

Sentinel SPORTS

NAMED 1992
"BEST SPORTS EDITION"
1st Place
By the
West Coast
Black Publishers
Association

In A League That Is Loaded With Talent, George Perry Keeping Cheyenne On Top

W.G. Ramirez

With the Southern Conference loaded with prep football talent, it's a wonder that any team is able to stay undefeated in the overall column. In the Sunrise Division, Green Valley has taken control by knocking off its top contenders Eldorado and Rancho. Those three schools alone have arguably the top three backs in the conference - Wade Perkins, Mitchell Bowles and Charles Criner.

In the Sunset Division, Western was labeled as the top dog at the start of the season, led by All-Conference "Mr. Everything," Derek Poole. Actually, there was talk that the Warriors might even walk through the season. But somewhere down the line, they ran into a heavy duty shield that was picked to finish second. Namely, George Perry's Cheyenne Desert Shield.

"In our conference we do have a lot of good football teams, and I think that what's make our conference exciting," says Perry. "Every week there is a big game and so you get good crowds."

Cheyenne has already had a number of big games, and has thwarted all oncomers. The



George Perry

Desert Shield stopped the Warriors early in the season 21-10, and just last week, thumped a feisty Bonanza team 38-13. Perry admits he was worried before the game, due to the fact that the Bengals were reeling from an upset of defending state champion Clark and his Desert Shield were coming off of a week of rest. He says that when preparing for a game, there is no special treatment for each team they'll face, just the same routine

PREP FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD

SUNRISE DIVISION

GREEN VALLEY	3-0, 5-0
VALLEY	2-1, 4-1
ELDORADO	2-1, 3-2
RANCHO	2-1, 2-3
BOULDER CITY	1-2, 3-2
LAS VEGAS	1-2, 2-3
CHAPARRAL	1-2, 1-4
BASIC	0-3, 0-5

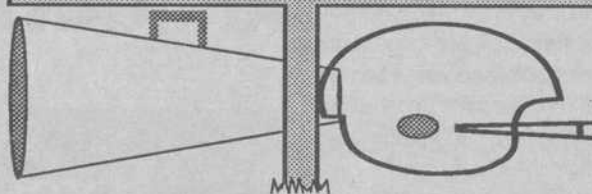
SUNSET DIVISION

CHEYENNE	2-0, 4-0
WESTERN	2-1, 4-1
BONANZA	2-1, 3-2
CLARK	1-1, 4-1
CIMARRON	1-1, 3-2
DURANGO	1-2, 1-4
BISHOP GORMAN	0-3, 1-4
*SILVERADO	0-0, 0-5

*Playing Independent Schedule

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7 1994

- Boulder City @ Las Vegas
- Green Valley @ Chaparral
- Valley @ Eldorado (Homecoming)
- Bishop Gorman @ Silverado
- Durango @ Cheyenne (Homecoming)
- Clark @ Cimarron-Memorial
- Bonanza @ Western



that's obviously been working thus far.

"We do the same things every week," admits Perry. "We don't try to get too excited about anybody or put too many people up on pedestals. We break down the films the same on Sundays and we go about practice the same everyday."

Perry's prize player comes in the form of Corey Grant, a running back that has emerged as one of the league's best through the first five weeks. Grant has helped lead the Desert Shield to a 4-0 record, 2-0 in division play.

"We got a great kid (in Corey Grant) this year

that does well for us. We try to put him in as less pressure as possible. We understand that he has to perform and he knows he has to perform. He's our go-to guy, but he has problems just like anybody else and I think that's too much pressure on a young kid, trying to make him the focal point of your team whether you win or lose."

Perry knows that patience is a virtue when coaching 17 and 18 year-olds, especially when their minds can tend to wander.

"(On Fridays) We try to keep 'em busy from (See Perry, Page 22)

Valley v.s. Eldorado Headline Teams Vying For Contention

W.G. Ramirez

One week after first place was up for grabs amongst the Southern Conference prep football standings, the focus will now be on second place. After losing a first place battle against Cheyenne last Friday, Bonanza (3-2 overall, 2-1 conference) must

now travel to Western (4-1, 2-1) in hopes of retaining second place in the Sunset Division. In the Sunrise Division, Cimarron-Memorial (3-2, 1-1) will be hosting the defending state champion Clark Chargers (4-1, 1-1), in a game that could eventually catapult the winner into the upper

crust of the division. Also, Eldorado (3-2, 2-1) will host the Valley Vikings (4-1, 2-1), a team that has shot out to an impressive start thus far.

The Vikings are coming off of a 22-14 victory over traditional rival Chaparral, while Eldorado is reeling from a 34-23 win against surprising Boulder City. The winner of Friday's game could eventually decide a wild-card spot in the Zone playoffs, and according to Eldorado Head Coach Jimmy May, he doesn't exactly want to pin any hopes on other teams.

"This game is really impor-

tant," admits May. "The win would put us in the drivers seat. The loser would have to depend on other teams losing, to have any shot at the playoffs."

May's 'Devils are led by All-Conference candidate Mitchell Bowles, an explosive running back that has been leading the conference in yardage for the majority of the season. But according to May, his offensive line has had some trouble blocking lately, and it worries him.

"We have to pick it up offensively and defensively, but I'm most worried about our offen-

(See Preps, Page 22)

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POOLE PLAYS LEADERSHIP ROLE FOR WARRIORS

Ramal Fonsworth

Taking on the role as the pre-season favorites for the Sunset Division is one thing, but what about taking on the responsibility of team captain for that particular team. All-Conference candidate Derek Poole has been an inspiration for Western's football team thus far, and according to Head Coach Joe Blockovich, he is more than just that.

"Derek is half of our offense," says Blockovich. "We also have others who contribute to moving the ball, (but) there is no question (he) is an outstanding leader. He was voted unanimously by team members to be elected as captain."

Definitely a young brother that has his act together, Derek says that education is his number one priority and also appreciates Coach Blockovich's academic ethics.

"Coach will skip practice or weight training to take care of any necessary needed time for education," admits Poole.

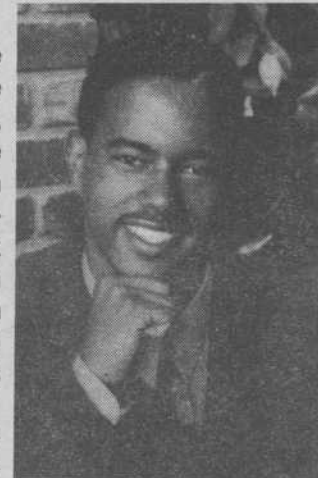
Poole says that there are a few colleges recruiting him, but isn't exactly worried about the football aspect just yet.

"With hard work, I plan to go to a University," says Poole. "However, if I don't meet the needed requirements, I will attend a junior college."

Although Poole is labeled as the go-to-guy, he says there isn't much pressure on him thanks to the added support from his teammates. Poole is quick to mention his teammates before speaking of his own achievements. "I have plenty of assistance from our quarterback (Wes Swaner) and other running backs (DaQuinn Smith and Walter Oliver)."

And what about the pressure of being one of the city's top running backs?

(See Poole, Page 22)



RAMAL FONSWORTH