

Lancers hold off Spartans for state title

By Diamond Ross
Sentinel-Voice

USA Today's 10th-ranked high school football team, the McQueen Lancers stormed out to a 21-7 lead, then staved off a furious late charge by the Cimarron Spartans to win the Class 4A championship 28-21 last Friday.

The Spartans, rallied from a 14-point deficit to tie the score at 21. After a McQueen touchdown, quarterback Toby Smeltzer led the Spartans on a dramatic drive to the 10-yard line.

But on the final play, a blitzing Lancer defense sacked Smeltzer to preserve a 28-21 victory for McQueen at Sam Boyd Stadium. The Lancers won their third state championship and first since 1992.

Cimarron Head Coach Greg Spencer praised

his team's grit.

"One thing about this team, we never quit," Spencer said. "All 35 guys never quit, and that's why we did so well this year."

Cimarron was its own worse enemy over the first 24 minutes, blowing two scoring opportunities, dropping several catchable balls that would have resulted in first downs and committing 55 yards in penalties.

The Lancers, however, were a picture of consistency, scoring on their first three possessions and threatening to score on their fourth possession until the half ended.

Despite the miscues, the Spartans were still a threat and the Lancers knew they could not ease up. "We knew these guys were tough," Lancer coach Ken Dalton said. "We thought we

had to double the score to beat them."

Back-to-back passes to Kory Synagogue in the third quarter helped Cimarron get back in the game.

Synagogue returned the first interception 29 yards for a touchdown, making the score 21-14. A few plays after the second theft, Smeltzer scored from the one-yard line to knot the score at 21.

Cimarron's offense stalled in the fourth quarter, as they punted on two straight drives.

Midway in the fourth, McQueen's talented running back/linebacker Billy Cofer scored what turned out to be the winning touchdown on a 1-yard TD plunge with 5:38 to play.

After a defensive stand, the Spartans took over at their 48-yard-line with 1:05 to play.

Smeltzer, 11 of 22 passing for 123 yards, then led the Spartans downfield. He threw a 13-yard strike to Ross Dalton. He then scrambled for 19 more, putting the Spartans on McQueen's 20 with 48 seconds left.

He missed Synagogue in the end zone, then barely escaped a sack, just managing to get back to the line of scrimmage. On third-and-10, he found Dalton for 10 more yards and spiked the ball to stop the clock.

An incomplete pass followed. Four seconds remained.

McQueen knew Cimarron would be throwing the ball. They came with a blitz. Smeltzer stepped around linebacker Moa Peaua but could not escape defensive end Ryan McLaughlin, who wrapped him up as time expired.

Don King: African-American hero or scoundrel?

By William Reed
Special to Sentinel-Voice

If Don King were a city, he'd be Las Vegas: flamboyant, awake 24 hours a day, driven by money and rooted in gambling.

King is a blaring, glaring, larger-than-life cultural phenomenon. A real piece of work. Were King white, he'd be positioned as a rags to riches story that could only happen in America.

But, King's status in life, and in minds of people, is a classic example of the basic status of all African-Americans. If he were white, King would be accorded the same respect and worship as Donald Trump. With an estimated wealth of \$600 million, King doesn't take a back seat to many, but due to his ghetto flair and street orientation, he's continually maligned by white media.

Portrayed as a hustler and fast-talking con man, King's contributions and commendations among African-Americans have not

been articulated among the nation's mainstream media.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, King was fatherless as a youth. As a young adult, he was involved in what was then "illegal lottery" and owned a popular nightclub.

In 1966, he was convicted of manslaughter for killing a former employee in a street fight. He spent four-and-a-half years in a penitentiary, was paroled in 1971 and pardoned by the governor in 1983. Soon after his release King began a career as a boxing promoter.

Less than a year out of prison, King began managing Earnie Shavers. In 1973, he talked himself into handling promoting for heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman. His Don King Promotions company was not accepted among the promoters network, and was forced to set up fights outside the United States.

Foreman's defense of the championship against Ken Norton was in Venezuela, and



Sentinel-Voice photo by Front Row Photo/Jonathan Olsen

Don King, center, has become boxing's premier promoter, inking most of the big fights.

the bout King arranged between Foreman and Muhammad Ali, was held in Kinshasa, Zaire. Because of the "Rumble in the Jungle," King got Foreman a \$5 million purse and established himself as boxing's most successful promoter.

King went on to make many millionaires, promoting fights

for the greatest boxers of the 1970s, '80s, and '90s: Muhammad Ali, Larry Holmes, Roberto Duran, Mike Tyson and Julio Cesar Chavez. He co-promoted the famous 1975 "Thrilla in Manila" championship fight between Ali and Joe Frazier.

In 1984 he branched out of boxing and promoted the

multimillion-dollar Jackson's World Tour.

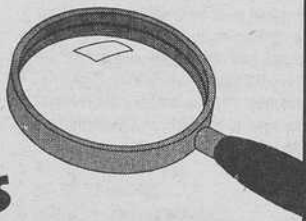
As in the case of many African-Americans, King's businesses and practices have been subjects of significant controversy. A brilliant promoter, Don King has been central to boxing for decades.

From the 1970s through the early 1990s, he was repeatedly

investigated for alleged racketeering in the boxing industry. During the period King held a virtual monopoly on promotions for major boxing matches. He was criticized for acting as de facto manager for boxers he promoted. In the most famous instance, King came under intense scrutiny for "advising" both Mike Tyson and Buster Douglas, when he promoted their 1990 heavyweight championship fight.

Recently, King was presented with the NAACP's highest award and America's mainstream media attempted to heap shame on the group. The mainstream media fails to honor King's many contributions to black communities and clubs. White media, whom many blacks accept as arbiters of the truths, tried to take the NAACP to task over King. But the NAACP stood firm. King is worth it.

WHERE DO SOUTHERN NEVADA EMPLOYERS FIND THE WORKERS THEY NEED?



NBS
NEVADA BUSINESS SERVICES

A Human Resource and Career Training Service

Free employee screening, assessment and training services for Southern Nevada Businesses.

• 930 West Owens • 638-8750 or 638-1159 TDD •

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program; Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



NOW EVEN BIGGER... TO SERVE YOU BETTER...

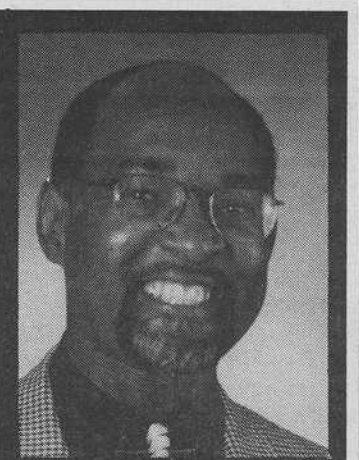
UNITED NISSAN CAN HELP RE-ESTABLISH YOUR CREDIT AND GIVE YOU A GREAT DEAL ON YOUR NEXT NEW OR USED VEHICLE. REPOSSESSION, BANKRUPTCY, CHARGE-OFFS CAN ALL BE OVERCOME. 99% APPROVAL! COME IN TODAY AND GIVE US A TRY!

No matter what the credit, we can help you. In fact, possibly with NO MONEY DOWN!

NISSAN UNITED NISSAN

E. SAHARA & BOULDER HWY. • 457-8061

Hours: Mon-Fri: 8:30a to 10:00p • Sat: 8:30a to 9:00p



LAWRENCE ENNIS
General Sales Manager

"Your Time Is Important To Me. Please Phone Ahead For An Appointment"

SPECIAL VALUES AND DEALS TO STATE, COUNTY AND CITY EMPLOYEES!