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SPORTS

CLARK COMPLETES UNDEFEATED SEASON AS NEVADA AAA STATE CHAMPIONS



Photo: B.Lee/LVSV Sports

Clark running back A.J. Washington prepares to blast through McQueen's defense. Washington's fourth-and-2 conversion led to the game-winning TD in the fourth quarter.

It took a quarter-of-a-century to accomplish his goal, but 25 years after Clark High School Head Coach Larry Barnson guided the identical school to the 1968 Nevada State Championship, he and the '93 version pulled out a 7-3 victory over McQueen to capture the state AAA crown.

Reserve tailback Jeremy Simpson, who generally doesn't see much playing time, capitalized on one his mere three rushing attempts, and scored the game's only touchdown.

Following a key fourth-and-2 conversion by A.J. Washington, the Chargers gradually moved to the Lancers' 12-yard line.

Simpson then r a m b l e d through the left side of McQueen's defense to push Clark ahead.

Clarence Lawson, who had two fumbles earlier in the contest, made up for them by downing a Jay Snowden punt inside the Lancer 5-yard line with 1:21 left in the game.

Barnson and his 1989 Chargers were the victims of a last-minute, 80-yard drive by then-Northern Champion Wooster. The game ended with a hail-mary conversion and a state runner-up finish for Clark.

Fortunately for Barnson, his '93 squad was able to end McQueen's comeback bid, when Randy Black intercepted Clint Belding's pass, which also ending the game.



Photo: B.Lee/LVSV Sports

Quarterback Jay Snowden calls the signals, as the Chargers await the snap.

The Lancers' only score came on their first drive of the game, settling for a Brett Fleischer 25-yard field goal. The game remained highly defensive until the fourth quarter, when Clark picked up the momentum after a McQueen clipping penalty and a short punt.

Lawson then committed one of his fumbles inside the Lancer 15, and it would be up to the Chargers' stifling D. Clark came up big, and re-gained possession at midfield.

Facing fourth-and-2, Barnson made what resulted in the game's most important decision, keeping his offensive squad on the field. Washington's successful conversion was followed by a 12-yard carry by Jimmy Brimmer and a McQueen penalty. Two plays later, Simpson was instantly the hero.

McQueen, the defending champs before the opening kick-off, had their 22-game winning streak halted, concluding the season with a 10-1 record.

The Chargers finished their championship campaign with an unblemished 11-0 mark.



Photo: B.Lee/LVSV Sports

A.J. Washington also played a key role on defense, seen here bringing down Josh Riley.

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