



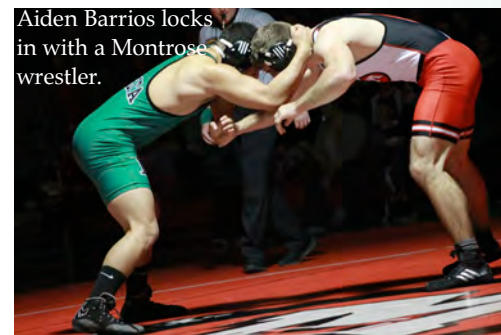
Gauge Lockhart takes the snap on a rainy night against the Rifle Bears in a rivalry match up on October 5th.



Carson Roithmayr energizes the student section by releasing a green smoke bomb on a Friday night lights football game.

## OUR TEAM - OUR TOWN

What team do you think you have to beat every time you go against them? "I hate everybody, I hate losing to every body. I hate Montrose, I hate Palisade, I hate Paonia, actually I really hate Paonia. I just can't stand losing!" said wrestling coach Curtis.



Aiden Barrios locks in with a Montrose wrestler.



Colby Wilson accepts declaration of victory in an exhausting match against a Montrose wrestler on January 24th at Montrose High School. "I feel accomplished. It's just... I don't know - a good feeling."

Rivalries are something every school is a part of, but on the Western Slope of Colorado these small towns and schools can't wait to match up against their bitter rivals. For Delta High School, the competition is not far away. For most sports our opponents live just minutes away. That's what makes these rival's so much better, whether it's wrestling the same opponent from pee wee all the way up to high school, or a football rivalry dating all the way back to the '40's.

The football rivalry between Rifle and Delta is a gruesome story to be told after every game. The rivalry started in the '40's and has carried on until today. A competitive rivalry renewed in 2009 with two new head coaches for each team: Damon Wells for the Bears and Ben Johnson for the Panthers. Almost every game was a 50/50 shot at winning, it was that close. The Bears beat the Panthers this year in a rainy Friday night lights game, but the Panthers plan to switch the scoreboard next year.

For the Delta wrestling team, their game plan against their

rivals is based off of plain grit and toughness. The Paonia Eagles are the competition for Delta. It's always a packed house when these two teams face off. Paonia and Delta are only minutes away from each other and it shows when they get on the mat with even former teammates wrestling against their old school, and some even see each other at the state tournament making it even more important.

For the team on the pitch, Delta soccer has a tight grasp on their rivalry against the Montrose Indians. Felipe Bedoy, the goalie, carried the team on his back only allowing the high scoring offense of Montrose to score two points. The Panthers won this year 4-2 in a trash talking league game. Rivalries are so much more than a game to these athletes. It's the game you circle on the calendar and when it comes time for that game, it's show time with the athletes trash talking, playing mind games with their opponents, and dumping tears sweat and blood preparing for the match up of the year.



Sergio Campos takes on a Montrose player, later beating them 4-2.



Jeffry Griffith stares down his opponent waiting for his next move at Montrose High School. Griffith won the match by a pin on January 24th.



Clayton Abila Senior, proudly waves the Delta football flag, leading the team on senior night against Coal Ridge. The Panthers won 47-6 on October 26th.



Jose Pantoja plants his foot into the ground winding up to shoot a goal vs. the Montrose Indians on a sunny evening on August 28th. The Panthers went on winning the game 4-2.

How did you feel waving the flag for the first time? "Waving the flag this past football season was awesome because I was sad that I wasn't able to play football my senior year but at least I was able to wave the flag with my family."