



Arizona Interscholastic Association
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NEWS RELEASE

FOURTH ANNUAL SOLLENBERGER CLASSIC TO BE HELD IN RENO

PHOENIX, AZ (July 29, 2009) – In the fourth year of the Sollenberger Classic and for the second straight year, a state championship team from Arizona will match-up against a state championship team from Nevada. This time the game will take place in Reno, Nevada at Mackay Stadium on the campus of University of Nevada, Reno, at 7 p.m. on Saturday, August 22, 2009.

Peoria Centennial, Arizona Interscholastic Association's (AIA) Class 5A Division II defending state champion, will face the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association's (NIAA) Class 4A defending state champion Reno McQueen High School.

"The Sollenberger Classic has been a success in its first three years in Arizona," Harold Slemmer, AIA Executive Director said. "We now have the opportunity to take the game out of state for the first time and want to thank Eddie and his staff at the NIAA for helping to make that vision a reality and for hosting the annual game that recognizes a great high school historian."

"The NIAA is excited to be given the opportunity to host this prestigious event in the 'Biggest Little City in the World' here in Reno," NIAA Executive Director Eddie Bonine said. "The staff of the University of Nevada, Reno has graciously extended their cooperation and facilities at historical Mackay Stadium."

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.

Representing Arizona is Centennial High School. Centennial, nicknamed the Coyote, and under the direction of Head Coach Richard Taylor, won its third straight AIA 5A Division II championship by defeating Tolleson Westview 20-7 on Friday, December 12, 2008 at University of Phoenix Stadium. The Coyote finished the 2008 campaign with 14 wins and zero losses. Class 5A is the AIA's highest classification with two divisions.

"Knowing Barry Sollenberger and all he's done for high school football, it's a great honor and a privilege to play in a game named after him," Taylor said. "The Centennial football team, the school and the community are very proud to have the opportunity to represent Arizona in the Sollenberger Classic. McQueen High School has a long and glorious history and from what we've seen from them on film, they will be one of the best teams we play all year."

Representing Nevada and led by Head Coach Jim Snelling, McQueen won the NIAA Class 4A championship defeating Las Vegas Palo Verde 13-12 on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008 at Mackay Stadium. McQueen, nicknamed the Lancers, finished the 2008 season with an unblemished record at 14 wins and zero losses. Class 4A is the NIAA's highest classification.

“McQueen High School is very excited to have the opportunity to play in the Sollenberger Classic,” Snelling said. “We look forward to the opportunity of representing the state of Nevada and playing the 2008 state champion of Arizona. Centennial is very impressive on film and they have several key players returning and it’s obvious that they run a quality program. The McQueen team of 2009 has worked very hard this summer and is excited to play a top level program from the state of Arizona.”

Tickets for the Sollenberger Classic are \$10.00 with children 5 and younger will be admitted free. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the AIA Scholarship Fund in honor of Barry Sollenberger. Tickets will be available the day of the game at the Mackay Stadium Box Office.

The Sollenberger Classic can be seen live worldwide on the new www.aia365.com. In addition, the game will be broadcast in the Phoenix metropolitan area on The Fan AM 1060, and in Reno on ESPN Radio 630.

“With kickoff scheduled for shortly after 7 p.m. local time, outdoors, under the lights, and with an expected game time temperature in the 80s, we should have a wonderful high school football game environment,” Bonine said.

Sollenberger Classic History

The first game honoring Barry was held at Sun Devil Stadium on the campus of Arizona State University. Chandler 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 Phoenix 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.

Last year, Phoenix Brophy Prep, the 2007 AIA 5A D-I State Champions, defeated Las Vegas Bishop Gorman, the 2007 NIAA 4A State Champions, 16-6. The game was played on August 23, 2008 at University of Phoenix Stadium, home to the NFC Defending Champion Arizona Cardinals.

For the third consecutive year, the Sollenberger Classic champion went on to play in their respective state championship, winning two out of the three years. Brophy lost the 5A Division I championship to Chandler Hamilton on Dec. 12, 2008, 17-10, 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 275 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 established in 1922. The NIAA is the governing body of high school athletics and activities in the Silver State as recognized by the Nevada state legislature. The NIAA has 105 member schools divided into four classifications and is responsible for sponsoring, directing and developing athletics and activities in Nevada’s high schools. The NIAA is online at: www.niaa.com.

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