

VARSITY FOOTBALL WINS FIRST PLAYOFF GAME IN YEARS

# PLEASANT PLAYOFFS

"I'M GOING TO MISS ALL THE RELATIONSHIPS I'VE BUILT. THIS IS THE FIRST TEAM I'VE BEEN ON WHERE WE'RE ALL REALLY CLOSE. IT FEELS LIKE A FAMILY."  
 BENJAMIN KNOX '24

**LEAVING A LEGACY:** Benjamin Knox '24 runs towards the ball during the 5A playoffs on Nov. 10. Knox was a varsity captain, leading his team to a 8-4 record. "Most kids on this team haven't won a playoff game and that was their first," Knox said. "We haven't won a playoff game in three years."  
**TAKING A BREAK:** Derek Gordon '25 runs off the field after a play. Gordon plays an instrumental role as starting quarterback. "Having the burden of going 2-8 last year definitely makes me want to improve and pushed me a lot," Gordon said.



PHOTO BY COLTEN ROBIIDOUX



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**ONE HEARTBEAT:** Jordan Ochoa '24 takes his helmet off during the game. Ochoa played on the defensive line, blocking opposing players from touching the quarterback. "Sacking the Thunderidge quarterback without my helmet while in the middle of the game was my favorite part,"

Ochoa said. **CUTTING CORNERS:** Darrell Ishman '25 gazes to the sidelines during, awaiting the next play. Ishman was ejected from the game during multiple games for conduct. "Being cornerback is really intense and it's hard when other guys are talking trash," Ishman said.



"THERE IS SO MUCH PRESSURE TO WIN NATIONALS THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF HOW WE DID LAST YEAR. I'M REALLY NERVOUS."  
 GIANNA ATKINSON '25



PHOTO BY REESE PLUMMER



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## CHEER COMEBACKS

VARSITY CHEER PLACES SECOND AT LEAGUE

- 1 "[Continental] League is a pretty big deal to us. It is nerve wracking because at League we compete against so many teams."  
 ALEXIS BASEY '24
- 2 "Coming back as an alumni made me realize how special this program was. I really do miss it."  
 ISABELLA DIFELICE
- 3 "We placed third to Ponderosa and continued to lose to them the rest of the year. This year we tied with them."  
 OLIVIA BERTKE '26
- 4 "I felt good about the performance even though it wasn't the best we've ever done, but it wasn't the worst either."  
 MAX DIFELICE '25



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## A PERFECT START

JV GIRLS BASKETBALL BEGAN THE SEASON AS UNDEFEATED



PHOTO BY COLE CATES



PHOTO BY COLE CATES



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**VIVIAN YORE '26**

"I was on JV last year so I was a little disappointed to make JV again. I was happy though once I saw that all the girls are really nice and we work well as a team, and the coach is really sweet."

**IVY BRIGGS '25**

"I have been playing basketball since third grade. I got into basketball because I didn't play any other sports. I also started playing because my uncle played."

**ANNABELLE PEDERSEN '25**

"My favorite part about the season is definitely the home games. Free throws can be scary when everyone is staring at you, but doing a routine before my shot helps me focus and calm down."



PHOTO COURTESY OF SLOAN WILSON  
 ALSO PICTURED: REESE PLUMMER, AVA KING

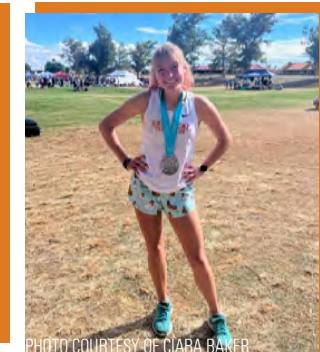


PHOTO COURTESY OF CIARA BAKER

## DESERT DILEMMA

CROSS COUNTRY HEADS TO THEIR ANNUAL RACE IN ARIZONA

"We actually did great. It was surprising with our team. Going into it, I knew we weren't going to be the fastest, but sure enough we showed up and I am really proud and happy of that."  
 CIARA BAKER '25

"With the race conditions not being great we did really well, getting 20th out of a lot of teams."  
 SLOAN WILSON '25