

SENTINEL SPORTS

Prep Football Championship

Cheyenne, Wooster to battle for state title

By Kevin Lewis

Sentinel-Voice Sports

There are few left wondering if Cheyenne High School has any air game in their offense.

After trailing 28-12 at the end of the third quarter, the Desert Shields' offense responded for 35 unanswered points to roll to a 47-28 emotional win over the Gators of Green Valley High School in the Class AAA Southern Conference Championship at Cheyenne.

The Desert Shields, ranked ninth nationally, will now meet Wooster High School on Friday, November 17th for the state title at Sam Boyd Stadium. Wooster, the defending champion, defeated Reed High School 25-14 in the Northern Conference

game.

"This is all a credit of our kids not quitting," said Cheyenne coach George Perry, whose team avenged a 35-22 loss to the Gators in last year's Southern Zone Championship. "Not after 16 points, not ever. They don't know how to lose because they don't quit. They just don't give up."

Much like an unsuspecting avalanche, the Desert Shields' explosive fourth quarter opened with a 53-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Jason Schmidt to all-purpose back Devon Spaight. Spaight's two-point conversion run then cut the lead to 28-20.

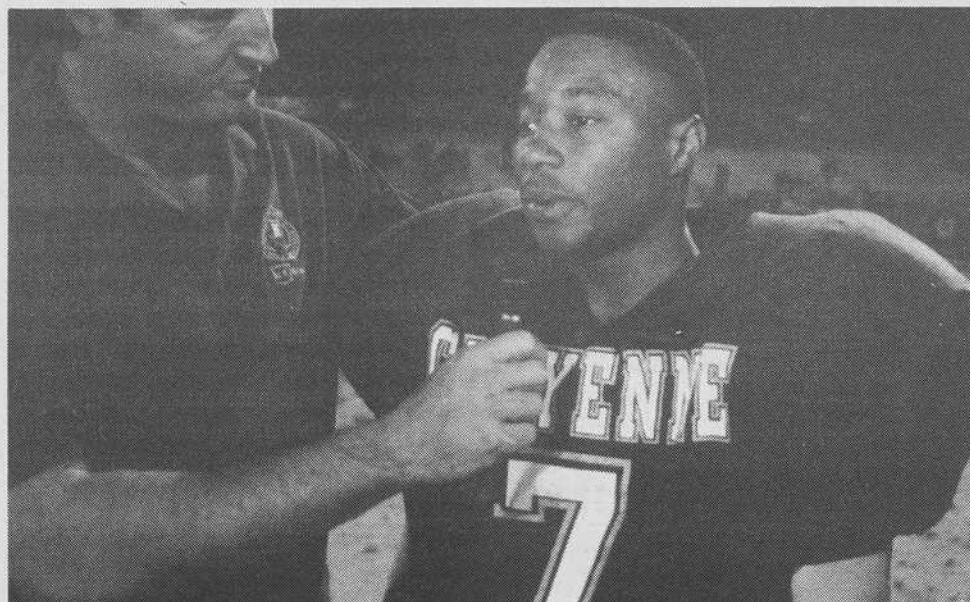
The Gators fumbled away the ensuing kickoff to Cheyenne at

their own 30-yard-line, which helped set up a 26-yard touchdown pass from Schmidt (11 for 20 for 194 yards and two touchdowns) to wide receiver Ray Dumas. Senior running back Eddie Hartwell (4 carries for 48 yards) tied the game at 28-28 by running in the two point conversion.

"We never doubted for one moment that we could come back," said Cheyenne's Spaight, who finished with three touchdowns and three catches for 56 yards and 11 carries for 56 yards. "We're a good team. We can run and throw the ball when we have to."

The Gators seemed stunned by the turning of events and committed another costly fumble by runningback Brian Reed, which precluded a 31-yard touchdown run by Hampton (16 carries for 113 yards) to take a 34-28 lead.

"You just can't make that many turnovers against a good



All-purpose back Devon Spaight (3 touchdowns, 3 catches for 56 yards and 11 carries for 56 yards) helped lead Cheyenne High School to their 47-28 Southern Zone Championship victory over Green Valley High.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

team like Cheyenne and expect to win," said Green Valley coach Larry Thomas. "We lost (Chad) Cion in the third quarter with a bad mouth injury and that effectively shut down our running game down the stretch because

he has the ability to break tackles."

The Gators' runningback, Cion (12 carries for 82 yards and one touchdown), left the game in the third quarter with a severe mouth injury after a routine tackle

to the turf. His mouth hit the hard turf and knocked several of his teeth loose and required several stitches to close the wound.

Hampton scored from the one-yard line following an

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"This is all a credit of our kids not quitting," said Cheyenne coach George Perry, of his team's come from behind victory.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

Final entry list climbs to record 54 teams for 19th Reebok Holiday Prep Classic in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS—As if 50 teams weren't enough to make the 19th Reebok Holiday Prep Classic the largest tournament in the nation, tournament officials have announced the final entry list of 54 boy's basketball teams for the December 18-21 Classic in Las Vegas.

"The interest level is just so high for this tournament, we felt we had to add some additional teams," commented Tournament Director Jim Allen. "We seem to say it every year, but this field looks to be our best in terms of not only quantity, but quality. There could be as many as 10 of the teams playing in this year's tournament ranked among top 25 pre-season polls. After last year's capacity crowds for several games, I sincerely hope people buy their tickets early for this year. This will be one of the finest weeks of prep basketball in the history of Nevada."

With a line-up for the Classic, presented by Las Vegas Events, that already featured defending champion Oak Hill Academy of

Mouth of Wilson, Va., and runnerup Mater Dei of Santa Ana, two teams dropped from the original group of 50 announced in May and six more were added to reach the record level of 54 teams.

The new teams added to the tournament includes Clark High School of Las Vegas, bringing the total to nine of area teams participating in the oldest in-season tournament in the Silver State.

Also added to the talented lineup are George Washington of Denver, St. John Bosco of Bellflower, Calif., McKinley Tech of Washington, D.C., Redemption Christian Academy of Troy, New York, and St. Thomas More Collegiate HS of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

This marks the first time a Colorado school has entered the Classic and St. John Bosco's lineup will feature 6-5 Junior All-American Schea Cotton, who started last year for Mater Dei. Redemption Christian is a prep school whose lineup includes 7-2 Junior foreign exchange student Stephen Ameh of Nigeria.

In all, 13 different states, the District of Colombia and Canada will have teams in the 1995 Reebok Holiday Prep Classic, led by California's 21 teams.

Second in total teams entered is Nevada with 10 and Kentucky is next with four teams, while both Alabama and Pennsylvania have three each and New York, Utah and Washington each have two squads entered. Arizona, Colorado, North Carolina, Virginia and Texas each have one team entered this year.

With 106 games scheduled for the four-day hoopfest, the Reebok Holiday Prep Classic will again be played in the two gyms at Durango High School, as well as the Sawyer Middle School Gym.

In addition to Clark HS, the other area teams entered are: Basic (Henderson), Bishop Gorman, Bonanza, Cheyenne (N. Las Vegas), Cimarron-Memorial, defending State AAA champion Durango, Valley and Western.

Among the other nationally prominent teams who will be in Las Vegas in December include: Archbishop Carroll (Radnor, Pa.), Artesia (Lakewood, Calif.), Balboa (San Francisco), Fontana (Calif.), Fremont (Los Angeles), Garfield (Seattle), Jefferson Davis (Montgomery, Ala.), Long Beach (Calif.), Poly, Martin Luther King (New York City), Mount Zion Christian Academy (Durham, N.C.), North Hollywood (Calif.), Paintsville (Ky.), Rancho Bernardo (San



Diego), Santa Ana (Calif.) Valley, Shadow Mountain (Phoenix) and Westchester (Los Angeles).

Classic founder and current Executive Director Larry McKay, an assistant principal at Durango High School, turned over the tournament director duties to his life-long friend and long-time associate Jim Allen in May of this year.

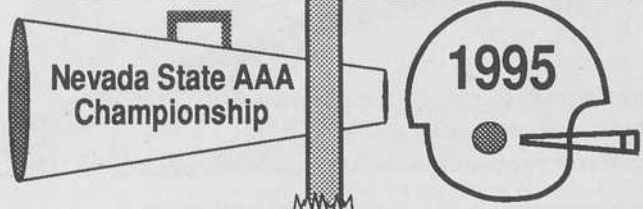
"Jim has been associated with the Holiday Prep Classic in some form since it began, so the transition from me to him has been extremely smooth and quick," McKay said.

Tournament season tickets, priced at \$30 each, are now available through the tournament office. Single day tickets, good for all games at both tournament sites, will be \$8 each and will be sold only at the door. For more Classic information, call 799-5850, extension 223.

Southern Conference Finals
Friday, November 10, 1995
Cheyenne 47 - Green Valley 28

Northern Conference Finals
Friday, November 10, 1995
Wooster 25 - Reed 14

Nevada State AAA Championship
Cheyenne vs Wooster
Friday, November 17, 1995 - 7:00 p.m.
Sam Boyd Stadium (Las Vegas)



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