



Arizona Interscholastic Association

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NEWS RELEASE

SOLLENBERGER CLASSIC ARIZONA VS. NEVADA

PHOENIX, AZ (July 29, 2008) – For the first time in its three year history the Sollenberger Classic annual football game will pit two state champions from two different states against one another. This year the game will be between the Arizona Interscholastic Association's (AIA) Class 5A Division I defending state champion Phoenix Brophy College Preparatory, and the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association's (NIAA) Class 4A defending state champion Las Vegas Bishop Gorman High School.

“Since its beginning in 2006, the AIA envisioned this game evolving to match two teams from neighboring states, something Barry (Sollenberger) had always dreamed of,” Dr. Harold Slemmer, AIA Executive Director said. “The AIA is very excited to have an NIAA school of Bishop Gorman’s caliber come in and play one of our premier member school football programs.”

The Sollenberger Classic honors the late Barry Sollenberger, a former AIA employee. As a sports historian, Sollenberger was devoted to the task of documenting the achievements of high school athletes in the state of Arizona. His passion for this task was evident by his award winning high school sports magazine, including the 35th Annual Edition of the 2005 Phoenix Metro Football Magazine, and the voluminous archives stored at the AIA office.

“We are honored the AIA has asked the NIAA to participate in the Sollenberger Classic,” said Eddie Bonine, NIAA Executive Director. “This event has proven over the past two years to be successful and when asked if our state would like to participate, I was quick to respond, ‘absolutely!’ The NIAA’s representative, Bishop Gorman High School, year in and year out, always puts a very competitive team on the field. This will be an experience of a lifetime for high school athletes to play in a venue as spectacular as the one offered by the Arizona Cardinals.”

In partnership with the Arizona Cardinals Football Club, the Sollenberger Classic will take place at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz. on Saturday, August 23, 2008 with kickoff slated for 7:20 p.m.

“The Cardinals have always enjoyed a strong relationship with the high school football community and the AIA in particular,” said Cardinals Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer Ron Minegar. “We’re thrilled with the tradition that’s been established through the annual AIA state championship games played at University of Phoenix Stadium and are very proud to be involved with bringing the Sollenberger Classic to the venue.”

“Glendale is thrilled to be the home of youth sports ... and now the Sollenberger Classic,” Glendale City Manager Ed Beasley noted. “To be able to bring such high caliber competition to the Stadium and have a venue where student athletes can play on the same field as their Super Bowl heroes, is an honor for us as a city to host.”

Representing Arizona the Brophy College Prep Broncos, coached by Scooter Molander, won its second championship in three years by defeating Tempe Desert Vista 34-21 on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2007 at University of Phoenix Stadium. The Broncos finished the 2007 campaign with 12 wins and two losses. Brophy College Prep’s first championship was celebrated on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2005 when they upset No. 1 Chandler Hamilton 15-14.

“Brophy College Prep is honored to participate in the Sollenberger Classic. The AIA in conjunction with the Arizona Cardinals have gone out of their way to develop a truly outstanding pre-season football classic,” said John Chambers, Athletic Director for Brophy College Prep. “Our coaches, players and boosters are looking forward to playing Bishop Gorman High School. They have a rich tradition of being one of the premier football programs in Nevada. Brophy especially appreciates the efforts of Dr. Harold Slemmer, Chuck Schmidt and the AIA for making this game possible.”

Representing Nevada and led by Head Coach Bob Altshuler, Bishop Gorman won the NIAA Class 4A championship defeating Reno McQueen 38-17 on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007 at Sam Boyd Stadium on the campus of UNLV. Bishop Gorman, nicknamed the Gaels, finished the 2007 season with an unblemished record at 14 wins and zero losses. Class 4A is the NIAA’s highest classification.

“Bishop Gorman High School is honored to be a part of the inaugural Sollenberger Classic between the state champions of Arizona and Nevada,” said Dr. Peter Weinburgh, Athletic Director for Bishop Gorman. “We really appreciate the NIAA and the AIA for not only putting this classic together, but also for inviting Bishop Gorman to participate in it. Our players, coaches, administration, and boosters are looking forward to what will surely become an annual autumn classic. An opportunity such as this game is a great reward for a previous, successful season and a great way to launch the new year.”

Tickets for the Sollenberger Classic are \$10.00 for adults and students, \$5.00 for children age 6 to 14, and children 5 and younger will be admitted free. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the AIA Scholarship Fund in honor of Barry Sollenberger and the AIA Academy Foundation’s educational outreach initiatives. Tickets will be available at the University of Phoenix Stadium Box Office and www.ticketmaster.com beginning Saturday, August 2, and at the AIA Office on a cash only basis beginning Wednesday, August 6.

In addition to the game itself, a pre-game tailgate party for all AIA member high school varsity football teams and their coaches will be held at Westgate on Saturday, August 23, 2008. Varsity football team members, wearing their jerseys and accompanied by their coaches in team shirts, will be admitted free of charge to the Sollenberger Classic. More details will be sent to the schools in the weeks leading up to the game.

In Arizona, the Sollenberger Classic can be seen live on Cox7-AZ and heard on the radio at The Fan AM 1060. The AIA, NIAA and Cox Communications are working to have the game televised live in Nevada as well.

The Sollenberger Classic will also be streamed online through a new site, AIA365.com. Vootage, in conjunction with NowLive.com and AIA365.com, will provide live and archived coverage of the Sollenberger Classic. AIA365.com will house video content of AIA events, some on a live basis, and will also house archived AIA championships.

“Vootage is a web platform that allows for archiving, scorekeeping and indexing of sporting events and activities,” Vootage CEO Jeff Proctor said. “The AIA is an ideal partnership for us. Through the leadership of Dr. Harold Slemmer and Chuck Schmidt, the AIA is embracing the digital age and is becoming a national leader in technology at the high school level. We’re excited about helping them achieve their goal of aggregating, controlling and distributing their video.

Vootage also has a relationship with the California Interscholastic Federation-Southern Section and recently partnered with Fox Sports Net and Cox to bring viewers live webcasts of last years California and Arizona state football championships.

“We are thankful to the Arizona Cardinals and the NIAA for their support of this game which remembers a great high school sports historian,” Slemmer said. “We hope to see a great turnout to pay tribute to Barry and to watch these two premier programs kickoff the season.”

Sollenberger Classic History

The first game honoring Barry was held at Sun Devil Stadium on the campus of Arizona State University. Hamilton, the 2005 AIA 5A Division I state runner-ups, defeated Mesa Red Mountain 21-7 on Friday, August 25, 2006.

In its second year, the Brophy Prep Broncos hosted Tucson Salpointe Catholic at Phoenix College on Thursday, August 23, 2007. The Broncos defeated Salpointe Catholic 33-17 to take hold of the Sollenberger Classic Trophy.

In its first two years the Sollenberger Classic champion went on to win their respective state championship. Hamilton defeated Mesa Mountain View 34-15 on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006 to claim the 5A Division I championship, also at University of Phoenix Stadium.

About Arizona Interscholastic Association

The AIA is a voluntary association of public and private high schools which was established by and is responsible to its members. The democratic governance of the AIA provides representation and input opportunities to all its member schools through their governing board members, administrators and teachers who serve on the Legislative Council, Executive Board and ad hoc committees. There are currently 264 member high schools with over 305,000 students under the AIA. The AIA was established in 1925. The AIA is online at www.aiaonline.org.

About Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association

The NIAA is a non-profit organization of secondary schools in Nevada. The NIAA is the governing body of high school athletics and activities in the Silver State as recognized by the Nevada state legislature. As of the 2007-2008 academic year, the NIAA had 102 member schools divided into four classifications. The NIAA is responsible for sponsoring, directing and developing athletics and activities in Nevada’s high schools. The NIAA is online at: www.niaa.com.

About Brophy College Preparatory

Brophy is a private, Jesuit, Catholic, college preparatory that is committed to the belief that all creation is a reflection of God’s love and presence. Brophy College Preparatory was founded in 1928 by Mrs. William Henry Brophy in accordance with the Society of Jesus as a Jesuit Catholic all boys school. The first complex of the school—Regis Hall, the Chapel, and the Jesuit Residence—was completed for the opening of college courses, as well as high school, on the 19 acre campus on September 11, 1928. Brophy College Prep is online at: www.brophyprep.org.

About Bishop Gorman High School

Established in 1954, Bishop Gorman High School has provided the sole venue for those who aspire to a quality Catholic college preparatory education in the Diocese of Las Vegas. Named after Thomas K. Gorman, first bishop of Nevada, Gorman successfully competes with public and private schools to attract an outstanding, diverse student body that will proudly carry on the storied traditions of academic excellence, athletic prowess and deep-rooted spiritual development. Their mission is to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, prepare students for higher education and create a community where service is valued and celebrated. Bishop Gorman High School is online at: www.bishopgorman.org.

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