think Rollie is homesick.



MAKHITAR NDIAYE SLAMS THE ROCK HOME

The Warriors won the championship by the tally of 57-52, a contest which could have slipped into overtime. Rice's Reggie

Freeman's three point attempt fell short of the hoop as the seconds ticked off the clock and the Warriors gained possession,



JERRY STACKHOUSE

and proceeded to solidify their lead to go on and win the game.

The Rice Raiders, hailing from New York City, hung tough

PHOTOS BY BILL LEE

HOLIDAY CLASSIC MVP COMING TO UNLV



Jermaine Smith, a 6'2" guard from Oak Hill High School, in Mouth of Wilson, Virginia, helped his team to the Las Vegas Holiday Prep Classic title. Smith captured the MVP award at the conclusion of the tournament. The prep All-American has verbally committed himself to UNLV for next season. Although UNLV is loaded with guards, Smith will make a nice addition to UNLV's squad.

throughout the game but just couldn't connect on the much needed basket in the end.

Rice was led by their own "superstar," Felipe Lopez, who is considered to be the nation's top junior. Lopez plays both

guard and forward. The stand-out junior scored 17 points in a losing cause for the Raiders.

On the local front, the high school schedules should resume to normal after the new year, as league play begins.

IT WAS RANCHO IN HOOPS AND WESTERN ON THE GRIDIRON



(This is the fourth of a five-part series that looks back at the sports world in 1992)

Then first-year Rancho Head Coach Tony Hopkins set a goal for his Rams' boys basketball squad at the beginning of the season - win the zone tournament.

Although Hopkins didn't imagine it would happen so soon, he and his team headed for Reno as the #1 seed in the state tournament.

The Rams defeated the Clark Chargers 77-59 to capture the Class AAA Southern Conference Championship last Winter.

Senior point-guard Reggie Ingram led the way with 26 points while teammate Tim Macklin popped in 15 points and grabbed 16 rebounds.

Due to Rancho's tough defense, Clark was never able to put together a serious run. Rancho slowly built their lead,

maintained it and shut down the Chargers.

Unfortunately the Rams stumbled in Reno and only advanced to the consolation bracket. This year they have had a slow start. Eldorado, Cheyenne, Gorman and Cimarron-Memorial have sprung from the starting blocks quicker than everyone else. Following the new year, league play will kick in and it will be interesting to see who remains atop the standings.

The McQueen Lancers continued their season-long trait, by devastating the Western Warriors to claim the Class AAA Nevada State Championship.

McQueen outscored its opponents 548-43 this season - an average victory of 45-3. The Lancer defense gave up only three touchdowns throughout their '92 campaign.

A big, well-balanced team, McQueen completely out-

matched the Southern Zone AAA Champions. Western had taken on the role as "Giant Killers" after knocking off the defending state champion Eldorado and then toppling Clark in the zone championship game. Regardless of their outcome against McQueen, Western put on an exciting display of football. Kudos to both schools, especially to our Class AAA Southern Zone Champions.

The Warriors may have only ended up being the state's runner-up, but they just may boast the state's top recruit in kicker Randy Lund.

Lund's accurate foot carried Western throughout the season.

They survived the loss of many players to Cheyenne and Cimarron-Memorial and rose to the top of the heap, eventually being ranked, statewide in the Top 5.

Looking ahead to next year,

one could only reflect on the success of Green Valley's brilliant turnaround only to fall a playoff game short of the main show.

Questions remain at Valley at Rancho. These two schools were once powerhouse teams in the South and it is a wonder if they can rebuild. Both schools lost players to Green Valley. As second-year teams, Cheyenne and Cimarron-Memorial seemed to take things in stride and may have a few more years to be-

come true contenders. Las Vegas looked like an offensive force early in the season and eventually slipped to the bottom. Will Gorman ever rise back to the top? Will Clark be just as strong?

The Chaparral Cowboys will always be tough — they just never seem to be there in the end. Bonanza and Basic — these two teams always happen to get caught in the crossfire, yet finish somewhere away from the top.

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