



The best seniors

Top, left: Hard-hitting action. Top, right: A quarterback under duress. Bottom, right: Fans joined their team on the field after the game. Bottom, left: A defender tries to wrap up the ball carrier.



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

Colorado's 8-Man All-State Football Game

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GILPIN COUNTY

At a time when fellow recent high school graduates might be seen at the local swimming hole relaxing with friends, the best senior gridiron athletes in the state still had business to attend to. Meeting at Gilpin County Stadium on Saturday, June 1, for the Colorado 8-Man All-State Football Game, it was one last chance to strap on the pads. A tradition that honors the student-athletes and pits the North against the South, the members of the squads are selected from nine different leagues.

With an abundance of talent on the field, the game is always hard-hitting, closely contested, and the



action top-notch. The North won last year's matchup by a score of 18-10 and holds a 2-1 advantage since the contest moved to Gilpin County.

From the opening kickoff until time expired in the fourth quarter, the game more than lived up to its billing and thrilled football fans. The difference in the outcome came down to a long kickoff return in the second half by the South's Levi Martin. Playing for State Champion Mancos during the regular season, he was named MVP for the South team. Gilpin Eagles football coach and event organizer Craig Ball noted of Martin, "He possesses speed, aggressiveness at the point of attack, and football intelligence."

Continued on page 9

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8-Man

Continued from page 8

Offensive linemen rarely get the recognition that they deserve. Battling it out in the trenches protecting their quarterback and opening holes for running backs, players at the “skill” positions get all the ink. On this day the most skillful player for the North was deemed to be offensive lineman Liam Buettenback of Sedgwick County. So dominant was he that it was the only time in the 60-year history of the game that a player at his position has been named MVP.

Final score: South 33, North 26, in a nailbiter that kept the fans on the edge of their seats.

Craig Ball is the person responsible for bringing the venerable contest to Gilpin County. Following this year’s game he related, “The All-State Foundation is tasked with building the leaders of tomorrow through the game of football. Last Saturday, we witnessed a day of sportsmanship and community spirit



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

Competing in their final high school game

Top: The South team celebrating their victory. Bottom: Fans traveled from all over the state to watch the all-star matchup.

with beautiful weather at elevation. With a dedicated four-day camp prior to the game, 50 players from across Colorado prepared for the annual game in front of their biggest fans. I want to thank the coaching staffs from Dayspring Christian and Simla for working so hard to get our boys ready. Their commitment was pivotal in making the game an unforgettable experience. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended and supported this event. Your dedication and enthusiasm are truly remarkable, and I look forward to continuing our celebration of athletic excellence, leadership and community spirit at future events. Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey.”

To learn more about the All-State Foundation or make a donation, go to www.eliteallstate.com.

Continuing Student Scholarships available for Gilpin County residents

Alan Green Memorial Foundation (AGMF) is accepting scholarship applications from any GILPIN COUNTY RESIDENT who is continuing their studies in college, trade school, certificate or other educational career programs.

AGMF is a local non-profit organization founded by friends and family of Alan Green. Alan’s parents, Ken and Lela Green, lost their Alan and his wife Judy in a commercial airplane accident. Every year the foundation offers these scholarships.

Look on the website: alangureenmemorialfoundation.org, and find an application under “Continuing Education Scholarships.”

Applications must be received in a PDF file at: alangureenfdn@gmail.com NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2024.



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