



Rancho To Face Western; Winner Gets Chaparral

W.G. Ramirez
Sentinel-Voice

In arguably a battle for North Las Vegas supremacy, the Rancho Rams eeked out a 44-37 victory over Cheyenne Wednesday afternoon, in the opening round of the Class AAA Southern Conference Girls Tournament.

Demetria Miller scored a game-high 15 points to lead the Rams to a second-round berth, where they'll face the Western Warriors, a 64-59 winner over Eldorado.

Although the Desert Shields managed to keep things close in the first quarter, Rancho prevailed with an 11-4 second

quarter run to open up a 26-17 lead, heading into the locker room at halftime.

The Rams kept things going immediately in the third quarter, widening their margin to twelve when junior forward Danielle Hernandez hit one-of-two free throws and senior Sheletia Arnold layed in an easy basket with 6:46 remaining.

After four quick points by the Desert Shields, Rancho went on a 7-0 run to go up 36-21 and seemingly begin to put the contest away.

However, the Desert Shields took advantage of costly Rancho mistakes to pull within six, 36-30, behind a 9-0 run.

Freshman Yolanda Banks got things going for Cheyenne with 1:16 left in the third quarter and it wouldn't be until 5:56 of the fourth that Rancho would score.

It was junior Venetia Graham who killed Rancho's drought, but Cheyenne responded with a pair from the field to pull within four, 38-34, with just 4:38 left in its season.

The teams traded baskets until the final minute, when tempers began to flare between Cheyenne's Stacey Hartwell and Rancho's Demetria Miller. On a fast break, Hartwell threw the smaller Miller to the floor and was called for an intentional foul.

Miller jumped up to retaliate, but both players were restrained by coaches and referees.

Miller nailed the two free throws she was awarded and ultimately sealed Cheyenne's fate at the same time.

For Western, guard Terra Carter scored 14 of her game-high 26 points in the fourth quarter, propelling the Warriors past Eldorado. The Sundevils tried to remain close, getting within two, 48-46, midway through the third quarter.

Sophomore forward Rochuel

Grayson added 21 for the Warriors, while senior forward Anita Zamora led the 'Devils with 15.

In the evening games, Basic pulled off the upset of the first round - for both the boys and the girls - by toppling Bishop Gorman 53-44 and Las Vegas kept their hopes alive for a sixth straight state tournament appearance by crushing Durango 62-42.

For Basic, it was senior forward Kayunta Sweeney leading the way with 17 points and senior forward Jennifer Ulrich add-

ing 16. The Wolves held a slim 13-10 lead after the first quarter and a four-point advantage at intermission, but in the third, they widened their margin to 12 with a 37-25 lead.

After Gorman clawed its way to within one, 43-42 with close to six minutes left in the game, the Wolves put a 10-2 run together to finish the game.

The nightcap found Las Vegas trailing at halftime to the Trailblazers, 28-22, after it shot

(See GIRLS, Page 20)

LEAGUE ANNOUNCEMENTS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

■ The City of Las Vegas Adaptive Recreation Division hosts their annual youth basketball tournament on Saturday March 4. Play will take place from 9 am to 3:30 p.m. at the Dula Gymnasium, 440 E. Bonanza Rd., with an awards ceremony immediately following. The three-n-three competition is open to all special education students from Las Vegas area middle and senior high schools. Players must be between 13 and 19 years old. The program is free to both competitors and spectators. Call 229-6538 for details.

■ Volunteer coaches are presently being recruited to assist with a girls basketball league at the City of Las Vegas Doolittle Community Center, 1901 North "J" Street. Coaching is needed on Saturdays from 1-5 p.m., beginning March 11. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old. Junior and senior divisions of play are being organized. Anyone interested in volunteering for these positions are urged to call the Doolittle Center at 229-6374.

■ The Chuck Minker Sports Complex, 275 N. Mojave Rd., will host the Back to Basics Racquetball Tournament, March 31-April 2. Registration continues thru March 27 at 5 p.m. Fees are \$20 for the first event and \$10 for the second. Events are limited to six teams each. Competition is open to players 16 and older. Play will include divisions for both men and women and consist of doubles and mixed doubles. Recreational players of all levels are

encouraged to enter. This tournament is sponsored by the City of Las Vegas. Call 229-6563 for play times.

■ An all girls' Spring league is now being offered at the Doolittle Community Center, 1901 North "J" Street. The league will offer two divisions of play. The junior division is for ages 9-13, while the senior division will accept ages 14-18. Training begins at 1 p.m. Saturday March 11, however registration will continue through March 30. Games will then begin April 1. All training and league play takes place at the Doolittle Center. Preformed teams may register, or individual registration will be accepted. There is no charge to participate. This league is being sponsored by the City of Las Vegas. Call 229-6374 for details.

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■ Whitney Community Center, 5700 E. Missouri (near Boulder Highway and Tropicana), 455-7573 is sponsoring "Basketball Frenzy" contests on Saturday, March 4 from 8 a.m.-12 noon. A Hot Shot and 3-point basketball competition is open to boys and girls ages 7-16. Proof of age is mandatory and required at the time of registration or check-in on the day of the event. Pre-registration will be taken at the center through Wednesday, March 1. Cost is \$3 per person. Awards will be given to four age groups: 7-8, 9-10, 11-13 and 14-16. Trophies, ribbons, UNLV practice jerseys are some of the awards. For more information, call Clark County Parks and Recreation at 455-7573.

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