

Sentinel

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With Just Three Weeks Remaining, Sunrise's Green Valley Still Undefeated

W.G. Ramirez

No question about it, Green Valley has lived up to their pre-season billing as the Southern Conference's team to beat. With only three weeks left in the regular season, the Gators (4-0 in the Sunrise Division and 6-0 overall) have a considerably soft schedule left before vying for the Zone championship. The Gators will host Las Vegas High this Friday, and then finish their season on the road - at Valley and Boulder City. An upset by Valley would not be out of the ordinary, as the Vikings have had a surprisingly decent year under first-year coach Greg Murphy.

"Valley has been the biggest surprise," says Eldorado Head Coach Jimmy May. "Murphy has done a great job with those kids over there."

May's biggest concern isn't the Vikings though, it's getting by cellar dwellers Chaparral and Basic the next two weeks. May is hoping that his Sundevils (3-1, 4-2) aren't looking ahead to the final game of the season, against longtime-rival Rancho.

"Right now we want to concentrate on winning the next two," admits May. "Then we can worry about Rancho and playing for the second playoff berth. If we start looking ahead, we run the chance of being upset."

When the 'Devils and Rancho square off on October 28, it'll be a big game in a number of ways. First, and most importantly, it should decide which Sunrise Division team will proceed to the Zone playoffs to face the Sunset's top-ranked squad. Second, it will endure a great rivalry that has been a part of

Nevada's Southern Conference prep football for a long time. Third, it'll be a matchup for Rancho Head Coach Cary Mitchell, that may never be forgotten. Mitchell spent the majority of his prep coaching career at Eldorado before moving to Rancho.

May says there is much respect on his part for Coach Mitchell, and knows that it is "Cary that did a great job in bringing a winning tradition to Eldorado."

And how would Coach Mitchell feel if he were to advance to the playoffs by winning that game?

"When it gets to that point, ask me then," he simply stated.

Rancho will face a tough test this Friday when they travel to Valley High for a meeting with the Vikings. Then, one week before hosting Eldog, they'll travel to Las Vegas for yet another

tough game. The two play every year for Sir Herkimer's Bone.

"Some of the kids are already talking about (Eldorado) and the bone game at Vegas," admits Mitchell, "...but we still have to get by Valley. They're focused day-by-day, but there are still the general distractions."

Mitchell says he is mostly worried about his special teams unit, which has missed its last seven extra points.

"I'm not worried about injuries as much as before. We haven't executed our special teams and we have to come through when the opportunity presents itself," added Mitchell.

Although Green Valley Head Larry Thomas says his squad "is in excellent shape," there are some things they'll be working on the last three weeks.

"We definitely need to improve in areas that we've fallen, (such as): intensity, fundamentals and basic blocking and passing."

The Gators narrowly escaped the clutches of defeat at the hands of both Eldorado and Rancho just a few weeks back, yet according to Thomas, he feels it was his own team's fault.

"After playing Eldorado and Rancho, our kids know that we didn't play well. Had we played where we are capable of play-

| LAS VEGAS SUN PREP FOOTBALL POLL | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Compiled Weekly By Sun Staff Writer | |
| STU DURANDO | |
| 1. Green Valley | 6-0 |
| 2. Reed | 6-0 |
| 3. Cheyenne | 5-0 |
| 4. Wooster | 5-1 |
| 5. Western | 5-1 |
| 6. McQueen | 3-2 |
| 7. Reno | 5-1 |
| 8. Elko | 5-1 |
| 9. Eldorado | 4-2 |
| 10. Hug | 4-2 |

ing, the games wouldn't have been close."

Thomas, who says Rancho played his Gators a bit tougher, believes injuries and eligibility will be the key in the Rancho-Eldorado game.

CHEYENNE HOLDING DESTINY IN ITS HANDS

W.G. Ramirez

At the beginning of the football season, local prep football coaches and critics said that Western would be the team to beat in the Sunset Division. With only three weeks remaining though, it is the Cheyenne Desert Shield (3-0 in Sunset Division play and 5-0 overall) that is sitting atop the standings. According to both school's head coaches - Western's Joe Blockovich and Cheyenne's George Perry - it is just the way they expected it.

When asked if he imagined his team would be undefeated at this point, Perry simply responded, "Yes!"

Perry says he doesn't understand where all the hoopla for Western (3-1, 5-1) came from since he had over 20 returning players back from last year's 6-3 squad

He arguably has an all-conference running back in Corey Grant, and also believes that his team hasn't missed a beat and definitely is in sync heading into the home stretch of the regular season.

"I don't foresee any injuries or academic eligibility problems," says Perry. "Our kids are ready and aren't afraid to play anyone we go up against. All our (remaining) games are big, and our destiny is in our own hands."

The Desert Shield have two games remaining on the road before closing the season at home against defending state champion Clark.

Cheyenne begins its "road trip" at Sam Boyd Stadium tonight against Gorman. Next week, the Shield travels to Cimarron-Memorial, where the Spartans could be looking at an outside shot at a playoff berth.

Blockovich, who says this Friday's game against Hurricane High (St. George, Utah) means absolutely nothing win or lose, isn't disappointed his pre-season favorite Warriors are in second place.

"Things are pretty much as I expected," stated Blockovich earlier this week. "There are advantages of finishing second in the Sunset Division. You're better off being in second place at the end of the season. I want to go into the playoffs playing the best (the Sunrise) has, because if you can't beat 'em, you don't belong there."

Blockovich made strong arguments for the Sunset Division, saying that traditionally, the Sunrise has been a weaker division, and that it's better to head into the playoffs facing their best school.

Before Western makes any post-season plans though, they'll be traveling to Collis Stadium for a meeting with Clark next week, and Blockovich knows what kind of game that can be.

"We must beat Clark to get into the playoffs," says Blockovich. "It has always been a big game for the two schools." The series is deadlocked at three a piece over the last six years.

What other advantage is there for finishing second in the Sunset Division Coach Blockovich?

"Well, you don't have to coach the all-stars in the Prep All-Star Game."

PREP FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD

| SUNRISE DIVISION | |
|------------------|----------|
| GREEN VALLEY | 4-0, 6-0 |
| ELDORADO | 3-1, 4-2 |
| RANCHO | 3-1, 3-3 |
| VALLEY | 2-2, 4-2 |
| LAS VEGAS | 2-2, 3-3 |
| BOULDER CITY | 1-3, 3-3 |
| CHAPARRAL | 1-3, 1-5 |
| BASIC | 0-4, 0-6 |

| SUNSET DIVISION | |
|-----------------|----------|
| CHEYENNE | 3-0, 5-0 |
| WESTERN | 3-1, 5-1 |
| CIMARRON | 2-1, 4-2 |
| BONANZA | 2-2, 3-3 |
| CLARK | 1-2, 4-2 |
| DURANGO | 1-3, 1-5 |
| BISHOP GORMAN | 0-3, 2-4 |
| *SILVERADO | 0-0, 0-6 |

*-Playing Independent Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13 1994

Cheyenne @ Bishop Gorman (Sam Boyd Stadium)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14 1994

Durango @ Clark
Rancho @ Valley
Boulder City @ Basic
Chaparral @ Eldorado
Las Vegas @ Green Valley
Hurricane (St. George, UT) @ Western
Cimarron-Memorial @ Bonanza (Homecoming)

ESPN & CN

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SPORTS

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THIS WEEK'S STARTING LINEUP

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Thursday October 13</p> <p>NFL - Cleveland @ Houston - 4:45 p.m. (5:00 p.m. kickoff)</p> <p>Saturday October 15</p> <p>College - Auburn @ Florida - 8:30 a.m. (9:00 a.m. kickoff)</p> <p>College - Alabama @ Tennessee - 3:00 p.m. (3:30 p.m. kickoff)</p> | <p>*****</p> <p>Sunday October 16</p> <p>(No pre-game shows on either one)</p> <p>NFL - S.F. 49ers @ Atlanta - 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>NFL - Philadelphia @ Dallas - 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Tuesday October 18</p> <p>IHL - San Diego @ LV Thunder - 6:45 p.m. (7:00 p.m. puck drop)</p> |
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