

2016 RATTTLERS FOOTBALL AWARDS NIGHT



RM
FOOTBALL



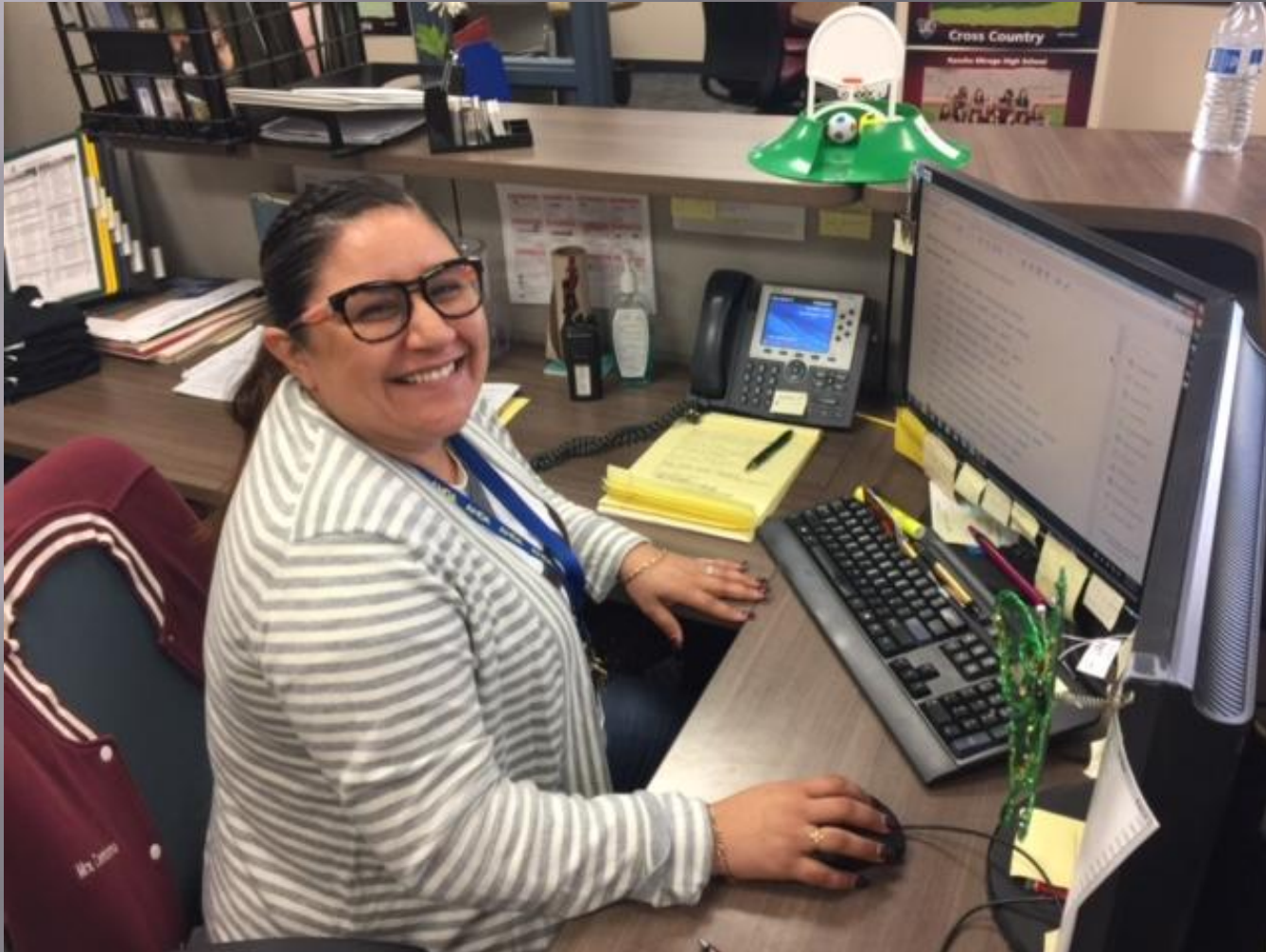
Welcome and Thank You

- ❑ Mrs. Matthews
- ❑ Administration
- ❑ Football Coaches and Families
- ❑ Trainer Kendra
- ❑ Jerry Argovitz & Loni Bader
- ❑ Isreal Lopez & Alan Richards
- ❑ Secretarial Staff
- ❑ Teachers and Counselors
- ❑ Parents and Fans
- ❑ Chef Merrick - Culinary Arts Team
- ❑ The Solanos - Fan Gear



Special Presentation

The Team behind the Team



Mrs. Sonia Camarena

Special Presentation

The Team behind the Team



Mrs. Lisa Thomas

Academic Achievement – 1st Quarter

All players that finished 1st Qtr. with a 3.0 GPA or higher will get a scholar athlete patch.

See Mrs. Camarena in Athletic Department.

34 Players with a 3.0 GPA or Higher
14 out of 21 Seniors – 3.0 GPA or Higher



Academic Top 5 – 1st Quarter

FRESHMAN

4	Ben Felix	3.0
	Damian Saubel	3.0
3	Angel Hernandez	3.2
	Ben Hughes	3.2
2	Richard Hernandez	3.67
1	Nelson Gonzalez	4.0
	Isaac Varela	4.0

Academic Top 5 – 1st Quarter

SOPHOMORES

4	Mikey Provost Torin Doyle	3.2 3.2
3	Emmanuel Sanchez	3.3
2	Jose Perez Ochoa	3.5
1	David Talley Tyler Ramil	3.83 3.83

Academic Top 5 – 1st Quarter

JUNIORS

4 Damyen Estler 3.0

3 Marques Prior 3.2
Devon Rayos 3.2

2 Brian Mora 3.5
Jose Ramirez 3.5

1 Erik Gutierrez 3.83

Academic Top 5 – 1st Quarter

SENIORS

4	Isaiah Archuleta	3.3
	Joshua Ramirez	3.3
3	Travis O'Brien	3.5
	Daniel Whelan	3.5
2	Alejandro Ramirez	3.67
	Felipe Sandoval	3.67
1	Noah Ramirez	4.0
	Brandon Gonzalez	4.0

Riverside County Scholar Athlete

Daniel Whelan

Athletics

Academics

Community Service



Jerry Argovitz Sports Institute (JASI)

Man of the Year

Academics, Athletics, and Leadership



Isaiah Archuleta

Freshman Certificates



Sophomore Certificates



Junior Certificates



Senior Certificates



Senior Certificates



Senior Certificates



Senior Certificates

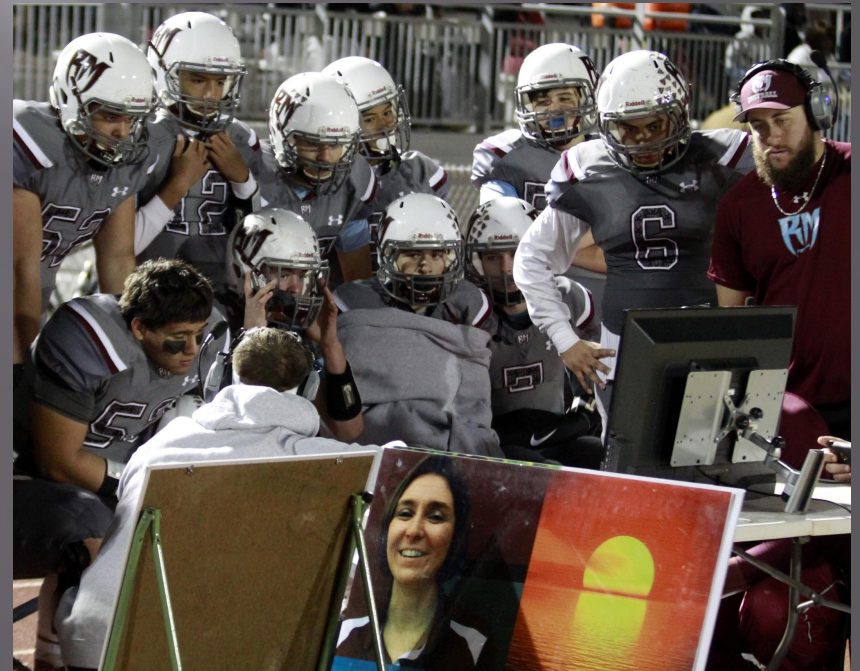


Senior Certificates

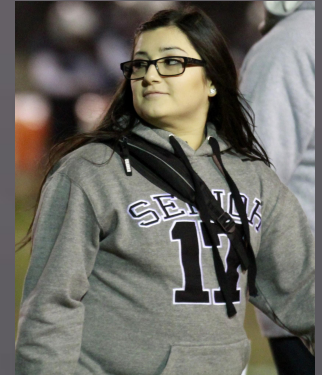
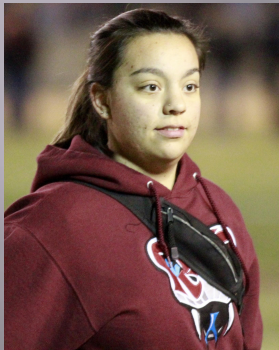


Varsity Certificates

- Varsity Football players can bring their certificates in to Mrs. Camarena in the athletic office and get their Letter for their jacket.



Athletic Training



Head Athletic Trainer - Kendra Mason



Season Review – FR/SO

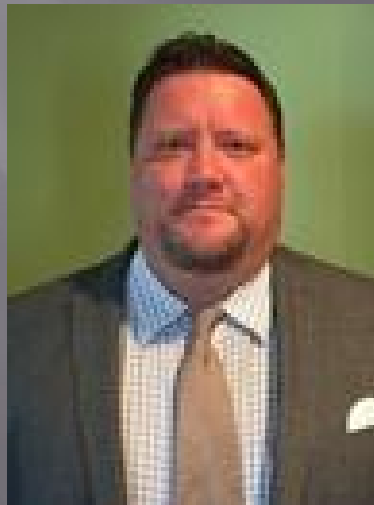
- Coach Fisher
- (1–9)



FR/SO Team Awards



Coaches Award



Coach Phelan



Ben Felix

Coach Romero



Nelson Gonzalez

Coach Provost



Cesar Ledezma

Coach Robinson



Ethan Acuna

Coach Fisher



Damian Henderson

FR/SO Team Awards

Most Improved

Most Improved



Martin Martinez

FR/SO Team Awards

Best Lineman

Best Lineman



Rafael Toledo

FR/SO Team Awards

Special Teams MVP

Special Teams MVP



Ben Hughes

FR/SO Team Awards

Defensive MVP

Defensive MVP



Damian Henderson

FR/SO Team Awards

Offensive MVP

Offensive MVP



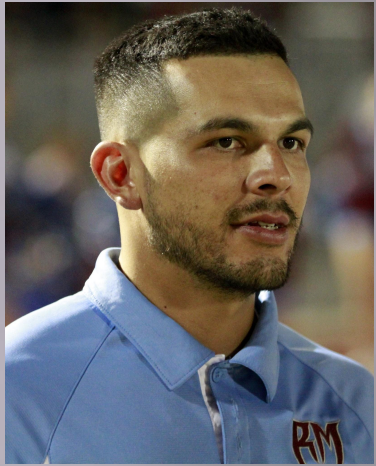
Ethan Acuna

Season Review – Junior Varsity

- Coach Ogden
- 1-6 Overall



Coach Martinez



Tyler Ramil

Coach Wilson



Julian Regla

Junior Varsity Team Awards

Most Improved

Most Improved



Christian Sadler

Junior Varsity Team Awards

Best Lineman

Best Lineman



Torin Doyle

Junior Varsity Team Awards

Special Teams MVP

Special Teams MVP



Tanner Williams

Junior Varsity Team Awards

Defensive MVP

Defensive MVP



Julian Regla

Junior Varsity Team Awards

Offensive MVP

Offensive MVP



Mairyk Ferrer

Season Review - Varsity

- ❑ (11-3) Overall (5-0) League
- ❑ De Anza League Champions
- ❑ CIF Finalist



HISTORIC YEAR

HS FOOTBALL

Rancho Mirage football team looks to take next step



Nathan Brown | The Desert Sun
1 hour ago

Rancho Mirage coach L.D. Matthews knows after a 9-3 season a year ago – an eight-win boost from the program's first season – the Rattlers no longer will get overlooked on the gridiron. Perhaps part of the reason his squad racked up so many wins a year ago was opponents thinking the Rattlers were still their 1-9 selves. Matthews knew otherwise.

Projected record: 9-1 (5-0 in DAL)

Schedule

- Aug. 26...Beaumont
- Sept. 2...Shadow Hills
- Sept. 9...at La Quinta
- Sept. 15...Palm Desert
- Sept. 30...at San Jacinto
- Oct. 7...Coachella Valley*
- Oct. 14...Twentynine Palms*
- Oct. 21...at Yucca Valley*
- Oct. 28...at Desert Mirage*
- Nov. 4...at Desert Hot Springs*

Rancho Mirage Rattlers



Rancho Mirage High School football practices for the 2016-2017 season in August. The Rattlers went 5-1 in the DAL last season and reached the playoffs, but they were knocked out in the CIF SS quarterfinals.

SCHEDULE

Aug. 26	Beaumont
Sept. 2	Shadow Hills
Sept. 9	at La Quinta
Sept. 15	Palm Desert (Thurs)
Sept. 30	at San Jacinto
Oct. 7	Coachella Valley*
Oct. 14	Twentynine Palms*
Oct. 21	at Yucca Valley*
Oct. 28	at Desert Mirage*
Nov. 4	at Desert Hot Springs*

*Indicates De Anza League game

ROSTER

PLAYER	HT	WT	NO	POS
1 Marquez Prior	5-6	165	QB	QB
2 Mike Santoluc	6-6	170	CB	CB
3 Anthony Williams	5-7	160	CB	CB
4 Daniel Myles	6-5	190	LB	LB
5 Michael Ramos	5-10	170	LB	LB
6 Dylan Roe	5-6	160	LB	LB
7 Noah Archuleta	5-11	210	LB	LB
8 David Talley	5-6	170	QB	QB
9 Kyle Whitefield	5-8	175	QB	QB
9 Tyler Reed	5-5	150	QB	QB
10 Gabe Salinas	5-5	150	QB	QB
11 Nate Williams	6-0	175	QB	QB
12 Michael Prasad	5-6	150	QB	QB
13 Devon Rapp	5-8	150	QB	QB
14 Austin Tere	5-10	160	QB	QB
15 Marqz Prior	5-7	161	QB	QB
16 Daniel Tucker	5-11	150	CB	CB
16 Daniel Henderson	5-5	130	C	C
17 Gabriel Matthews	5-7	160	LB	LB
18 Luke Hernandez	6-1	187	LB	LB
19 Ryan Rios	5-6	165	LB	LB
20 Emmanuel Sanchez	5-6	160	LB	LB
21 Dwight Balagtas	5-7	160	LB	LB
22 Alex Ramirez	5-8	150	LB	LB
23 Christian Lopez	5-9	160	LB	LB
24 Oscar Salinas	5-10	170	LB	LB
25 Mike Hernandez	5-7	170	LB	LB
26 Blake Espinoza	5-4	140	LB	LB
27 Mike Mares	5-7	170	LB	LB
28 Alejandro Martinez	5-3	200	LB	LB
29 Matt Delacruz	5-10	210	LB	LB
30 Mark Gentry	6-0	210	LB	LB
31 Mike Rios	5-7	170	LB	LB
32 Steven Walker	6-1	240	LB	LB
33 Alex West	5-10	210	LB	LB
34 Marcus Salinas	5-11	210	LB	LB
35 Travis O'Brien	6-1	200	LB	LB
36 Nathan Owens	5-8	220	LB	LB
37 Dallas Hays	5-8	220	LB	LB
38 Jonathan Peña	6-4	230	LB	LB
39 Tyler Jackson	6-6	180	LB	LB
40 Nick Ramirez	5-10	220	LB	LB
41 Alex Hernandez	6-0	200	LB	LB
42 Victor Diaz	6-0	290	LB	LB
43 Tony Garcia	6-0	180	LB	LB
44 Brandon Salinas	5-9	160	LB	LB
45 Mike Lara	6-3	210	LB	LB
46 Dylan Wilson	5-6	170	LB	LB
47 Joseph Young	5-4	160	LB	LB

Coach: L.D. Matthews, 10-12 in two seasons
Last league title: None
2015 record: 9-3 (5-1 in De Anza), lost in quarterfinals of CIF SS Northwest Division playoffs to Notre Dame 34-12
Returning starters: six on defense, five on offense
Biggest personnel loss: For the first time in their program's history, the Rattlers will have to learn how to make up for a loss of seniors, and arguably no graduated football player had a bigger impact than David Mares. According to Matthews, Mares

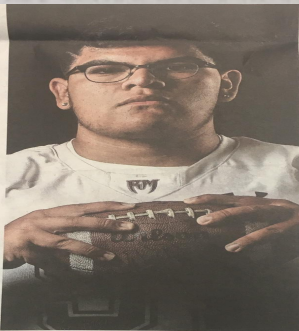
was a major leader on the field, in the locker room and in the classroom. In particular, on the field Mares was a beast on defense, finishing the season fifth in tackles for Rancho Mirage with 63, while piling on a team-leading seven sacks and recovering one fumble while forcing five.
Biggest question: Can the Rattlers play with consistency this season? Improving by eight wins from their first to second year was impressive for Rancho Mirage last season, but their losses did show their youth. Against their toughest opponents, they sometimes lacked the fire needed to become a true CIF

title contender. They enter this season toward the top of the Division 12 standings, but will they be able to fend off everyone's best game?
Breakout player: It's hard to say that an Elite II-caliber player Marques Prior is in need of a breakout season, but it'll be the many ways that Prior can have an impact on this Rattler team that'll make a difference. Matthews said he still plans to use Prior in his normal position of quarterback, but the junior has been seeing more time at wide receiver this offseason, with sophomore David Talley under center, to accentuate Prior's athleticism in the open field.

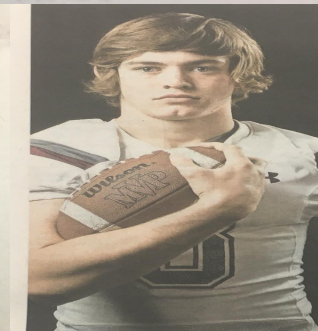
Look for Prior to also play tailback, return kicks and see time at free safety as well.
Coach quote: "When you lose seniors, it's difficult to replace, no matter if it's 10 or 20. They've been in your program, but with our kids it's a next man up. It's now a different group of seniors, and we're going to start counting down that clock. I think they're going to adjust good to it."
Projected record: 9-1 (5-0 in De Anza)
 — Nathan Brown



3. MARQUES PRIOR



5. JONNY AVILA-BURGUENO



6. KYLE WHITEFIELD

Rancho Mirage quarterback/wide receiver/cornerback
 As a sophomore last season, Prior led the Rattlers to an 8-2 regular season record in their second varsity year. One of the few true offensive linemen specialists in the All-De Anza League, the junior, who's 6-foot tall and weighs 165 pounds, threw for 1,310 yards and 14 touchdowns in a successful rushing attack as a junior. A year ago, he was named for the 2016 and 11th was named to the All-De Anza League and scores on the ground. Although his completion percent was considered a potential Division I football talent as a published quarterback in the valley this season in high school coach L.D. Matthews has said that his team's third-year under-center while also impacting the game on only goes for as Avila-Burgueno and his teammates at wide receiver, cornerback, safety and as a kick returner on the trenches can take them.

Rancho Mirage running back/cornerback
 As the main rushing option in the Rattlers' attack, Whitefield's bursting power on the ground complemented quarterback Marques Prior's speed quite well. The senior, who's 5-foot-8 inches and 172 pounds, rushed for 292 yards and 3 touchdowns in a year also while averaging more than six yards per carry and was named second-team All-De Anza League. With the season of experience and confidence stemming from last year's success, expect Whitefield to emerge as one of the top rushing options in the valley.

DESERT SUN
 Rancho Mirage's Kyle Whitefield is No. 6 in the Elite II

DESERT SUN
 Rancho Mirage's Jonnathan Avila-Burgueno is No. 5 in the Elite II

LOOKING DEEPER AT RANCHO MIRAGE

Coach: L.D. Matthews, 10-12 in two seasons

Last league title: None

2015 record: 9-3 (5-1 in DAL), lost in quarterfinals of CIF SS Northwest Division playoffs to Notre Dame 34-12

4-A Division

North

North Coast Section 5- Berean Christian (Walnut Creek), 11-2, 21.8
 Central Section V - Immanuel (Reedley), 11-3, 19.0

South

Southern Section 10 - Mission Prep (San Luis Obispo), 8-3, 14.1
 Southern Section 12 - Rancho Mirage, 9-3, 12.4



Rancho Mirage cruises past Beaumont

ANDREW L. JOHN
THE DESERT SUN

Rancho Mirage High School was widely viewed as one of the top teams in the Coachella Valley by area coaches in the preseason, and the Rattlers backed that assertion up Friday evening with a decisive 35-6 win over visiting Beaumont at Jerry Argovitz Stadium in Rancho Mirage.

Marques Prior returned the game's opening kickoff, #2 yards for a touchdown to get Rancho Mirage on the board early, and the Rattlers never looked back. Tailback Kyle Whitefield ran for 159 yards and three scores in a game that was never really close.



ORAN OZDELCUK/PIRE SOCIETY INC. Rancho Mirage High School's quarterback David Talley runs a play at home against Beaumont. The Rattlers struck early, scoring on the opening kickoff.

RANCHO MIRAGE 35, BEAUMONT 6

Quarter	Rancho Mirage	Beaumont
1st Quarter	14	0
2nd Quarter	14	0
3rd Quarter	7	6
4th Quarter	0	0
Total	35	6

First quarter
 0:00 Rancho Mirage 15 yard kickoff from David Talley
 0:00 Kyle Whitefield 1 yard run (Beaumont kick)
 0:00 Michael Pomeroy 21 yard run (Beaumont kick)
 0:00 Kyle Whitefield 1 yard run (Beaumont kick)
Second quarter
 0:00 Kyle Whitefield 1 yard run (Beaumont kick)
 0:00 Michael Pomeroy 14 yard run (Beaumont kick)
 0:00 Kyle Whitefield 1 yard run (Beaumont kick)
Third quarter
 0:00 Marques Prior 14 yard run (Beaumont kick)
 0:00 Kyle Whitefield 20 yard run (Beaumont kick)
 0:00 Michael Pomeroy 1 yard run (Beaumont kick)
 0:00 Kyle Whitefield 1 yard run (Beaumont kick)
Fourth quarter
 0:00 Marques Prior 14 yard run (Beaumont kick)
 0:00 Kyle Whitefield 20 yard run (Beaumont kick)
 0:00 Michael Pomeroy 1 yard run (Beaumont kick)
 0:00 Kyle Whitefield 1 yard run (Beaumont kick)

that kind of stuff."

New scoreboard introduction

The first video scoreboard in the Coachella Valley, which was unveiled in a ceremony at Jerry Argovitz Stadium in April, was introduced to the bust of fans who filled the stadium Friday evening. The scoreboard offered fans a chance to catch highlights and replays, in addition to the usual encouraging catchphrases that typically accompany a high school football game.

The scoreboard came with a price tag of \$350,000, and was paid for with a \$250,000 donation from Loni Bader Argovitz, a Rancho Mirage resident, and an additional \$100,000 from the Palm Springs Unified School District through other fundraising.

Still, miscues and penalties caused the Rattlers to miss a number of scoring opportunities. Prior had an 82-yard touchdown run called back on a penalty. Whitefield had a 27-yard rushing score returned, and quarterback David Talley fumbled one yard from scoring a rushing touchdown of his own early in the game. On another play, a tipped Talley pass was intercepted in the end zone for a touchdown.

In all, the Rattlers only committed six penalties, officially, for 55 yards, but a number of them came a critical times. Head coach L.D. Matthews attributed it to being the first game of the season, and sounded confident the mistakes will be sorted out after looking over film and getting comfortable over the next couple games.

As a freshman, during the Rattlers' inaugural varsity season, and started again as a sophomore in 2015, playing for 1,265 yards and 13 touchdowns while rushing for 777 yards and 11 scores last year. But his athletic ability and speed, and the emergence of sophomore David Talley at quarterback, allowed coaches to use Prior in a variety of ways.

Prior was unleashed Friday, and he didn't disappoint. He touched the ball 14 times and racked up 174 total yards and a pair of touchdowns running, catching and returning kicks. He also came close to recording double-digit tackles on defense. It was merely a glimpse of what the junior could be capable of in 2016.

"It was fun," Prior said. "Those were things I was doing before I played quarterback, and I enjoyed getting back to

Wheilan attempts 65-yard field goal

Rancho Mirage place kicker Daniel Wheilan, the De Anza League Special Teams Player of the Year in 2015, attempted a 65-yard field goal to the third quarter that fell just below the crossbar. Matthews said he had been making 63 and 64-yard field goals in practice, and that the windy conditions might have played a factor in Wheilan not converting the 65-yarder.

"He's capable of making those," Matthews said. "He's an asset for us. To have a guy with a powerful leg like that is going to be huge for us this year."



Rattlers hold on to stay unbeaten

JUDD SPICER
SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN

Former foes don't generally make for new friends. Past and present De Anza League teams squared off at Rancho Mirage High on Friday night, with visiting Shadow Hills seeking to announce with authority its graduation to the Desert Valley League, and the host Rattlers aiming to keep the Knights eyes in the rear view.

And it didn't take long for Rancho Mirage to cast a "shadow" on the past. For the second consecutive week in the young season, the Rattlers' Marques Prior turned his opening touch into a score, skimming for a 68-yard touchdown on the first play from scrimmage to give Rancho Mirage a lead it would never relinquish. Despite late game pluck from the visitors, the Rattlers held on for a convincing, 37-21 victory.

"We try not to look in the past so much, but the last time Shadow Hills played here, they beat us 62-12, when we only had juniors," said Rancho Mirage head coach L.D. Matthews. "We talked about that this week and we knew Shadow Hills was gonna be hungry coming in here tonight because of last year, the last game of the season when we knocked them out of the playoffs. I'm proud of the kids and now it's on to La Quinta.

Taking a 17-0 edge to halftime, Prior tallied his second TD of the night with a 1-yard plunge on Rancho Mirage's first drive of the third period. Two minutes later, a 35-yard interception return for score by Rattlers' senior linebacker Michael Ramos put the game out of reach.

Nonetheless, 11 penalties for Rancho Mirage gave the winning sideline pause.

"There were some mental-discipline penalties tonight, late hits out of bounds, false starts, jumping offside," added Matthews. "Stuff like that we've got to clean out, or teams down the road are going to take advantage of it. Anytime you get a win, it's great. But I'm just a little frustrated with the offense; too many penalties tonight."

Though the two-score, final difference belied the competitiveness of the contest, Shadow Hills did outscore Rancho Mirage in the second half, 21-20, compliments of three fourth quarter



Kyle Whitefield runs the ball for a touchdown for Rancho Mirage in a win over Shadow Hills on Friday night.

ZOE MEYER/THE DESERT SUN

touchdown by Knights junior back JD Lang.

"We just started off way too late on both sides of the ball, mainly with our defensive game," Lang said. "But our coaches really pumped us at halftime and asked if we really wanted to go out like this."

Unsung Hero
JD Lang: Scoring on runs of 3, 1 and 4 yards, respectively, Lang also added a two-point conversion, rask as the Knights cut the deficit in the game's waning moments.

Next up
Seeking its first 3-0 start in school history, Rancho Mirage (2-0) faces a second consecutive Desert Valley League opponent next Friday night, with a 7 p.m. game at La Quinta. Aiming to rebound from Friday's loss, the Rattlers' (1-1) will host non-conference foe Tahquitz (Hemet).

RANCHO MIRAJE 37, SHHS 21

Shadow Hills	Rancho Mirage	F	Q	H	T	FT
0	17	0	0	0	20	21

First quarter
Rancho Mirage 35 yard field goal

Second quarter
Rancho Mirage 35 yard field goal

Third quarter
Rancho Mirage 35 yard field goal

Fourth quarter
Rancho Mirage 35 yard field goal

Individual Statistics
Rancho Mirage: Marques Prior 1 TD, Kyle Whitefield 1 TD, JD Lang 1 TD, Michael Ramos 1 TD, Marques Prior 1 TD, Kyle Whitefield 1 TD, JD Lang 1 TD, Michael Ramos 1 TD, Marques Prior 1 TD, Kyle Whitefield 1 TD, JD Lang 1 TD, Michael Ramos 1 TD.



Nathan Brown @TDSnathbrown 2h
Shadow Hills left the De Anza League, and Rancho Mirage did a fine job keeping them in the rear-view mirror Friday



Rancho Mirage streaks past Knights to stay unbeaten
desertsun.com



HS FOOTBALL

Rancho Mirage streaks past Knights to stay unbeaten



Blackhawks punch in final score to stop Rancho Mirage

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL • LA QUINTA 28, RANCHO MIRAGE 21



La Quinta's Joshua Cabrera catches a pass against Rancho Mirage on Friday in La Quinta.

RICHARD LUTHE/DESERT SUN

THE FINAL STRIKE

Blackhawks' Garcia hits Kasten with 37-yard pass to seal the victory

NATHAN BROWN
THE DESERT SUN

With one of the top boxers in the world in Timothy Bradley on their sideline as a new addition to the coaching staff, the La Quinta High School football team has now learned how to punch and take one.

For 45 minutes, two power-tossers, vying for the title of the top team in the Coachella Valley, traded blows, but when push came to shove, the Blackhawks struck hard and last, outlasting Rancho Mirage at home 28-21 for the team's first win of the season.

Their fight, though, paled in comparison to the one represented across the La

Quinta bleachers. Decked out in yellow from head to toe, the Blackhawks banded together in solidarity for Riley Rose Sherman, a local child recently diagnosed with stage four neuroblastoma.

Still, the Blackhawks' fight was one of hope - starting slow, yet never wavering, they held on to the finish.

Fighting through a strained hamstring and several bouts of cramping, senior La Quinta running back Karel Cordova somehow struck together the game of the night with 206 yards on the ground on 21 rushes, including two scores.

On his second touchdown of the night, just two minutes into the second half, it appeared the Rattlers front seven had Cordova pinned inside his own 10-yard-line for a loss, before he found a seam on the outside,

and took off for 86 yards, injured hamstring, ankle brace and all.

Cordova had been a big question mark, coming into Friday night's game and was listed as doubtful according to coach Dan Armstrong early in the week. But he carried just moments into the action. In a game where every yard and caught ball mattered, seeing Cordova need help getting off the field and fighting his way back to so-so health and onto the field inspired his teammates with the game on the line.

"It was a lot of motivation for us, cases that kid has heart," senior wide receiver Justin Anderson said. "To see him push past his injuries and still come back

Please see LA QUINTA, 1C



KYLE WHITEFIELD
RANCHO MIRAGE, RB
What he did: Whitefield powered in for two of the Rattlers three touchdowns against La Quinta.



Desert Sun Sports @DesertSunSports 1h
Final score: La Quinta 28, Rancho Mirage 21.

Nathan Brown @TDSnathanbrown
FINAL: La Quinta 28, Rancho Mirage 21. Exactly what we hoped for in this game between the valley's two top teams



La Quinta

Continued from 1C

and want to get the ball, it hyped all of us up.

But the hype was lacking in both of us. Both teams, with several electric players, struggled to string together enough positive plays to keep drives going. After handing it over on downs in Rattler territory their first drive, La Quinta then fumbled within five yards of scoring and ended its third time around. Cordova's 11-yard touchdown scramble with under three minutes to play in the first half was the team's first sign of life.

The Rattlers answered with a 37-yard pass from sophomore quarterback David Talley to junior Marques Prior, set up by a roughing the passer call the play before.

La Quinta, in particular, piled up leads more holding calls in the second half, ones Armstrong was none too happy with.

"I thought this game could have been over by halftime, but we fumbled going in, and you can't seem to play man-to-man without getting holding penalties all over the place," he said. "They're a good team, and they fought hard tonight and came first up, but I think if we don't fumble on the three and have nearly 200 yards in penalties, that's a totally different game."

After Cordova's 86-yard score, the Rattlers again countered with an eight-yard scoring run from Kyle Whitefield. Noting in theme, the teams traded fumbles, punts and another touchdown until the waning minutes when senior La Quinta quarterback Andrew Garcia

LA QUINTA 28, RANCHO MIRAGE 21

La Quinta
Rancho Mirage

Stat	La Quinta	Rancho Mirage
Scoring plays	1	3
1st Quarter	0	0
2nd Quarter	14	0
3rd Quarter	14	14
4th Quarter	0	3
Total	28	21

La Quinta's Adam Kasten (5) is seen celebrating with teammates after a play during the game.



La Quinta quarterback Andrew Garcia prepares to pass against Rancho Mirage on Friday in La Quinta.

Whitefield's three TDs lead rout by Rattlers

Bouncing back after first loss

NATHAN BROWN THE DESERT SUN

It can be hard at times for teenagers to follow through on the popular "shake off the loss" coach cliché, especially after a close game a team's been looking forward to for months.

But the Rancho Mirage football team showed on Thursday in a shortened week that the 26-21 road loss to La Quinta from a week ago was far in the past.

Instead, they used the Blackhawks' rivalry, Palm Desert, as a punching bag of sorts, leaving any and all frustration from the Rattlers' first loss of the season on the field Thursday in a punishing 52-0 beatdown of the Aztecs.

The Rattlers, one of the more disciplined, yet hard-nosed teams in the valley, took Matthews' message of moving on to heart in practice this week, he said, and it showed.

"I had told them that there's nothing to hang your heads about after that loss," he said. "They were one or two plays from winning the game. It was a battle against a tough, physical La Quinta team. I was very proud of them, and those are the types of battles we'll see when we get into league and possibly the playoffs."

But true to form, even with seven touchdowns on the board, Matthews wasn't going to be completely satisfied with Thursday's win, but what coach ever is?

On their first possession, Rancho Mirage suffered a quick three-and-out, and following an interception of Palm Desert sophomore quarter-



Rancho Mirage quarterback David Talley skampers across the goal line for a touchdown against Palm Desert on Thursday.

FRIDAY'S WEEK 4 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAMES

- Cathedral City at Tahquitz
- Hemet at Shadow Hills
- Rio of the World at Desert Hot Springs
- Palo Verde Valley at Desert Mirage
- La Quinta at St. Bonaventure
- Palm Springs at Kaiser
- Riverside County Education Academy at Desert Christian Academy
- Borrego Springs at Palm Valley
- All games start at 7 p.m.

Please see RATTLETS, 5C

HS FOOTBALL

Rancho Mirage football runs away with 52-0 win over Palm Desert



Nathan Brown @TDSnathanbrown

Rattlers finally pull the starters on offense with 7:25 left in the game with this running clock

9/15/16, 9:07 PM



Rattlers

Continued from 1C

"We have some little mistakes we're making that are costing us touchdowns and first downs," Matthews said. "Offensively, we have to come out ready to execute the game plan from the start and convert our third downs, which we didn't do our first two drives."

But whatever the secret was, the Rattler offense found it on the next drive on a short field, aided by two Palm Desert penalties. Just seconds before the first quarter ended, sophomore quarterback David Talley faked the entire Aztec defense on a stealthy read-option from nine yards out and nearly walked into the end zone.

Just two minutes into the second quarter Talley scored his second touchdown on the ground. The Aztecs too focused on a shifty running back Marques Prior, who started slowly.

But Prior and senior running back Kyle Whitefield would soon take over and put the game plenty out of reach.

Whitefield capped off the first-half scoring with a sweep around the left end with just under three minutes to go, and after bumping off two Aztec defenders, he had nothing but green space in front of him for 68 yards.

Prior looked to have another 70-yard pick-six for the Rattlers midway through the third quarter that was called back on a holding call.

No matter. The junior two-way star took it to the end zone three plays later on a 45-yard dash to the goal line.

Whitefield, who finished with 148 yards and three scores on 12 carries, would finish the scoring off with runs of 21 and two yards at the end of the third quarter, before the combination of a running clock and the entrance of Rattler backups to the game stalled the scoring completely in the fourth quarter.

Stokes, starting his third varsity game, struggled for the second game in a row, following a breakout performance in a narrow loss to Coachella Valley. The sophomore finished 7-for-16 for 46 yards and two interceptions, along with a fumble — three of the team's four total turnovers.



Blake Arthur @BlakeArthur24 We're 12 minutes from kickoff for Palm Desert at Rancho Mirage. Must be some traffic on Cook St for @PDAztecArmy



Turnovers costly in Rattlers' road loss

MATT MCKAY
SPECIAL TO THE DERRY SUN



If football is truly a game of mistakes, San Jacinto's 14-0 win over Rancho Mirage offered proof that turnovers will always be more costly than penalties.

The Tigers (5-0) will get credit for a shutout, but Rancho Mirage (3-2) assisted the San Jacinto defense by turning the ball over four times in the second half, including a fumbled punt that set up the Tigers' second touchdown of the night. The turnovers not only helped set up the insurance touchdowns, they also prevented the Rattlers from building any sustained offensive momentum in the second half.

The turnovers also cancelled out any advantage the Rattlers may have gained from the Tigers' penchant for penalties. San Jacinto was flagged 15 times for 150 yards, which had its effect on the Tigers' offensive efficiency and helped the Rattlers' stay in the game. Rancho Mirage was penalized seven times for 70 yards, with six coming in the second half.

Rancho Mirage head coach L.D. Matthews said his team played with heart and competed to the end, but the turnovers would have to be eliminated before the Rattlers move into De Anza League play next week at home against Coachella Valley.

"I'm extremely proud of our guys, they played with a lot of discipline and a lot of character and a lot of pride," Matthews said. "We just didn't take care of

the ball tonight. To start the game off, we drove 78 yards and didn't get the touchdown, and that could have changed the outcome of the game. But you can't turn over the ball and expect to win games."

The Tigers took a 7-0 lead into the halftime locker room despite themselves. San Jacinto committed eight penalties for 90 yards in the half, ultimately helping to stop three of its four first-half possessions. Yet San Jacinto put up the only touchdown of the first half after driving 36 yards in 16 plays, and taking 7:46 off the clock, and even that drive was far from perfect.

San Jacinto overcame two personal foul penalties and a first-and-32 situation to eventually take a 7-0 lead. Quarterback Isaiah Bolding contributed 36- and 17-yard runs on the drive, and also threw a 28-yard pass to get the Tigers to the Rattlers' 5, where running back Eddie Guerrero covered the final yards for the go-ahead score. Bolding ended the half with 61 yards rushing despite three carries for losses, and also passed for 71.

The Rattlers, meanwhile, struggled offensively throughout the half. They managed only five first downs (contrasted with the Tigers' nine, eight of which came on their scoring drive), and managed only 62 yards total offense. The Rattlers most productive drive of the half was their first possession of the game as they moved from their own 20 to the Tigers' 4. On 4th and 1, the Rattlers' eschewed a short field goal to go for six, but quarterback David Talley slipped as he attempted to cut upfield and was

SAN JACINTO 14, RANCHO MIRAGE 0

Rancho Mirage	San Jacinto
San Jacinto	San Jacinto
Second quarter	San Jacinto 5 San Jacinto 14
3rd quarter	San Jacinto 14 San Jacinto 14
4th quarter	San Jacinto 14 San Jacinto 14
Final Score	San Jacinto 14 Rancho Mirage 0
Individual Statistics	
Rushing (Carries-Yds-TDs)	San Jacinto: Isaiah Bolding 16-105-1; Eddie Guerrero 3-43-1; Dylan Chambers 1-1-0; Garrett Salinas 1-0-0; Luke Ross 1-0-0; Jordan Price 1-0-0
Passing (Comp-Att-Int-Yds-TDs)	San Jacinto: David Talley 11-15-0-135-1; Eddie Guerrero 1-1-0-13-0
Receiving (Rec-Yds-TDs)	San Jacinto: Eddie Guerrero 1-43-1; Dylan Chambers 1-13-0; Garrett Salinas 1-0-0; Luke Ross 1-0-0; Jordan Price 1-0-0
Kicking (Comp-Att-PTS)	San Jacinto: Dylan Chambers 1-1-0
Punting (Comp-Yds-TDs)	San Jacinto: Dylan Chambers 1-1-0
Fumbles (Lost-Recovered)	San Jacinto: 4-1-1; Rancho Mirage: 4-0-0
Penalties (Yds-Fouls)	San Jacinto: 8-150; Rancho Mirage: 7-70
Time of Possession	San Jacinto 28:45; Rancho Mirage 31:15

dropped at the 7. Rancho Mirage had a chance early in the second half to get right back in the game after a 15-yard Tiger punt gave them the ball at their own 49. But after picking up one first down, Tigers' linebacker David De La Cruz forced and recovered a Rattlers' fumble in the backfield. A holding penalty helped stall San Jacinto's subsequent possession, but Rancho Mirage fumbled away the ensuing punt at the Rattlers' 22. The Rattlers gave the Tigers further assistance getting into the end zone for their second touchdown with an offside and a defensive holding penalty, eventually leading to a one-yard touchdown plunge from short-yardage specialist Elijah Chambers. Patrick O'Leary's extra point gave the Tigers a 14-0 lead with 3:24 to play in the third quarter. The Rattlers gave the ball up through an interception

and a fumbled exchange on their next two possessions, surprising any chances of a comeback.

STAR OF THE GAME

Isiah Bolding, San Jacinto QB/RB: Bolding ran the show from the QB spot for the first three quarters for the Tigers, before giving way to Gabe Beal and moving to other skill positions for the remainder of the game. He threw for 77 yards, rushed for 51, and was often out in the pattern for Beal when he dropped back to pass.

JUST THE FACTS

Rancho Mirage kicker/punter Daniel Whelan had an impressive night, punting two times for an average of 43 yards, had a 61-yard punt wiped out by a penalty, missed a 62-yard field goal attempt as time expired in the first half, and was on the field to attempt a 55-yard field goal when the final four seconds of the game ticked off the clock. San Jacinto workhorse running back Eddie Guerrero, who scored the Tigers' first touchdown and rushed for 43 yards on 15 carries to lead all rushers, left game hurt with 10 minutes to play and did not return. Rancho Mirage fumbled five times and lost three, while the Tigers fumbled once and retained the loose ball.

NEXT UP: San Jacinto (5-0) travels to West Valley in Hemet, while Rancho Mirage (3-2) hosts Coachella Valley. Both games are scheduled for Friday.

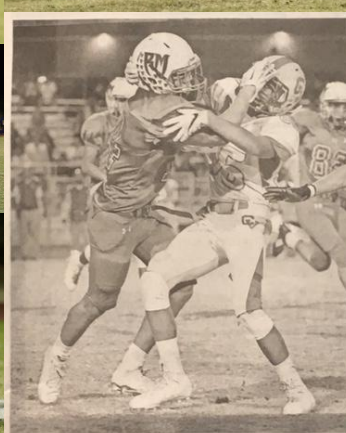


RANCHO MIRAGE FOOTBALL





DAVID TALLEY
RANCHO MIRAGE, QB
What he did: Talley thrashed for 103 yards and rushed for 79 yards and two touchdowns in the Rattlers' victory.



Rattlers
Continued from B1

After an ill-vised fourth down conversion attempt from inside their own 30-yard line, Coachella Valley gave the ball right back to the Rattlers, who Arzola keyed in on stopping Whitefield. From there, possibly Rancho Mirage's biggest success began to grow as the read-option game between Talley and Whitefield as the QB scampered in for a five-yard score.

As the game continued, with Whitefield making off for 23 yards and 19 yards (twice) before he found opportunity moments to look it out on, finding more than half the Arab defense at times.

"It's really tough for defenses. They see their schemes to containing me, containing me and forget about me (Talley)," Whitefield said. "Then, he can pull it for a big gain, and now they're panicked and focus on him and forget about me."

"It's hard to keep up with an offense that's making it fun. Whitefield added an eight-yard score to go along with Marquez Prier's three-yard scoring run to take a 28-7 lead into the locker room.

Unfortunately for the Arabs, the second half was little different, with Whitefield starting it out with a 15-yard dash into the end zone that put the game well out of reach. But not their strength alone a large margin, the Rattlers had to give up the strength of their run game as Ramon Martinez, the valley's leading rusher coming into Friday night.

Denis threw the ball 61 times Friday, completing 34 for 400 yards and three scores, but too many were on the run as he scrambled for his life with further front four closing fast.

Denis loosened after game that the Rattlers brought that type of pressure with just their defensive line, allowing linebackers and their secondary to drop into coverage and pick Denis off for the first two times of the season, nearly getting their covers on multiple occasions.

"We've got to get better play up front, and we had too many drops tonight," Denis said. "We're so young. We made a lot of mistakes, and this is also probably the best defense we'll play all year, so bare off to them."

RANCHO MIRAGE 52, COACHELLA VALLEY 21

CoacheLLa Valley

1st Quarter	0-0
2nd Quarter	0-0
3rd Quarter	0-0
4th Quarter	0-0
Total	0-0

Rancho Mirage

1st Quarter	14-0
2nd Quarter	14-0
3rd Quarter	14-0
4th Quarter	10-0
Total	52-0

Rancho Mirage running back Kyle Whitefield finds a hole during the Rattlers victory over Coachella Valley on Friday. RANCHO MIRAGE/STAFF/SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN

RATTLERS ROMP

Rancho Mirage lights up Coachella Valley with 38 straight points

NATHAN BROWN
THE DESERT SUN

Rancho Mirage literally brought the fireworks to Friday night's showdown with Coachella Valley.

Yes, as a part of the school's homecoming celebration, where tennis player Isamar Meza was crowned queen for a night, multicolored pyrotechnics lit up the desert sky at halftime.

But the football team would not be outdone: After giving up the game's opening score to the Arabs, the Rattlers would go on to score 38 consecutive points to begin a rout that would end 52-21 on the opening night of De Anza League play.

Coming into this season, Rattler coach

LD Matthews boasted his team's rigorous non-league schedule, one where he said they could end up 5-0 or 6-5, and 3-2 was reality. On the other hand, the Arabs sprouted out to a 4-0 mark against much softer opponents, possibly the toughest being Palm Desert, who Coachella Valley narrowly edged 48-47.

It was Rancho Mirage's easiest test, where they prevailed 52-0.

Even in a road shutout loss last Friday to San Jacinto 14-0, Matthews felt like his team was continuing to grow, reaching the pinnacle of their season thus far Friday night.

"It (the non-league schedule) prepared us for league," Matthews said. "I think every week that we did take a step back with a loss, it was my prudent moment as a coach. We didn't quit. We were disciplined,

and it really set us up well for De Anza League play, especially against as potent an offense as Coachella Valley."

Early on, that potent Arab offense showed slight bright spots after two opening punts. After a short field created by Joe Villegas' interception of Rattler quarterback David Talley, Coachella Valley capped it off with a 26-yard touchdown strike from quarterback Armando Denis to Jovan Ramos, their first of two scoring connections on the night.

But that lead would be short-lived. On the first play of Rancho Mirage's next drive, senior running back Kyle Whitefield juked, side-stepped and sprinted his way 70 yards to the end zone for his first of three scores on the night.



RANCHO MIRAGE HIGH SCHOOL

RATTLERS

FOOTBALL



CVHS @ RMHS Friday, 10/7/16 7pm

1st EVER HOMEGAME at Rancho Mirage HS



Rattlers dominate Wildcats after slow start

ANDREW L. JOHN
THE DESERT SUN

L.D. Matthews had never coached a team to a win over Twenty-nine Palms before Friday evening. Dating back to 2010, his previous five attempts each ended with the same outcome. That included a loss a year ago that determined the De Anza League champion.

Winning that league title this year was at the top of the Rattlers' list of priorities to start the season. To do that, Matthews would have to make some personal history against the defending champs.

Rancho Mirage took that to heart and rose to the occasion in the second half of Friday's 38-3 thrashing over Twenty-nine Palms, securing a win that is likely bigger than any kind of personal achievement. The Senior Night victory breaks up a log jam atop the league standings, providing the Rattlers with sole possession of first place with three regular season games remaining. Coachella Valley defeated Yucca Valley in a narrow victory that ended the Trojans' unbeaten season.

The Rattlers' victory, though decisive, came only after a difficult first half, offensively. Rancho Mirage managed just a single touchdown before the intermission, set up by a Marques Prior interception of the



RANCHO MIRAGE
Rancho Mirage's Kyle Whitefield finds an opening and rushes for a gain of 8 yards against Twenty-nine Palms on Friday night.

RANCHO MIRAGE 38, TWENTYNINE PALMS 3

29 Palms
Rancho Mirage 38 7 17 21 — 38
Twentynine Palms 3 0 0 0 — 3

First quarter
RMI Kyle Whitefield 3-yard run (Daniel Whelan kick)
RMI Whelan 20-yard field goal

Second quarter
RMI Whelan 20-yard field goal
RMI Whelan 20-yard run (Whelan kick)
RMI Whelan 20-yard run (Whelan kick)

Third quarter
RMI Whelan 20-yard run (Whelan kick)
RMI Whelan 20-yard run (Whelan kick)
RMI Whelan 20-yard run (Whelan kick)

Fourth quarter
RMI Whelan 20-yard run (Whelan kick)
RMI Whelan 20-yard run (Whelan kick)
RMI Whelan 20-yard run (Whelan kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Passing Comp-Att TD-QB Yards — RMI: Daniel Taylor 27-40-0-28, Marques Prior 11-10-0-53 TP; Hugh Cameron 11-23-0-125
Rushing (Att-Yards-TD) — RMI: Kyle Whitefield 13-117-3, Marques Prior 10-125-2, Daniel Taylor 9-14, Marky Foster 3-6 TP; Hunter Taylor 7-25-0, Magwood Morton 6-14, Dewey Sutherland 2-5, Jay Clark 1-6, Cameron 4-10-0-26, TP: Ryan Korman 4-7
Receiving (Rec-Yards-TD) — RMI: Marques Prior 1-5, Whitefield 1-21, Daniel Taylor 1-53 TP; Dewey Sutherland 2-28, TP: Shaun Barrett 2-15, Aaron Camacho 1-10, Magwood Morton 1-5, Adam Bell 3-23, Matthew Bell 1-5, Swales 1-10-0-11

gave the Rattlers the ball three yards from the end zone. Daniel Whelan then converted on a 39-yard field goal attempt in the second quarter.

The Rancho Mirage defense, on the other hand, forced five turnovers in the game, and allowed just 13 yards of total offense in the first half, a week after Coachella Valley racked up 353 against the Rattlers.

"Our defense has been doing it all year," Matthews said. "They've been making up for our offense, and really are the

backbone of our team this year."

Rancho Mirage (5-2, 2-0 De Anza) took a 10-0 lead into halftime after Whelan's 55-yard attempt was blocked and nearly returned for a touchdown as time expired on the half.

In the third quarter, Matthews moved Prior back to quarterback, where he started for two years, and Rancho Mirage looked like a team possessed, moving the ball with ease on a six-play, 83-yard scoring drive. The Rattlers forced their third interception of the

game a drive later, then put the ball in the end zone a second time within three minutes.

When it was over, Prior had scored twice, rushed for 120 yards on 10 carries, and had two interceptions while playing defense. The second, which was returned for a touchdown, was brought back on a pass interference penalty.

"His competitive spirit is unlike any other kid I've ever coached," Matthews said of Prior. "He really is a game-changer, so switching him to quarter-

back) during the middle of the game really opened things up for us."

Senior tailback Kyle Whitefield again surpassed the 100-yard rushing barrier, adding two rushing scores of his own. He was the Rattlers' offense in the first half, while the defense kept Rancho Mirage in it early.

"Every time we go out there, all season, the goal is to keep teams from scoring," senior linebacker Josh Ramirez said. "We allowed three points tonight, but we're still pretty happy with our performance."

Before play began, a moment of silence was observed for the two fallen Palm Springs police officers who were killed by a gunman on Oct. 8.

Former NFL Pro Bowl linebacker and 1980 Heisman Trophy runner-up Hugh Green was the special guest of the night. Green was a client of former sports agent Jerry Argovitz, a Rancho Mirage resident whose name graces the football stadium. Argovitz and his wife, Loni, have donated more than \$1 million to the school.

The Rattlers will play at Yucca Valley next week in a game that could be the de facto league title game.

"Every game is big for us from here on out," senior lineman Joshy Avila said. "This was a good win for us, but it's just one game and we still have a few more left to play."



HS SPORTS

Roundup: Rattlers top-ranked desert football team in new poll



Rancho Mirage football nabs road win

SHAD POWERS
THE DESERT SUN

The Rancho Mirage High School football team entered Friday's game with a solid 5-2 record, but there was one thing they hadn't accomplished yet this season - a road win.

They can cross that off the list now, though, as the defense stifled Yucca Valley and the Rattlers rolled to a 37-14 victory.

Marques Prior had three first-half touchdowns, all coming on runs from the quarterback position. David Talley also had a scoring play lifting the Rattlers to a 28-0 lead and they cruised the rest of the way.

"Once again our defense really was the backbone of our

team tonight," coach L.D. Matthews said. "Hats off to Yucca Valley they played with a lot of emotion and they were physical so we're fortunate to come out of there with a win."

The victory puts Rancho Mirage (6-2) firmly in control of the De Anza League race. The Rattlers are 3-0 with games remaining at Desert Mirage and Desert Hot Springs.

"A pretty win is nice, but an ugly win is nice, too," Matthews said. "And to get our first road win is an important step for us."

Yucca Valley dropped its second straight game. Lucas Lopez did have a 90-plus yard kickoff return for a touchdown for a high note for the Trojans.

University Careers and Sports Academy 38, Desert

Chapel 20: It was a frustrating night for the Eagles, who were hamstrung by an injury to their center and then struggled snapping the ball the rest of the night.

Joe Spoelder was a bright spot with a nifty 38-yard touchdown run, and Matthew Sutton hauled in a 56-yard touchdown pass, but it wasn't enough.

The loss drops the Eagles to 1-7 on the season, and they host Palm Valley in their season finale on Friday.

Other scores: Twentynine Palms 49, Desert Mirage 6; Desert Christian Academy beats Palm Valley by forfeit (2-0) on Thursday.

Palm Desert 3, Palm Springs 0: In an extremely tough battle - Palm Desert



MARQUES PRIOR
RANCHO MIRAGE, QB

What he did: Prior scored three first-half touchdowns, all on the ground from the QB position.

Shadow Hills 3, Xavier Prep 2: The Knights fell behind 2-0, but stormed back for the dramatic win, 21-25, 21-25, 35-20,

25-16, 15-11. Anissa Hernandez had 21 kills and four blocks, while Trinity Castaneda had 24 kills. Aviana Ortiz had 30 digs and Judy Figueroa had a whopping 51 assists. The Knights finish league play with a 10-2 record in their first foray into the DVL.

COD soccer

COD 6, Imperial Valley 0: The Roadrunners rolled to a road win, behind two goals from Melita Pena. She was backed by Valerie Reyes, Natalia Navarro, Daniela DeMara and Maranda Palmer. COD outshot Imperial Valley 38-3. Britney Vargas made two saves to preserve the shutout. COD (7-7), 6-4) hosts Grossmont on Tuesday.

Volleyball





BRANDON MAGPANTAW/SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN

Baudelio Tizoc of Desert Mirage brings down a Rancho Mirage ball carrier on Friday.

Rattlers roll past Rams, clinch share of the title

SHAD POWERS
THE DESERT SUN



A Rancho Mirage Rattlers team that is steamrolling toward a league title and a high seed in the Division 12 playoffs, was not knocked off course by a potential speed bump in Desert Mirage.

The Rattlers stayed focused against their winless opponent and put them away early as a top team does.

Rancho Mirage jumped to a 49-0 halftime lead and cruised to a 52-8 win against the Rams at Desert Mirage.

"Our kids came out really focused and played physical and fast in the first half," Rancho Mirage coach L.D. Matthews said. "We made some big plays early one, which enabled us to get some of our guys into the game that don't always get a lot of minutes."

Kyle Whitefield scored a touchdown on the first play of the game to set the tone, and then sophomore quarterback David Talley took over.

Talley rushed for two touchdowns of 23 and 8 yards, and had three passing touchdowns. He connected with Marques Prior on one, and hit fellow sophomore Jayden Wilson for two more scores.

"Really happy with David, that was a

DE ANZA LEAGUE STANDINGS

Rancho Mirage	4-0
Twentynine Palms	3-1
Coachella Valley	2-2
Yucca Valley	2-2
Desert Hot Springs	1-3
Desert Mirage	0-4

Friday's games

Desert Mirage at Coachella Valley
Rancho Mirage at DHS
Twentynine Palms at Yucca Valley

game he really needed to have," Matthews said of his young quarterback. "From the first snap, he made good decisions and good throws and really did everything we asked. Nice game from him."

With the win, the Rattlers moved to 4-0 in De Anza League play and clinched at worst a share of the league title. Rancho Mirage (7-2, 4-0) plays at Desert Hot Springs on Friday in their season finale.

"We still have a big game against Desert Hot Springs, they have a lot of athletic kids, and we need to finish the season on a high note and see where we land in the playoffs," Matthews said.

Desert Mirage (0-9, 0-4) finishes its season with the annual Date Bowl game at Coachella Valley.



Rattlers cruise past DHS, finish perfect De Anza League season

MATT MCKAY
SPECIAL TO THE DESERT SUN

Rancho Mirage coach L.D. Matthews always wanted to win a De Anza League title while at Desert Hot Springs. He just had to wait until he got to Rancho Mirage to do it.

The Rattlers jumped out to a 31-0 halftime lead, and added 14 more in the first 3:24 of the second half to cruise to a 45-7 win over Desert Hot Springs in the De Anza League finale for both teams. The win gave the Rattlers their first outright league title.

Rancho Mirage (8-2, 5-0) will now move on to the first round of the CIF-SS playoffs to face an opponent to be determined when playoff brackets are released on Sunday morning. Desert Hot Springs finishes its season at 1-9, 1-4 in the league.

Matthews, who spent eight years at Desert Hot Springs before taking the job at Rancho Mirage, deflected credit to his players afterward.

"I'm just extremely proud of these young men," Matthews said. "To watch them develop from where we started last January all the way to where we're at now, and even going back farther to when the school first opened and these seniors were freshmen and these things they've had to overcome, the struggles, the hardships, this night makes it all



GABRIEL MALDONADO OF RANCHO MIRAGE HIGH SCHOOL PUTS A HARD HIT ON SIRVON CAMPBELL OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL ON FRIDAY AT DESERT HOT SPRINGS.

worthwhile." Rancho Mirage dominated the first quarter, piling up 196 yards of offense but only had a 7-0 lead after nine minutes and two possessions. The Rattlers agreed with their first possession, but turned the ball over on downs on their second.

Quarterback David Talley had 103 yards rushing in the quarter on only six carries, and helped set up the first touchdown with a 53-yard run on the

first play of the game. Offensive multi-threat Marques Prior scored the touchdown on a reverse from nine yards out, and Daniel Whelan's extra

Point: see RATTTLERS, PAGE 16

KYLE WHITEFIELD
RANCHO MIRAGE, RB
What he did: Whitefield only needed eight carries to rack up three touchdown runs in a win.

AROUND THE VALLEY

FRIDAY'S OTHER SCORES

- COACHES VALLEY 20, Indio 17 (OT)
- COACHELLA VALLEY 42, Desert Mirage 9
- XAVIER PREP 42, Shadow Hills 23
- DESSERT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY 58, St. Michaels Prep 18

FINAL DVL STANDINGS

- La Quinta - 6-0
- Palm Springs - 5-3
- Shadow Hills - 3-3
- Palm Desert - 2-4
- Xavier Prep - 2-4
- Cathedral City - 2-4
- Indio - 1-5



Rattlers

Continued from 1C

point gave the Rattlers a 7-0 lead with just 1:59 gone.

However, Rancho Mirage turned the ball over on downs at the Eagles' 10 on its next possession, eschewing a short Whelan field goal to go for the touchdown, but a fourth-down pass fell incomplete with 3:34 to play in the quarter.

Rather than take advantage of the turn of events, the Eagles fumbled back to the Rattlers on the next play when quarterback Bayles Carter ran for 21 yards and a first down, but fumbled when tackled at his own 31.

Just three plays later, the Rattlers capitalized, with running back Kyle Whitefield scoring the first of his three first-half touchdowns by giving 17 yards untouched up the middle to extend the Rattlers' lead to a more representative 14-0 with 1:48 to play in the quarter.

Along with their nearly 200 yards of offense in the quarter, the Rattlers also racked up 10 first downs, while limiting the Eagles to 40 yards of offense and two first downs.

The pattern continued in the second quarter, as the Rattlers added 17 points to consolidate control of the game. Whitefield capped off drives of 79 and 59 yards with matching three-yard touchdown runs into the heart of the Eagles' defense.

Whelan capped the half with a 45-yard field goal with three seconds left in the second quarter, a kick he originally lined up to attempt from 50 yards, but an Eagles' offside penalty moved him five yards closer.



GABRIEL MALDONADO OF RANCHO MIRAGE HIGH SCHOOL MAKES A CATCH DURING A PLAY AGAINST DESERT HOT SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL ON FRIDAY AT DESERT HOT SPRINGS.

Any thoughts of a miraculous comeback were surely quashed in the early moments of the third quarter, as Desert Hot Springs fumbled away its first possession of the half at its own 2. Rattlers' running back Gabriel Maldonado scored the first of his two third-quarter touchdowns on the next carry, and Whelan's extra point gave the Rattlers an unassailable 38-0 lead.

Star of the game
Kyle Whitefield, RB, Rancho

Mirage: Whitefield only had 60 yards on eight carries, but all eight carries exemplified his power and shifty nature. He scored on runs of 17, 3, and 3 yards, and also caught a pass for 23 yards.

Just the facts
Rancho Mirage coach L.D. Matthews said it was "kind of weird" coming back to Desert Hot Springs to win a De Anza League title after trying to do the same as a Golden Eagles coachhead coach for eight seasons.

"I've got a lot of great memories here, and there are a lot of great people at this school," he said. "Desert Hot Springs' only score of the game came late in the third quarter when defensive lineman Nathan Ongalibong recovered Rancho Mirage's only lost fumble of the game and returned it 82 yards for a touchdown. The fourth quarter was played with a running clock. Rancho Mirage kicked Daniel Whelan kicked off eight times Friday, only failing to produce a touch-back once. He also punted three

times for an average of 42.1 yards. Rancho Mirage rolled up 416 yards total offense, while its defense limited Desert Hot Springs to 14 in the second half. The Eagles finished the night with 57 yards of total offense. — Rancho Mirage struggled with penalties, particularly offensive holding. The Rattlers were flagged 12 times for 132 yards, half of which were offensive holding calls.

Next up
Rancho Mirage (8-2, 5-0) will play a home game in the first round of the CIF-SS playoffs on Friday, while Desert Hot Springs' season ends at 1-9, 1-4 in the De Anza League.

RANCHO MIRAGE 45, DESERT HOT SPRINGS 7

Rancho Mirage 14 10 13 18 8 40
Desert Hot Springs 0 0 7 0 0 7

First quarter
RM Mason 3:38 (14) (Desert Hot 100)
RM Whitefield 17 (3) (Rattlers 3)

Second quarter
RM Whitefield 3 (8) (Rattlers 6)
RM Whitefield 2 (1) (Rattlers 8)
RM Whitefield 45 (7)

Third quarter
RM Gabriel Maldonado 3 (1) (Rattlers 11)
RM Maldonado 14 (2) (Rattlers 15)
RM Nathan Ongalibong 82 (Rattlers 23)

Fourth quarter
RM Kyle Whitefield 3 (1) (Rattlers 26)
RM Kyle Whitefield 17 (2) (Rattlers 33)
RM Kyle Whitefield 3 (1) (Rattlers 36)
RM Kyle Whitefield 3 (1) (Rattlers 39)
RM Kyle Whitefield 3 (1) (Rattlers 42)
RM Kyle Whitefield 3 (1) (Rattlers 45)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RETURNING OFFENSE PLAYERS

RM Daniel Talley 196 (196) (196) (196)
Whelan 180 (180) (180) (180)
Prior 178 (178) (178) (178)
Talley 138 (138) (138) (138)
Maldonado 103 (103) (103) (103)
Whitefield 79 (79) (79) (79)
Carter 21 (21) (21) (21)
Whelan 17 (17) (17) (17)
Whitefield 17 (17) (17) (17)
Whitefield 17 (17) (17) (17)
Whitefield 17 (17) (17) (17)

RETURNING DEFENSE PLAYERS

RM Mason 3:38 (14) (Desert Hot 100)
Whitefield 17 (3) (Rattlers 3)
Whitefield 3 (8) (Rattlers 6)
Whitefield 45 (7)
Maldonado 3 (1) (Rattlers 11)
Maldonado 14 (2) (Rattlers 15)
Ongalibong 82 (Rattlers 23)
Whitefield 3 (1) (Rattlers 26)
Whitefield 17 (2) (Rattlers 33)
Whitefield 3 (1) (Rattlers 36)
Whitefield 3 (1) (Rattlers 39)
Whitefield 3 (1) (Rattlers 42)
Whitefield 3 (1) (Rattlers 45)

DE ANZA LEAGUE FOOTBALL
CHAMPIONS
2016 

Rattlers cruise past DHS, finish perfect De Anza League season

Rattlers catch fire in 2nd half



David Talley and Marques Prior of Rancho Mirage High School celebrate Prior's touchdown in the third quarter of their CIJ postseason game against Los Amigos High School at home.

Running back Prior scores three touchdowns to ignite the rout

NATHAN BROWN
THE OCEAN FILE

Rancho Mirage Junior running back Marques Prior had been looking forward to Thursday night for the past year. After the Rattler football team's first playoff run a year ago that ended in the quarterfinals at home to Notre Dame, Prior said the team started to hear chatter from doubters that 2016 would be even worse.

After the first half of the first game of this year's playoff run, he walked off the field frustrated.

"I played terrible, and I'm thankful we have a defense that gave us second chances," Prior said. "I came out in the second half with a hot hand, knowing I had to do something different."

Whatever it was, the Rattlers could use plenty more of it over the next three weeks. With the help of three rubies, the



Daniel Whelan of Rancho Mirage High School kicks an extra point during their CIJ postseason game against Los Amigos High School.



Rattlers

Continued from 1C

score from 29 yards out.

Whitefield would find the end zone for the first time of the evening midway through the second quarter on a three-yard run, giving his team a 14-0 lead the Rattlers would take into halftime.

It felt like it should have been more, especially after the defense picked up an interception and fumble from Los Amigos quarterback Steven Hernandez along with several forced three-and-outs, but the Rancho Mirage offense couldn't get out of its own way.

Holding penalties stalled drives and kept Rancho Mirage from having the game wrapped up by halftime, something the frustrated coach LD Matthews after the game.

" Hats off to the Lobos. They came out ready to play and gave us a great effort in the first half," he said. "We seriously have to clean up those penalties. I don't understand it this late in the season, but I'm extremely proud of these guys, and in the end we were able to get the win tonight."

Whitefield's 139 yards and two scores, along with 46 yards and one touchdown from Talley, reflected what Prior said is so special about the Rattlers and what may be toughest to stop for future opponents.

Not even they know who's going to get the hot hand in a half, let alone a game, and as long as they get the win, they don't care who it is.

"It gives us a big confidence, never knowing who it's going to be," he said. "We never know who they're going to game-plan for, so we all just come out ready."



RANCHO MIRAGE 42, LOS AMIGOS 8

Rancho Mirage 77 54 48 - 42
Los Amigos 0 0 7 0 - 8

First quarter
RM) David Talley 29-yard run, PAT good (8:38)

Second quarter
RM) Kyle Whitefield 3-yard run, PAT good (7:02)

Third quarter
RM) Marques Prior 63-yard run, PAT good (8:06)
OM) Prior 1-yard run, PAT good (3:36)
G.A) Hernandez 80-yard run, 2-point conversion good (3:26)

Fourth quarter
RM) Prior 58-yard run, PAT good (11:34)
RM) Whitefield 25-yard run, PAT good (8:04)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Running (Att-Yds-TD) - RM:
Whitefield 16-139-2, Prior 9-155-1, Talley 8-46-1, No. 34 3-11, LA: Hernandez 23-145-1, Gaisdo 11-34.

Passing (Comp-Att-Yds-TD-INT) - RM: Talley 6-13-93-0-0, Prior 5-14-0-0, Prouse 1-5-13-0-0, LA: Hernandez 9-19-97-0-1.

Receiving (Catches-Yds-TD) - RM: Prior 3-48, Whitefield 2-21, Wilson 1-11, Bani 1-13, LA: Drake 1-6, Austin 2-15, Potts 1-31, Cruz

RANCHO MIRAGE 23, HILLCREST 0

RATTLERS DOMINATE



Rancho Mirage and Hillcrest football action on Friday in Riverside.

RICHAUD LAMTHE DESERT SUN

Rancho Mirage defense shuts out Hillcrest; St. Genevieve up next

NATHAN BROWN
THE DESERT SUN

In the school's short four-year history, Rancho Mirage High School's athletics have been all about breaking records and setting standards. The boys' basketball team fell just short of an undefeated, CIF title-winning mark, followed by sending a sprinter to the CIF state track and the girls' tennis team clinching the school's first CIF title just a week ago.

But the football team's desired new tradition was a little out of the box. Yes, football and Thanksgiving traditionally go hand-in-hand, but the Rattlers wanted to be a part of the mix. On Friday night on the road against the Hillcrest Trojans,

"It's huge for these kids, it shows that if you work and dedicate yourself you can accomplish anything."

LD MATTHEWS
Rancho Mirage head coach

and Rancho Mirage would have a shot to practice on Thanksgiving.

Rattler running back Kyle Whitefield, facing potentially the final game of his high school career, took care of that nearly all on his own, carrying the Rattlers on his back while gobbling up more than 200

yards for the first time all season and tacking on three ground scores in a 23-0 win over the Trojans. Rancho Mirage shut out a Hillcrest team that averaged 38 points per game.

With the victory, the Rattlers reached 10 wins and advanced to next Friday's semifinal, both firsts in school history for the football program, something that certainly didn't go unnoticed by anyone on the Rancho Mirage sideline.

"It's huge for these kids, it shows that if you work and dedicate yourself you can accomplish anything," Rattler head coach LD Matthews said. "The legacy that these seniors, who were freshman when we

Please see RATTLERS, B.C.



The Desert Sun
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2011
SERVING THE COACHELLA VALLEY SINCE 1927

Meet the man behind Moorten Botanical Garden

Missing couple en route to Joshua Tree found safe

RM Rattlers shutout Hillcrest, 23-0, in quarterfinals

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

RATTLERS ROLL INTO FINALS

Rancho Mirage reaches its 1st CIF SS title game

BY KEVIN BROWN
PHOTOGRAPH BY

At practice this week as his Rattler football team prepared to host the St. Genevieve Valiants Friday night in the CIF Southern Section Division 12 semifinal, coach LD Matthews expected his squad to be as prepared as ever.

With no English classes to attend, Algebra worksheets to complete or history tests to cram for during Thanksgiving break, Matthews fully expected his players to spend a majority of the hours they didn't have to spend on school work diving into game film. They'd need a solid rushing attack and knew how to stop an equally potent

If the Rattlers didn't listen and still ran 12-14 in the game into the pregame's first ever CIF SS championship game, their fans would be disappointed. Arroyo, have reason to be worried. If they did listen, it's surely a testament to how competitive a team Rancho Mirage has become in just three years of varsity action.

"I couldn't be more proud of these guys. The offense came out and executed the game plan, and the defense continues to be the backbone of this team. They attacked the field creating turnovers and three-and-outs to give the offense short fields," Matthews said.

Friday night's semifinal began with a methodical drive all on the ground, including three double-play runs from senior running back Kyle Whitfield who took the opening drive and began his dominant night with a three-yard run to put Rancho Mirage on the board first.

After the teams traded punts, Rattler junior Marquon Prior burst into the scene and quickly into the end zone with a 75-yard punt return with five flashy moves, using his CIF track-level speed to sprint into the end zone, hardly touched.

Moments later, Valiant quarterback Anthony Seara fumbled the handoff on the first



Rancho Mirage players celebrate one of many touchdowns against St. Genevieve on Friday in Rancho Mirage.

NEXT UP FOR RATTLERS

What: CIF SS Division 12 championship game
 When: 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12
 Where: Arroyo High School in El Monte
 When: Saturday, Dec. 4, Time TBA

way on a bold call to go for fourth and goal from the 16. Genevieve's 3-yard line.

"We wanted to put confidence in two offenses. Obviously we can succeed and get the score," Matthews said. "Plus, I know how well our defense was playing then, and they would have had to go 97 yards. I felt really confident in our guys there, and I'm happy we got the score."

With the game seemingly all but over with entering the second half with a 34-0 lead, the Rattlers continued to punish their outmatched opponents, beginning with Prior's second of three scores on the night on a 60-yard fumble scoop and score.



NIHAILO LOPEZ/DESERT SUN



PHOTOS BY RICHARD LUNTHE/DESERT SUN



Rancho Mirage's Kyle Whitfield carries the ball for a touchdown in the second quarter against St. Genevieve on Friday. At right, Rattlers quarterback David Talley stretches for a touchdown in the second quarter Friday in Rancho Mirage.



Rattlers

Continued from 1C

Despite a lengthy break in the action after an injured Valiant player had to be taken off on a stretcher and loaded into an ambulance, Matthews decided to keep his starters in to shake off some rust from the break and hopefully get one last score, eventually giving senior kicker Daniel Whelan an opportunity to make it a truly complete Rattler victory, nailing a 48-yard field goal.

"I couldn't be more proud of these guys. The offense came out and executed the game plan."

LD MATTHEWS
Rancho Mirage coach

Three fumble recoveries, one interception, two non-offensive scores, to go with a dominant ground game. How more complete can you get? Rattler fans will get at least one more chance to see, as Rancho Mirage hits the road next week to meet No. 1 seed Arroyo in the Division 12 championship game.

"This really shows the

character and grit kids who opened up school, stuck it out, could have easily given up. We had to work hard to be better, and for us where we're at right I feel truly blessed honored to be the co-Rancho Mirage School right now."



CIF SOUTHERN SECTION DIVISION 12 CHAMPIONSHIP: ARROYO 35, RANCHO MIRAGE 34 (OT)



Rancho Mirage loses to Arroyo in overtime in the CIF Division 12 finals on Saturday in El Monte.

CRUSHER IN OT

Heartbreaking loss: Rancho Mirage falls to Arroyo in CIF championship thriller

NATHAN BROWN

Rancho Mirage coach coach J.D. Matthews will never forget the moment of his alma mater's 34-37 loss in the Mountain View football championship last season. For the remainder of the ball season, the "Crush of the game" and the pain the old players tell this day. Matthews will never let go of the pain before coaching on the sidelines for countless years, but that piece will remain on the front of his mind. The emotions, every local coach was bred four years ago to build a winning program from the ground up at Rancho Mirage because of his love for community and his football seasons, but no coach could be prepared better for what comes next in the Rancho's storied past. Matthews, however, after Saturday night's CIF



Rancho Mirage's Joshua Ramirez blocks Arroyo's Camacho's punt to allow teammate Mattson Baker to score in the

Kickoff times for Saturday night high school football title games



Rancho Mirage coach Matthews talks to his team after losing to Arroyo 35-34 in overtime in the CIF Division 12 finals on Saturday in El Monte.



Rattlers

Continued from 1C

dashed right down the field on their opening possession. Their leading rusher Steven Ocariz started the game with a 32-yard rumble on the ground to mid-field before Rattler penalties and a gutsy fourth down conversion kept Arroyo on the field.

Arroyo quarterback Ernesto Camacho finished things off with a pretty 24-yard toss to Yezdan Marquez wide-open in the end zone to take an early lead. Prior found himself in the end zone a few plays later with a similar ball in his hands to tie but couldn't reel it in.

"We had this game. We didn't come in focused. We got here late. We weren't focused, we weren't ready," Prior said. "We had mental mistakes. I dropped a touchdown pass. We had two fumbles on offense that gave them life."

With just over three minutes to go in the first half, Rancho Mirage let another potential touchdown opportunity slip away. Down to the one-yard-line, facing second-and-goal from the one, a Prior sweep around the left fell short, a second drive ending with a Daniel Whelan field goal for a 21-13 first half deficit.

But the second half, at least to start, felt different. After a dead-end first drive, Josh Ramirez came up big on defense, the Knights pinned deep having to punt from the end zone, blocking the kick while Mason ... scooped it up for the

score. Minutes later, Kyle Whitefield took advantage of great field position and rode wide-open rushing lanes for a 50-yard touchdown. All-of-a-sudden, the Rattlers found themselves in the lead, momentum on their shoulders.

Leads and momentum, both, though, can evaporate with the flick of a foot in the postseason. As the fourth quarter waned, less than four minutes to go with a tie game, the Rattlers set up for what has often been an automatic field goal from 36 yards from Whelan. He caught the ball cleanly, but as it reached the uprights, to the refs at least, it looked wide right. Whelan thought otherwise.

Instead, to overtime the two teams went, where Whitefield immediately put the pressure on with a 25-yard scamper into the end zone on the first play, forcing the Knights to score a touchdown themselves.

When Camacho forced his way in on a one-yard quarterback sneak, Arroyo coach Jim Singler decided to end it all there. After a timeout, he and his team came out for a decisive two-point conversion that sent most Rattler seniors walking off the field for the last time.

But for those who will come back? The pain will linger, but the fight to avenge this loss for their teammates, themselves and Matthews will press on. "Everybody coming back knows this feeling. I felt it last year. It made me want to work hard," Prior said. "It's for me to feel it twice. I tried to work my hardest ever."

"We fought our hearts out, they just had one more play on us. I'll never forget these guys."

JONNATHAN AVILA
Rancho Mirage senior



Rancho Mirage's Joshua Ramirez blocks Arroyo quarterback Ernesto Camacho's pass during the CIF Division 12 finals on Saturday.



RUNNER-UP

20  16



2016
DIVISION 12
FOOTBALL
RUNNER-UP



#RATTLERPROUD



Varsity Coaches Awards



Coach Brown



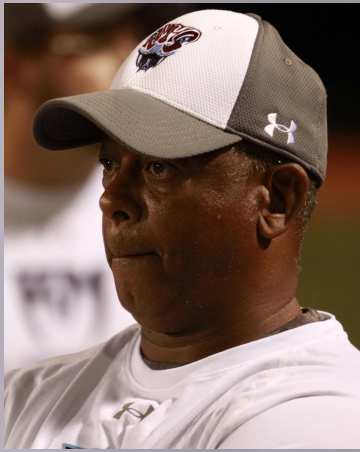
Jayden Wilson

Coach Ogden



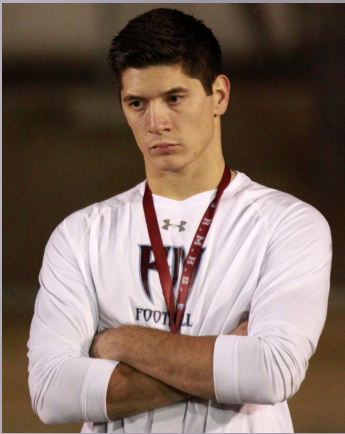
David Talley

Coach Prior



Felipe Sandoval

Coach Desmarais



Mario Montalvo

Coach Spry



Noah Ramirez

Coach Castillo



Mason Ferrer

Coach Matthews



Gabe Maldonado

Varsity Team Awards

Scout Team MVP

Scout Team MVP



Travis O'Brien

Varsity Team Awards

Most Improved

Most Improved



Torin Doyle

Varsity Team Awards

Most Inspirational

Most Inspirational



Isaiah Archuleta

Varsity Team Awards

Best Lineman

Best Lineman



Jonny Avila Burgueno

Varsity Team Awards

Special Teams MVP

Special Teams MVP



Daniel Whelan

Varsity Team Awards

Defensive MVP

CO - Defensive MVP



Mikey Ramos

CO - Defensive MVP



Josh Ramirez

Varsity Team Awards

Offensive MVP

Offensive MVP



Kyle Whitefield

Varsity Team Awards

Team MVP

TEAM MVP



Marques Prior

De Anza All League Selections



15 Rattlers Earned All League

2 League MVP

De Anza All League Selections

Honorable Mention

David Talley - QB



2016 Season Stats:

67/147

937 Passing Yards

5 TDs

125 Carries

547 Yards

9 TDs

1 - 100 Yard Rushing Game

2 School Records

Pass Completion Game

Pass Completion Season

De Anza All League Selections

2nd Team All League

Mario Montalvo - LB



2016 Season State:

68 Total Tackles

52 Solo Tackles

16 Assisted Tackles

6 Tackles for Loss

4 Sacks

2 QB Hurries

2 Forced Fumbles

2 Interceptions (1 TD)

1 Pass Deflection

Jesus Valenzuela - OL



14 Game Starter

Lead the Way for:

3,359 Rushing Yds

14 - 100 Yd Rushers

239.9 Yds per Game

6.5 Yds per Rush

56 Rushing TDs

Mark Grenier - OL



14 Game Starter

Lead the Way for:

3,359 Rushing Yds

14 - 100 Yd Rushers

239.9 Yds per Game

6.5 Yds per Rush

56 Rushing TDs

Mason Ferrer - LB



2016 Season Stats:

21 Total Tackles

19 Solo

2 Tackles for Loss

1 Sack

8 Hurries

2 Interceptions

3 Pass Deflections

1 Forced Fumble

2 Fumble Recoveries

13 - KOR Attempts

326 Yards - 25.1 Yd Avg.

1 Punt Return for TD

4 School Records

91 Yd Interception for TD

Brandon Walker - DT



2016 Season Stats:

37 Total Tackles

27 Solo

7 Tackles for Loss

4 Sacks

7 QB Hurries

1 Forced Fumble

1 Fumble Recovery

Travis O'Brien - DT



2016 Season Stats:

27 Total Tackles

21 Solo

5 Tackles for Loss

1 Sack

4 QB Hurries

1 Forced Fumble

2 Fumble Recoveries

School Records

Fumble Recoveries Career (8)

De Anza All League Selections

1st Team All League

Isaiah Archuleta - TE



2016 Season State:

40 Total Tackles

26 Solo Tackles

2 Tackles for Loss

4 Sacks

11 QB Hurries

1 Fumble Rec.

2 School Records

Tackle per Game Season - 7.6

QB Hurries Season - 11

Matt Ontiveros - OT



14 Game Starter

Lead the Way for:

3,359 Rushing Yds

14 - 100 Yd Rushers

239.9 Yds per Game

6.5 Yds per Rush

56 Rushing TDs

Mikey Ramos - LB



2016 Season State:

63 Total Tackles

52 Solo Tackles

9 Tackles for Loss

2 QB Hurries

3 Forced Fumbles

5 Interceptions (3 TD)

6 School Records

Most Tackles Career - 174

Tackle for Loss Season - 9

Tackle for Loss Career - 11

Interceptions Game - 2

Interceptions Season - 5

Interception Career - 7

Kyle Whitefield - RB



2016 Season Stats:

220 Carries 1,650 Yds 30 TDs

12 Rec. 157 Yds

9 - 100 Yard Rushing Games

117.9 Yards per Game 7.5 Yds Per Carry

18 School Records

Most Rushing Yds Game (212)

Most Rushing Yards Season (1650)

Most Rushing Yards Career (2613)

Most Rushing TDs Game (3)

Most Rushing TDs Season (30)

Most Rushing TDs Career (44)

Most Career 100 Yd Games (14)

Most Points Scored Season (270)

Most Yards Per Carry Career (7)

Scoring Avg. per Game (12.9)

Josh Ramirez - LB



2016 Season Stats:

66 Total Tackles

50 Solo Tackles

15 Sacks

10 QB Hurries

3 Forced Fumbles

8 Pass Deflection

8 School Records

Tackle for Loss Game - 3

Most Pass Deflections Season - 8

Most Sacks Game - 3

Most Sacks Career - 15

Most Sacks Career - 17

Jonnathan Avila-Burgueno - C



Captain

10 Game Starter

Lead the Way for:

3,359 Rushing Yds

14 - 100 Yd Rushers

239.9 Yds per Game

6.5 Yds per Rush

56 Rushing TDs

De Anza All League Selections

De Anza League
Special Teams MVP

Daniel Whelan - K/P



35 School Records

Longest Field Goal (52)

Most Touchbacks Career (130)

113/116 PAT

179 Career Points Scored

Longest Punt (68)

2016 Season Stats:

86 Kick Offs

77 Touchback

5,359 Yards

62.3 Yds/Kick

10/19 Field Goals

3 FGs of 50 Yards or More (52)

71/73 PAT

37 Punts

22 Punts Inside the 20

1,622 Yards

43.8 Yds/Punt

101 Points Scored

De Anza All League Selections

De Anza League
Offensive MVP

Marques Prior - ATHLETE



2016 Season Stats:

111 Carries 961 Yards 15 TDs

4 - 100 Yard Rushing Games 8.7 Yds per Carry

28 Rec. 385 Yds 2 Tds

60 Total Tackles - 3 INT

31 School Records

Longest Passing TD (88)

Longest Rushing TD (78)

Most Yards Per Carry Game (17.3)

Longest KO Return For TD (95)

Longest Punt Return For TD (70)

Longest Fumble Return for TD (43)

Tackles Game (18)

All Desert Sun Team

Honorable Mention

All Desert Sun Team Selections

Honorable Mention



David Talley - QB

All Desert Sun Team Selections

Honorable Mention



Jesus Valenzuela - Guard

All Desert Sun Team

2nd Team

All Desert Sun Team Selections

2nd Team



Mario Montalvo - LB

All Desert Sun Team Selections

2nd Team



Matt Ontiveros - OT

All Desert Sun Team Selections

2nd Team



Mark Grenier - OT

All Desert Sun Team Selections

2nd Team



Isaiah Archuleta - LB

All Desert Sun Team

1st Team

All Desert Sun Team Selections

1st Team – Daniel Whelan

☰ The Desert Sun 🔑



Daniel Whelan

Daniel Whelan – Rancho Mirage | Senior | Kicker/punter

Not only the best in the valley, but one of the best in the country, Whelan wowed people with his incredibly impressive length on field goals, making kicks from more than 50 yards look routine while making one from longer than 70 in practice, wind-aided. He was 67 for 69 on PATs and 8 for 16 on field goals, a number low because the Rattlers tried multiple 60-plus yarders he barely missed. Whelan, the De Anza League Special Teams MVP, was also a game-changing punter, landing 21 of his 36 tries inside the 20 with a long of 68. He was also a member of the 2015 all-Desert Sun first team.

All Desert Sun Team Selections

1st Team – Jonny Avila–Burgueno – C



The Desert Sun



**Jonnathan
Avila –
Rancho**

Mirage I Senior I Offensive line

Avila helped to pave the way, with the rest of the Rancho Mirage offensive line, for one of the most dominant running games in the valley that piled up 3,362 yards in 14 games. With his help, the rushing attack was successful up the middle, around the end or on option plays while averaging more than 240 yards a game during the team's trip to the CIF SS Division 12 championship game . The senior, a first-team all-De Anza League pick, finished his high school career as a three-year starter on the offensive line and is drawing attention from Division I football programs for a potential scholarship offer.

All Desert Sun Team Selections

1st Team - Kyle Whitefield - RB



The Desert Sun



Kyle Whitefield

Kyle Whitefield – Rancho Mirage | Senior | Running back

Whitefield followed closely behind Cordova as one of the best backs in the valley. The Rancho Mirage senior wasn't the fastest, biggest, or hardest-hitting back, but his ability to keep his balance and stay on his feet while getting hit or making spin moves, all while not losing speed, was his trademark. Whitefield, a first-team all-De Anza League selection, piled up 1,749 yards on 222 rushes with 29 scores, leading the Rattlers to the CIF SS Division 12 championship.

All Desert Sun Team Selections

1st Team – Josh Ramirez – LB



The Desert Sun



Defense



Josh Ramirez

Josh Ramirez – Rancho Mirage I Senior I Defensive line

He's listed as a linebacker, but we think Ramirez looked and played like a solid defensive end this season, piling up 15 sacks, while forcing two fumbles and recovering five more and finishing third on the team with 53 tackles. Most impressively, Ramirez, a first-team all-De Anza League selection, had possibly his best game of the season in the biggest one, recording two sacks and a blocked punt that turned into a touchdown in the Rattlers' CIF title game against Arroyo.

All Desert Sun Team Selections

1st Team – Mikey Ramos – LB



The Desert Sun



Mikey Ramos

Michael Ramos – Rancho Mirage I Senior I Linebacker

Much like Ramirez, his teammate on defense, Ramos did a little bit of everything this season, finishing with 59 tackles for second on the team and one sack. Ramos, a first-team all-De Anza League pick, led the Rattlers with five interceptions and returned three for scores, while forcing three fumbles, recovering another and blocking one punt as a key part of Rancho Mirage's stout defense.

All Desert Sun Team Selections

1st Team – Marques Prior – WR



Marques Prior

Marques Prior – Rancho Mirage I Junior I Returner

Prior was all over the field each game this season, playing offense, defense and special teams. As a return man, he returned a kickoff for a touchdown on the first play of the season, along with a crucial punt in the team's CIF semifinal game against St. Genevieve. On defense, he recorded two interceptions, one fumble (which he returned for a score) and 42 tackles, while on offense, where he played running back, wide receiver and occasionally quarterback, Prior racked up 934 yards and 15 scores on the ground and 367 yards and two scores receiving on 27 catches. He was named De Anza League co-Offensive MVP.

Division 12 - All CIF

HS FOOTBALL

Josh Ramirez named All-CIF MVP, joining 10 other local football players



2016-17 ALL CIF SOUTHERN SECTION FOOTBALL SELECTIONS

Presented by the L&A Foundation, (Selected by the Football Coaches Assn.)

DIVISION 12
 Offensive Player of the Year – Ernesto Carrasco, Arroyo (10)
 Defensive Player of the Year – Joshua Ramirez, Rancho Mirage (12)
 Coach of the Year – Jim Singer, Arroyo

OFFENSIVE TEAM					
Pos.	Name	School	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
Back	Kyle Whitefield	Rancho Mirage			12
Back	Steven Hernandez	Los Amigos			12
Back	Anthony Morales	Santa Paula			12
Back	Steven Ocariz	Arroyo			11
Back	Darius Gains	St. Genevieve			12
QB	Quinn Commins	Whittier Christian			11
Line	Jonny Avila-Burgueno	Rancho Mirage			12
Line	Albert Ramirez	Calvary Murrieta			12
Line	Matt Ontiveros	Rancho Mirage			12
Line	Cristian Castillo	Arroyo			11
Line	Brian Ruiz	Los Amigos			12
Line	Alex Rincon	St. Genevieve			12
Line	Angel Rodriguez	Schurr			11
Receiver	Rey Cotero	Arroyo			11
Receiver	Lance Babb II	Schurr			11
Receiver	Marques Prior	Rancho Mirage			11
Receiver	Brayden Campos	Calvary Murrieta			12
Receiver	Phillip Anthony Ryan	Pacific			12
Utility	Jordan Blackman	St. Genevieve			12
Kicker	Jesse Ortiz	Arroyo			11

DEFENSIVE TEAM					
Pos.	Name	School	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.
Back	Pablo Munoz	Rancho Mirage			12
Back	Yezdan Marquez	Arroyo			12
Back	Rafi Tiltzan	St. Genevieve			12
Back	Sebastian Ramos	Schurr			11
Back	Anthony Evans	Pacific			12
Back	Keith Morales	Seegerstrom			11
Line	Clint Lewis	Calvary Murrieta			12
Line	Brandon Walker	Rancho Mirage			12
Line	Rey Garcia	Arroyo			12
Line	Patrick Williams	Silver Valley			11
Line	Elijah Eise	St. Genevieve			12
Line	Eduardo Lozano	Carpinteria			12
Line	Cristian Carmona	Seegerstrom			10
Linebacker	Micah Roth	Calvary Murrieta			12
Linebacker	Cesar Carrillo	Arroyo			12
Linebacker	Kevin Galvan	Fillmore			12
Linebacker	David Sevilla	Seegerstrom			12
Linebacker	Mikey Ramos	Rancho Mirage			12
Utility	Adam Schwab	Calvary Murrieta			12
Punter	Daniel Whelan	Rancho Mirage			12

9 Rattlers Earned All CIF
 1 Division MVP

All CIF Southern Section Team Award

2016 FOOTBALL TEAM

OFFENSIVE TEAM

Quinn Commans, Whittier Christian
Kyle Whitefield, Rancho Mirage
Steven Hernandez, Los Amigos
Anthony Morales, Santa Paula
Steven Ocariz, Arroyo
Darrious Gaines, St. Genevieve
Ray Cotero, Arroyo
Lance Babb II, Schurr
Marques Prior, Rancho Mirage
Brayden Campos, Calvary Murrieta
Phillip Anthony Ryan, Pacific
Jonny Avila-Burgueno, Rancho Mirage
Albert Ramirez, Calvary Murrieta
Matt Ontiveros, Rancho Mirage
Cristian Castillo, Arroyo
Brian Ruiz, Los Amigos
Alex Rincan, St. Genevieve
Angel Rodriguez, Schurr
Jesse Ortiz, Arroyo
Jordan Blackman, St. Genevieve

Offensive Player of the Year
Ernesto Camacho, Arroyo

DIVISION 12

PRESENTED TO:

Rancho Mirage
High School

Championship Coach
Jim Singiser, Arroyo

DEFENSIVE TEAM

Pablo Munoz, Rancho Mirage
Yezdan Marquez, Arroyo
Raffi Titzian, St. Genevieve
Sebastian Ramos, Schurr
Anthony Evans, Pacific
Keith Morales, Segerstrom
Micah Roth, Calvary Murrieta
Cesario Carrillo, Arroyo
Kevin Galvan, Fillmore
David Sevilla, Segerstrom
Mikey Ramos, Rancho Mirage
Clint Lewis, Calvary Murrieta
Brandon Walker, Rancho Mirage
Rey Garcia, Arroyo
Patrick Williams, Silver Valley
Elijah Ebe, St. Genevieve
Eduardo Lozano, Carpinteria
Cristian Carmona, Segerstrom
Daniel Whelan, Rancho Mirage
Adam Schwab, Calvary Murrieta

Defensive Player of the Year
Joshua Ramirez, Rancho Mirage

PRESENTED BY:



Renata Simril

Renata Simril
President, LA84 Foundation

AS SELECTED BY THE COACHES SELECTION COMMITTEE

All CIF Division 12 Selection

Pablo Munoz - DB



All CIF Division 12 Selection

Brandon Walker - DL



All CIF Division 12 Selection

Matt Ontiveros - OL



All CIF Division 12 Selection

Marques Prior - WR



All CIF Division 12 Selection

Mikey Ramos - LB



All CIF Division 12 Selection

Jonny Avila-Burgueno - OL



All CIF Division 12 Selection

Kyle Whitefield - RB



All CIF Division 12 Selection

Daniel Whelan - Punter



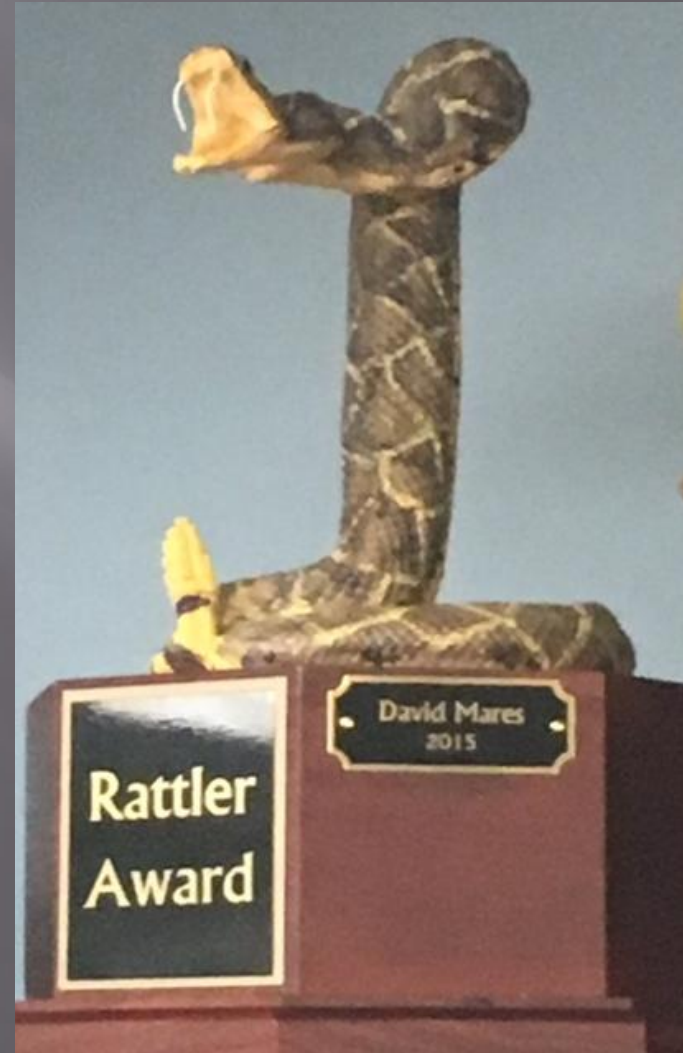
All CIF Division 12 Selection

Joshua Ramirez - Defensive MVP



RATTLER AWARD

THE HIGHEST
HONOR A
RATTLER
FOOTBALL
PLAYER CAN
ACHIEVE



Isaiah Archuleta



RATTLERS EARN FULL SCHOLARSHIPS

NSD17

UC DAVIS FOOTBALL

**DANIEL
WHELAN**

P

6'5" 215 LBS

RANCHO MIRAGE HS

ANIMAL SCIENCE RANCHO MIRAGE, CA

#AGSCENSION

AGGIEPRIDE

Detailed description: A recruitment graphic for UC Davis Football. On the left, a photo of a player in a white jersey and grey pants kicking a football. The background is blue and white. Text includes 'NSD17', 'UC DAVIS FOOTBALL', the player's name 'DANIEL WHELAN', a position indicator 'P', physical stats '6'5" 215 LBS', high school 'RANCHO MIRAGE HS', major 'ANIMAL SCIENCE', and location 'RANCHO MIRAGE, CA'. A hashtag '#AGSCENSION' is at the bottom. On the right, a vertical banner says 'AGGIEPRIDE' and a gold football helmet is shown.



UC Davis Football

@UCDfootball



Welcome to @UCDFootball, Daniel Whelan!
youtube.com/watch?v=B8Py_g... #AGScension
#NSD17 #GoAgs

8:54 AM - 1 Feb 2017



35



70

Fundraising

- Rattler Youth Football Camps
 - Saturday, March 11th 8am to 11 am

- Rattler Golf Scramble – April 8th 2017
 - The Westin Mission Hills & Resort
 - Gary Player Signature Course

www.ranchomiragehighschool.org/football



GO RATTLERS!!

Thank you for coming tonight!