

MITCHELL BOWLES: SOFT-SPOKEN OFF THE FIELD, YET DETERMINED AND EXPLOSIVE WHEN ON IT

W.G. Ramirez

Just looking at him, you might not get the impression that he is one of the city's top running backs. Listen to his soft-spoken nature, and you'd probably assume that football is far from his reach.

Truth of the matter though, Mitchell Bowles is all that!!! And then some...

Bowles, the star running back for the Eldorado Sundevils, has gained 1,076 yards this season, maintained his 'A' average, passed his SAT and ACT exams, and has college recruiters knocking down his door.

What is left for the young prep star?

"I just need to stay healthy and graduate," said Bowles, as he knocked on wood during an interview this past week.

Bowles will be leading his teammates in an emotional game this Friday evening at

Rancho, in which the winner will advance to the Southern Zone playoffs. The loser gets to watch the post-season from the stands.

Bowles says he is looking forward to a collegiate career, which he hopes will end with an Architectural degree. The pros, he says, are an obvious goal for him, but an education is essential.

"I would like to build houses and buildings," said Bowles, who hasn't received anything lower than an 'A' since ninth grade. "If everything goes right, I wouldn't be disappointed if I didn't make the pros. Either way I'd make good money, you know, buildings are being built everyday."

Whether it be the NFL, CFL or Arena Football League, Bowles knows that all three are professional leagues and he would be happy just to play in one of them.

Watching his idol, Barry



A BLUR FOR OPPONENTS -- Eldorado running back Mitchell Bowles is an explosive back that can squeak through smallest holes and create the biggest plays.

Sanders of the Detroit Lions, keeps Bowles' football dream alive, as he realizes that size makes no difference if you have

the talent. Eldorado assistant coach Ken Trujillo developed a weight training program for the Sundevils, and according to Bowles, the off-season will be even more intense than it is now.

The 5'8" 165 lb. back is hoping that he can jump into a Division I program, and even says he wouldn't mind sitting out his first year, feeling it could work to his advantage.

"If I can redshirt my first year, it would be a plus," stated Bowles. "For those that say size will be a problem, I can gain weight. When I gain weight its usually all muscle. If I were to redshirt, I could take my time in fitting into the college system, learn the program, gain the needed weight and basically get adjusted to college life."

When talking to Bowles about college, his eyes will widen and his voice gets occupied with excitement. He'll tell you about

his aspirations, but he'll also admit there is nothing more fascinating to him than watching college football every Saturday morning.

"There is nothing like it," said Bowles. "The crowd, the noise, everything. I think it's better than watching the NFL, unless Detroit is playing. Then I gotta watch Barry Sanders."

Bowles doesn't exactly try to imitate Sanders' moves, but he will compare tapes of himself and his idol.

"I like to see what he will do in a certain situation and then watch game films of myself and see what I did in a similar situation. I don't want to try and be like anyone else, I just try to be like myself."

"I rely on my moves and my quickness to get by players if I'm getting in trouble," added Bowles.

(See Bowles, Page 24)

PREP FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD

SUNRISE DIVISION

GREEN VALLEY	6-0, 8-0
RANCHO	5-1, 5-3
ELDORADO	4-2, 5-3
CHAPARRAL	3-3, 3-5
LAS VEGAS	2-4, 3-5
VALLEY	2-4, 4-4
BOULDER CITY	1-5, 3-5
BASIC	1-5, 1-7

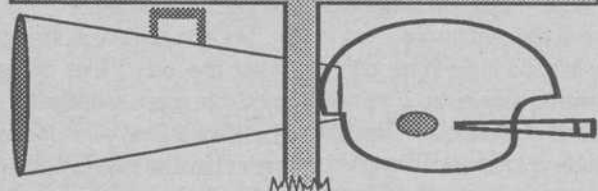
SUNSET DIVISION

CHEYENNE	5-0, 7-0
WESTERN	4-1, 7-1
CIMARRON	3-2, 5-3
BONANZA	3-3, 4-4
CLARK	2-3, 5-3
DURANGO	1-4, 2-6
BISHOP GORMAN	0-5, 2-6
*SILVERADO	0-0, 0-7

*Playing Independent Schedule

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28 1994

Clark @ Cheyenne
Basic @ Chaparral
Valley @ Las Vegas
Western @ Durango
Eldorado @ Rancho
Silverado @ Bonanza
Green Valley @ Boulder City
Bishop Gorman @ Cimarron-Memorial (H'coming)
END OF REGULAR SEASON



Rancho Trying To Overcome Adversity

Head Coach Cary Mitchell didn't want homecoming to be this week. The game he asked for wasn't selected and it came down to Green Valley or Eldorado. "Unfortunately," Mitchell says, "Homecoming is this week."

Along with all the off-field distractions that accompany homecoming week, the Rancho Rams must prepare for the biggest game of the season, as rival Eldorado visits Friday evening for the last playoff spot in the Southern Conference.

"Its a very big game," said Rancho assistant coach Curtis Heathman, earlier this week during practice. "This is the first time we have a chance to get into the playoffs in about four or five years." Rancho's football team was pushed off of its field earlier in the week, so that the annual powderpuff games could be held. Instead, the Rams could be found behind the stadium on the girls softball field.

Mitchell has been trying to keep the team's focus on Friday evening, and is hoping that they'll be ready for a tough Sundevils team.

"They have two or three real quick backs that can beat you at any time," admits Mitchell. "Of course they have an outstanding back in Mitch Bowles, who is one of the best I've seen in a long time."

"Our offensive line has to get off and maintain their blocks a little bit longer than they have been. They've been doing a good job at the point of attack, but on the backside they haven't maintained their block."

Rancho has won this game the last two years, and Mitchell remembers what "the Rancho game" meant when he was the Sundevils' head coach.

"This has been a big rival game even when I was a coach at Eldorado. The toughest game on our schedule every year was Rancho."

According to Heathman, "the kids (have) handled the pressure real well," and he is hoping that defensive back Derrick Thomas and noseguard Mike Rainwater will be able to spark Rancho's defense into shutting down Bowles and company.

The one thing that Rancho may be able to use to their advantage defensively, is their pass rush. Eldorado has been without the services of starting quarterback Demarlo Slocum, and there are members of the Eldorado team that are saying backup Milt Linn can't handle the pressure. If Linn is pressured enough, there may be a few errant passes that could fall into Rancho's secondary.

- Willie Ramirez

Sundevils have revenge on their minds

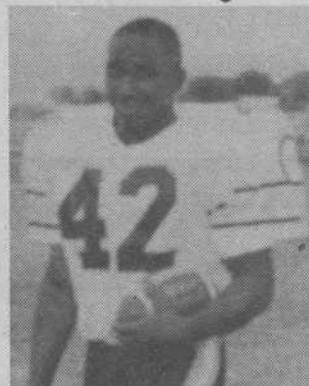
W.G. Ramirez

While the happy-go-lucky homecoming attitude is overwhelming at Rancho High School, the intensity level at Eldorado has really picked up throughout the week. The two schools will meet this Friday night at Rancho for the final playoff position in the Southern Conference.

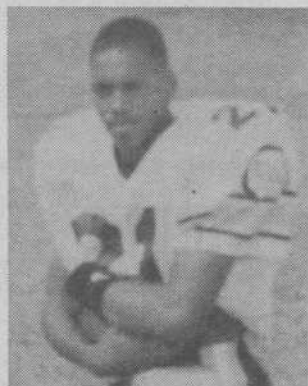
Although the annual Sir Herkimer's Bone Game between Rancho and Las Vegas is billed as the city's oldest rivalry, the annual meeting between traditional-rivals Rancho (5-3 overall,) and Eldorado (5-3 overall,) could arguably be the best all-around.

Last year Rancho upset the playoff-bound Sundevils at home, and according to members of this year's Eldorado squad, it's payback time.

"These are the kind of games



Matt Maxwell



Mitchell Bowles

you live for right here," said Eldorado running back Mitchell Bowles, Wednesday afternoon prior to practice. "I think we came out real lackadaisical and we just got our butts kicked. (Now) its revenge time, life-or-death, its everything all wrapped up into one."

Bowles and the rest of his teammates have been working extremely hard the past two

weeks, to rebound from a tough loss to Chaparral. Before that game, Head Coach Jimmy May expressed some concern about his team looking past the Cowboys and underestimating the weaker squad. The Sundevils gave up seven turnovers, and ended up getting thumped 35-0.

"We feel that this is a playoff game in itself," says May. "The number one thing we have to do

is not turn the ball over. When we do, we're not as good a team. If we turn the ball over we're in trouble."

Another thing the 'Devils will try not to do is fall behind early and try to play catch-up with the volatile Rams.

"They've got the total package as far as offense, (but) the one thing they do is make lots of mistakes. If we can capitalize on a couple of their mistakes then we can be alright."

Defensive end Matt Maxwell, who has been selected as defensive game captain for

(See Eldorado, Page 24)

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