February 25, 1993

By Bill Lee

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contest.

rant

The Southern AAA Conference Zone Basketball Tournament got underway yesterday afternoon inside the Valley High School Gym before an enthusiastic crowd. In the nightcap of a doubleheader, the powerful Sunset Division flexed their muscles as #3 seed Cimarron-Memorial corralled the Sunrise's #2 entry, the Chaparral Cowboys 72-59. The final score is not quite indicative of the overall game. The Spartans charged out to a 10point lead in the first quarter behind the clutch shooting of junior guard Leland Osborne. The Cowboys managed to close the gap before halftime

as Royal Stewart and Jarmica Reese ignited a rally to come within three points by the tally of 38 to 35. The Spartans rolled out after intermission with a Kwasi Jones slam dunk off a fast break that got the Cimarron crowd roaring.

It was all Spartans as they capitalized on backto-back Cowboy traveling violations. Before the Cowboys could regroup they were down by nine points. Senior forward Rashaad Thomas dominated the glass by pulling down 11 rebounds to lead the Spartans, while the Cowboys' Dion Washington lassoed six off the boards.

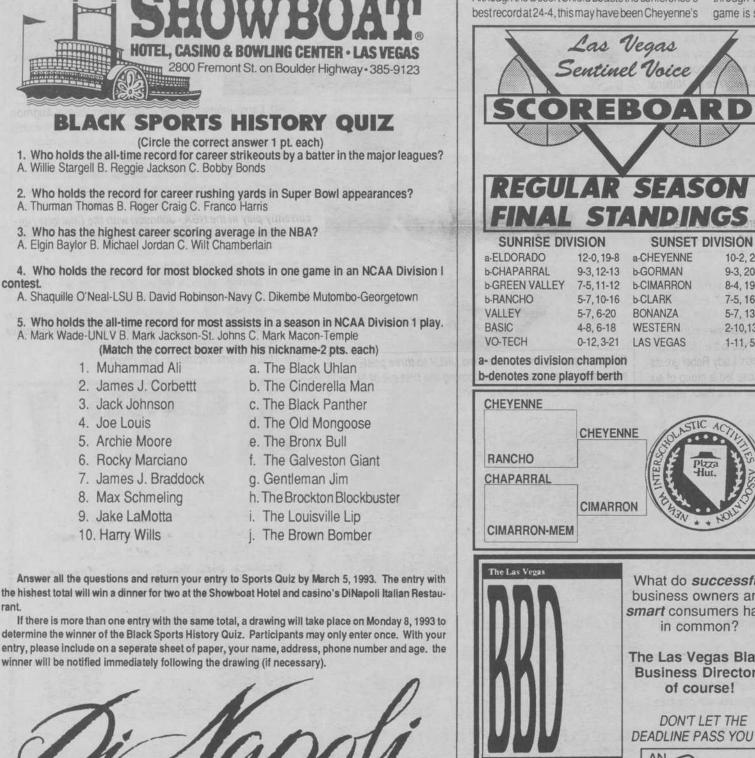
Osborne connected for 28 points to lead all

scorers as teamates Kwasi Jones and Thomas had 13 and 20 respectfully for the Spartans. Stewart and Washington hit for 16 points while Reese landed 15 points in the losing cause.

In the opener, #1 seed from the Sunset Division Cheyenne slipped past Rancho, the #4 seed from the Sunrise Division, 69-65. Prep All-America candidate Sean Long paced the Desert Shield to victory pouring in 25 points. Long's "partner-incrime," Chancellor Davis, who has been slowed by a hamstring injury, was limited to 4 pts. Picking up the slack though, was DeShone Myles who popped 16 points. In a losing cause, Jason Mack and Larry Treadwell racked up 18 pts. each. Although the Desert Shield boasts the conference's bestrecord at 24-4, this may have been Chevenne's

sweetest win of all. Last season in the Zone Tournament, Rancho toppled Chevenne in the first round and went on to capture the Zone title. If Cheyenne can play as dominative as they did three-fourths of the way through the regular season, they should be able to win the Zone title.

Today's slate pits Sunrise division #1 seed Eldorado against#4 seed Clark from the Sunset at 2:30 p.m. Following the opener will be Bishop Gorman, #2 out of the Sunset, taking on Sunrise's #3 seed Green Valley at 4:00 p.m. Once a traditional powerhouse, Valley High School failed to appear in post-season play, but its hardwood will continue to host the tournament, which runs through Saturday afternoon. The championship game is scheduled for 4:00 p.m.



Kwasi Jones, whose slam

dunk off a fast break got the Cimarron crowd pumped in the opening round of the Zone Tournament, has helped the Spartans throughout the season averaging 13.3ppg.

winner 4:00p.m.



10-2, 24-4

9-3, 20-6

8-4, 19-8

7-5.16-9

5-7, 13-14

2-10,13-14

1-11, 5-21