

DUST IN THE WIND

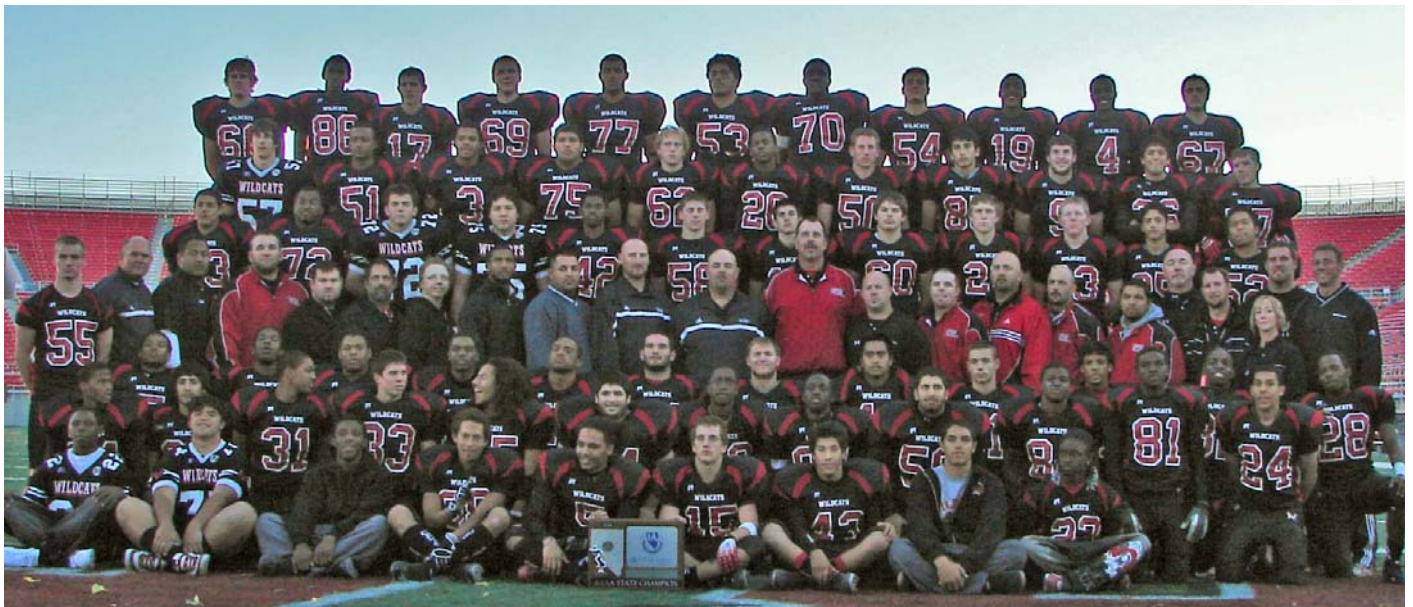
A Class of '76 Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 1

<http://www.mers.byu.edu/long/LVHS/>

2007

LVHS WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SECOND YEAR IN A ROW



A smiling Chris Faircloth summed up the feeling as his Las Vegas High football team celebrated on Saturday.

"It's great to be a Wildcat, at least it is today," Faircloth said.

It's been awfully good to be a Wildcat for the last six seasons. Las Vegas turned in a dominant second-half performance on the way to a 33-6 victory over Galena for the Class 4A state title at Sam Boyd Stadium.

It was Las Vegas' second consecutive title, and its third in six years. The Wildcats have played in four consecutive finals and five in six seasons.

"Last year felt great, but this year -- winning back-to-back -- feels even better," senior quarterback O'Ryan Bradley said.

"Last year felt great, but this year -- winning back-to-back -- feels even better," senior quarterback O'Ryan Bradley said.

Galena outgained Las Vegas 104-92 in the first half and the Grizzlies trailed only 7-6 at the break. Faircloth said the coaches challenged the team at halftime.

"We went in there and said, basically the team with the most heart is going to win this one, that's what it comes down to," Faircloth said. "We work all year for this opportunity, and if we let it go, it's because they deserve it. And if we win it, it's because we deserve it. And the kids responded and did a phenomenal job."

MORE PRESS ON THE TRAMLINES

Tyler McKusick laughs at himself, mainly because he realizes that he just said something that sounds as if it came straight from a Calvin Klein commercial.

McKusick's talking about his band, the Tramlines, sitting in the conference room of his father's advertising agency, the windows of which are decorated with seasonal faux cobwebs.

If McKusick comes off as a tad precocious as he speaks, the same can't be said of the Tramlines.

Though they're a young group -- two of the band's five members are still in high school -- the band possesses a grown-up sound, with panoramic, dramatic tunes whose density is abetted by three guitarists. The band's full-bodied indie rock is both intricate and immediate, layered with aching piano, walls of guitar and vocals that sound as if McKusick's singing with his heart in a vice. It's a distinct sound that's beginning to get this bunch noticed.

The Tramlines recently traveled to Santa Monica, Calif., to have their debut full-length album, "The Bottom of the Sea," mixed and mastered by renowned engineer Ed Goodreau, who has worked with such big names as Phil Collins, David Bowie, Guns N' Roses and the Eagles. Goodreau is working with the band on spec, charging them nothing upfront and getting paid only if the Tramlines land a deal.

"It's a very good situation, especially for a bunch of kids who have \$8-an-hour jobs," singer/guitarist/pianist Chad Felix says, grinning and surrounded by his bandmates, bassist Corey Van Cleef, guitarist Dillon Shines and drummer Michael Catalano.

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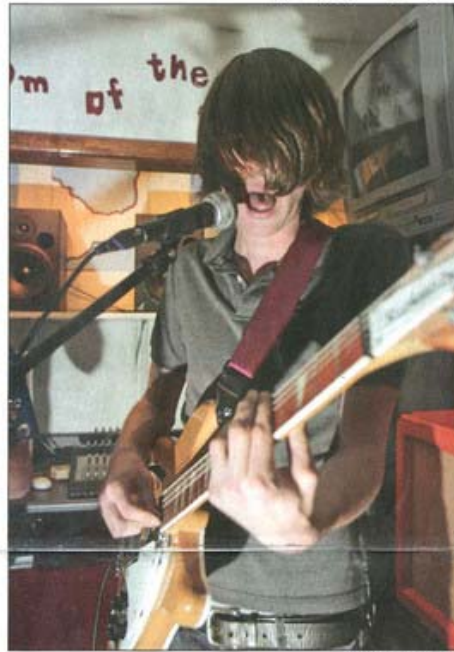
ARTS & STYLE

THE NEWS | January 4-10, 2007

Tramlines ready for center stage

Henderson teens working on fighting boy-band image, preparing to release debut album

By DEREK OLSON



"When you have blow-up bands like The Killers, it brings a lot of attention. It's good attention, but I don't know if that's the kind of attention we're looking for."

Chad Felix, lead vocalist of The Tramlines

Cleef, 16.

"Right now they're writing really good songs," he said. "I thought, for their age, they were very talented and I wanted to work with them and help develop their talent."

The quietist is acutely aware of the success of a couple of other Las Vegas bands in recent years. Producers seem to be searching for the next Panic At The Disco or The Killers, but group members said those aren't styles they're looking to fill.

"When you have blow-up bands like The Killers, it brings a lot of attention," Felix said. "It's good attention, but I don't know if that's the kind of attention we're looking for."

More than anything else, McKusick said The Tramlines wants to have its own identity. He said that could hinder the band's chance for overnight success, but, for now, instant fame is not the members' goal.

Last year, after playing at the Amplify! music competition in Las Vegas, the band was approached by another producer

To hear more

To learn more about the Tramlines and hear some of their music, go to <http://thetramlines.com> or <http://myspace.com/thetramlinesmusic>

who was pushing the wrong agenda, McKusick said.

"He pulled us aside immediately after our set," Felix said. "He said, 'I couldn't hear what you were saying, but you guys look really good.'"

"He told us if we could cut out all the experimental stuff, we could have a great pop band," he said.

Shines said the group played its poppiest, least experimental songs at the competition.

Goodreau said, as a producer, he knows that The Tramlines' image might contribute to its salability.

The five attractive, thin musicians have enough variation in their looks for teen girls to endlessly ponder, who's the shy one? who's the rebel? who's the soulful loner? That kind of album, poster and T-shirt sales.

But even Goodreau acknowledges, with all of the members' maturity and angst, the album they've nearly completed, "The Bottom of the Sea," might not have the breakout single that could launch The Tramlines from relative obscurity into the mainstream.

For the band, just the possibility of being heard is excitement enough.

"If we had a million dollars," McKusick said, "we'd probably just want a nice legit practice space we can just chill in."

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CHAD FELIX/ABC NEWS STAFF PHOTO
 Chad Felix jams with The Tramlines. The group has been traveling to California to work on its first album.



CHAD FELIX/ABC NEWS STAFF PHOTO
 The Tramlines are, from left, Cory Van Cleef, Tyler McKusick, Chad Felix, Dillon Shines and Michael Catalano. The group has been making the rounds in Henderson.



CHAD FELIX/ABC NEWS STAFF PHOTO
 Members of the Tramlines, from left, Cory Van Cleef, Tyler McKusick and Dillon Shines, practice at the home of bandmate Chad Felix. The group has been making the rounds in Henderson.

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RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR



Hey, I know its football and it's the class of 2007. But when our alma mater is doing so well I like to publicize it. I wish they would have been that dominant when we were going to school but the basketball team took care of that. Don't forget to visit the web site: <http://www.mers.byu.edu/long/LVHS/> We had a great class and we had a great school. This issue is kind of a filler issue. I had some great stuff from Leslie Mallet and wanted to get it in before they got really old. Haven't heard much from any of our classmates. Judy Newmarker said the Memory Books are almost ready. Keeping my fingers crossed that it is soon. Sorry about the long delay between issues but haven't had much to run. I have a couple of things I am working on but we are staying busy despite the negative headlines in the newspapers. As I have said before, if you have anything past, present or future to share, please feel free to e-mail it to me. I want this newsletter to be something we can use to stay in touch. I went to my mom's 50th reunion last year and it was cool to see the people get together and tell stories about the past. It was actually all classes up until 1956. Their was one gentleman from the class of 1926 their. I thought that was great. Chat with you soon. Dennis

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CATCHING UP WITH CLIF

By Leslie Mallet

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

(Editors Note: Sorry about the delay, the last couple of months have been very busy. I still hope you enjoy these wonderful stories from Leslie.)

Just a note to you to wish a wonderful holiday season and enjoy all the festivities it has to offer. Enjoy the magic of it with your family and friends. We hope you have a dazzling new year! I think I am able to say Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year without having the politically correct police after me. I use to only be able to say Happy Holidays so things are changing.

Clif and I will just hanging around the ole tree this year with the basset hounds. By the way, I did put the tree and lights up while Clif hung a few ornaments. Where will he be when it comes down? Ashley will be in Spokane selling and hopefully, little returns of the jewels she sells. She was here in Oct., her first visit to see us since we had moved here. Well she came, she saw, she cleaned out our nest egg and vows she will return in 2007. Clif keeps asking me -Why? Ashley has also informed me that her dog, Gus the basset hound, is Jewish. I am not certain why she thinks this since she is not Jewish, but I did ask if her if he had a drielde for the holiday. Is that politically correct?

The college bowl games will be something the Mallett's will be looking forward to no matter the religion. Clif of course with his Fighting Notre Dame came in the last poll a measly 11th. I thought that was generous and I really think they limped in. What a shame, but I did hear a former ND coach say they were not worthy of a top ten poll. Clif just said bah humbug to him. We saw this team play against Air Force and they are rock stars in the ND fan base, aah but can they win down in the south against LSU in the Sugar bowl, I think not. The ND fans always travel well, and I believe that is why they are in a BCS game at all, Clif just said bah humbug to me too. Anyway, there will be some new and old classic matchups, c'mon Ohio St.and Florida and USC and Michigan, it can't get better then that.

My Broncos, his Raiders well what can we say-I WON this year and that is all that matters! The Mallett Bowl! Yes it is true, I do have a bronco check card and bronco checks all with Clif's name on them. I WON! Clif says bah humbug. Just the same more football to look forward to with the season wrapping up soon, who will win it all.....gee doesn't San Diego look good!

I know we are crazy and we are thankful we have such wonderful friends (who have read these crazy emails all year and sometimes get responses back). Feel free to come on by, Clif will still be chasing trains and rooting for his teams. I will be right here continuing the emails and gluing back the broken nest egg. We wish you all the best this holiday and a truly wonderful new year!

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I WON'T DRINK TO THAT

Tuesday, Nov. 7, we vote and I have to tell you it is a whole new experience here in the rocky mountain state of Utah. I am not sure I should tell you this as I don't think that Utahans want this to get out. But it was a surprise to me and I did think Clif fell off the couch when he read me the news last week, but here it is. You are not allowed to buy alcohol on Tuesday, Nov. 7, election day. That is the news and that is the liquor law! Who makes up this stuff! Clif had to read it out loud to me and that is when I heard a thud and he was still reading as he hit the floor, not missing a beat.

It seems that somewhere along the way of lawmaking someone decided that you are not allowed to be served wine, vodka etc. on this election day. The liquor stores will be closed up tight and alcohol, excluding beer and I think that is just 3.2, will not be served in restaurants, bars EXCEPT at the airport lounges. It gets trickier, if you plan to go to a banquet, servers in banquet rooms can serve all the coke and sprite they have on tap and even do a tap dance for you but no alcohol, not even a light beer. I hope the banquet goes stop at the grocery down the street and pick themselves up a six pack or have had one at the airport before they go to this shindig.

As I understand it there are several states that enact this law, but Utah carries it to a whole new level. Afraid the politicians would get the voter all liquored up before he voted and then take him to the polls. In fact, they have a FBI guy who helps the servers with the intricacies to learn what to do and gives them a hotline to call just in case they don't. The government agency sent their best to help us out!

I have to say that if there is any day on this calendar year that people should have the freedom to drink, it should be this day. I have been watching a lot of the debates and I have to tell you I needed a drink when I was finished watching them. There are going to be some very happy people and some very unhappy people when the votes are finally counted. I am thinking either way, a person might need a drink!

Now for the guy who is at the airport for a layover from Butte, Montana and needs a lift into Denver, it use to be that he could not get a drop of alcohol until just recently when they changed that law, but before that they were saying to the tourist.....so Welcome To Utah!

THANKS FOR FOOTBALL...

Just wanted to wish you a wonderful holiday! I hope everyone is at your table this year!

Clif is going to be working, but will likely be home for a dinner for two. I am thankful for.....the week is over.....He has been on vacation this past week and he did get to go see the Notre Dame and Air Force game.

If you have never been to the Air Force Academy and especially on game day it is worth the trip. Quite a different setting than a usual football game. Soldiers on rooftops with guns, yep snipers, lots of K-9 units, many, many cadets, four star generals walking around sharing popcorn. It would take your breath away. I think what threw Clif for a loop was the soldier who had a rifle in HER hand and told him where to park (it). Anyway, the game was fun, front row seats right behind the ND bench, with Head Coach Charlie Weiss eyeing Clif for signals. The Notre Dame team arrived in four buses with the head coach guiding them through the tunnel and the crazy fans who cheered them like a rock group! They looked like choir boys in their dark suits, just coming from mass I suppose. I tell you I thought I was at Notre Dame there for a few minutes, standing room only. The game started with a bang and with two plays ND had scored and the boys in blue never could catch them. I think Notre Dame should get the Commanders Chief Trophy for beating all of the military academies this year, what a tough schedule the Irish had. Tailgaters, wonderful bands, cute marching cadets, a flyover, parachutes, and at halftime Clif saw a eagle flying around. I reminded him we were at Falcon Stadium and that was a falcon and not an eagle. GEEZE! Presently Clif is waiting for the rankings to come out and as Michigan, ahh too bad Mich. fans-go Buckeyes) lost today he thinks his fighting Irish will be moving up to the top.....it just could not happen. Just the same I hope you and yours have a fun turkey day and get rested up for the shopping holiday on Fri.

The Wildcats have kept the "Bone Home" 11 straight years!

Year	Las Vegas	Score	Rancho	Score
1957	Wildcats	21	Rams	12
1958	Wildcats	13	Rams	13
1959	Wildcats	7	Rams	0
1960	Wildcats	0	Rams	20
1961	Wildcats	0	Rams	7
1962	Wildcats	14	Rams	16
1963	Wildcats	21	Rams	12
1964	Wildcats	6	Rams	27
1965	Wildcats	18	Rams	6
1966	Wildcats	26	Rams	6
1967	Wildcats	47	Rams	19
1968	Wildcats	14	Rams	40
1969	Wildcats	18	Rams	27
1970	Wildcats	8	Rams	34
1971	Wildcats	2	Rams	36
1972	Wildcats	10	Rams	7
1973	Wildcats	13	Rams	20
1974	Wildcats	14	Rams	29
1975	Wildcats	6	Rams	28
1976	Wildcats	19	Rams	14
1977	Wildcats	31	Rams	6
1978	Wildcats	20	Rams	0
1979	Wildcats	20	Rams	16
1980	Wildcats	26	Rams	0
1981	Wildcats	10	Rams	12
1982	Wildcats	21	Rams	30
1983	Wildcats	0	Rams	21
1984	Wildcats	9	Rams	14
1985	Wildcats	19	Rams	39
1986	Wildcats	21	Rams	32
1987	Wildcats	17	Rams	24
1988	Wildcats	24	Rams	15
1989	Wildcats	18	Rams	3
1990	Wildcats	17	Rams	28
1991	Wildcats	7	Rams	34
1992	Wildcats	28	Rams	32
1993	Wildcats	6	Rams	33
1994	Wildcats	0	Rams	22
1995	Wildcats	10	Rams	13
1996	Wildcats	21	Rams	0
1997	Wildcats	16	Rams	14
1998	Wildcats	41	Rams	7
1999	Wildcats	65	Rams	13
2000	Wildcats	31	Rams	0
2001	Wildcats	17	Rams	14
2002	Wildcats	34	Rams	14
2003	Wildcats	41	Rams	6
2004	Wildcats	49	Rams	14
2005	Wildcats	55	Rams	12
2006	Wildcats	49	Rams	14

Las Vegas High School versus Rancho High School

The oldest tradition in Nevada High School football is the rivalry between Rancho High School Rams and the Las Vegas High School Wildcats. The annual game is played for "Herkimers Bone" also known as "Sir Herk" The Wildcats won the first game of the series in 1957, the Herkimer Bone tradition began.

Desert dynasty: Las Vegas High building a football tradition

JOE SANTORO
RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL
Posted: 11/29/2006

Welcome to the Nevada Class 4A high school football state championship game. Around Las Vegas High, they like to call it Senior Day.

"They are truly a great program," Reno Huskies football coach Dan Avansino said of the Wildcats this week. "A great football program includes all phases -- the players, the coaches, the community support. Las Vegas has it all right now."

The Wildcats will make their fourth consecutive appearance in the state title game Saturday (12:30 p.m.) at Sam Boyd Stadium against the Galena Grizzlies. It will also be their fifth appearance on the state's biggest football stage in the last six years.

"That alone tells you what they are made of," said Avansino, whose Huskies beat the Wildcats in the 2003 title game (26-23) at Mackay Stadium.

The Wildcats have won 75 of their last 84 games since the start of the 2001 season. They have won two state titles (2001 and 2005) during that time and have also claimed the unofficial title of being the state's most dominant Class 4A program.

"There is zero question about that," said Avansino, who knows a thing or two about high school football dynasties as a former McQueen High player and assistant coach.

The word "dynasty," though, is not something the Wildcats accept with open arms.

"We're not there yet," Wildcats head coach Chris Faircloth said. "When we get to five state championships like McQueen or seven like Joe Sellers (Wooster's coach from 1976-1998) then we can start to be in that conversation. But we have a long way to go. We're not in that company now."

It was Sellers' Wooster teams and Dalton's McQueen teams that showed the Wildcats how to build a program. The two Northern Nevada schools, after all, won 12 state titles combined over a 22-year stretch (1981-2002), shifting the balance of power from Southern Nevada to the North. The South had won 21-of-24 titles from 1957-1980.

That Southern dominance, though, was all but forgotten thanks to Wooster and McQueen when head coach Kris Cinkovich took over a Las Vegas High program in 1995. The Wildcats, after all, had not qualified for the playoffs since 1980 and had not won a state title since 1959.



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Desert dynasty: Las Vegas High building a football tradition

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"At first, our goal was to just have a winning season," said Faircloth, a former Cinkovich assistant coach. Faircloth took over the Wildcats in 2004 after Cinkovich left to become an assistant coach at UNLV.

"When Wooster and McQueen owned the state, Coach Cinkovich went up to Reno and he met with Ken Dalton and Joe Sellers and they just talked about why they were successful," Faircloth said. "The thing he learned more than anything else is that McQueen and Wooster were successful because of what they did in the weight room. Coach Cinkovich knew that if we couldn't match McQueen and Wooster in the weight room that we would never beat them."

If you look closely on Saturday, you'll be able to see a little Wooster and McQueen flavor in the black-and-red Wildcats.

"We've tried to model ourselves after McQueen and Wooster's discipline and their expectations," said Faircloth, whose three seasons as Las Vegas head coach (37-6 record) will all end in the state title game. "But we're still not there yet."

The Wildcats, though, have done a pretty good imitation of the Wooster and McQueen glory years. Since Cinkovich took over in 1995, Las Vegas is an eye-opening 117-30 and has qualified for the playoffs in 10 of the last 12 years. Since 2001 they are 24-3 in the playoffs.

"Coach Cinkovich established the way the program was going to be run and Coach Faircloth has just continued that," said Reno High assistant coach Joe Mac Sellers, the son of the former Wooster head coach and a Las Vegas assistant under Cinkovich and Faircloth from 2001-2005. "Their philosophy is to outwork their opponent. Coach Cinkovich expected it. And Coach Faircloth demands it."

This year's stars on offense are quarterback O'Ryan Bradley (2,530 yards, 27 touchdowns), running back Jason Theard (687 yards, 8.6 a carry) and wide receivers Chris Kelly (46 catches, 9 TDs), DeAngelo Saulsberry (45 catches) and Dan Durnian (31 catches, 9 TDs).

But with the Wildcats, it's all about the program.

"The weight room and the discipline and attitude, those are the things that you can control as a coach," Faircloth said. "You might have more talent some years than others. But the things you can control are your discipline and work ethic. If you do that, and the kids buy into it, then you'll be successful. You might not win a state title every year, because you still need some talent, but you'll be a success."

The Wildcats play the game the way the old Wooster and McQueen teams played -- with a toughness and aggressiveness that was rare in Southern Nevada teams in the past.

"In years past, you never used words like 'aggressive' and 'hard-hitting' to describe a team from Las Vegas," said Hug coach Rollins Stallworth, whose Hawks lost to Las Vegas, 23-0, in last year's title game. "But they've changed all that.

"They still have all that talent and speed and quickness that the South is known for. But they also have the aggressiveness and toughness that the North was known for. The South always had faster athletes. But in the North we always believed that we could use our discipline and physical style as the equalizer. Las Vegas, though, has matched us in those areas and they still have all the great athletes."

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LVHS FOOTBALL

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"We still consider it an honor to play a team from the North because we love to play that physical style," Faircloth said.

The Wildcats, 11-2 this year, have won at least 10 games in seven of the last eight years. They will come into Saturday's game riding a 10-game winning streak after losing to Madera (Fresno, Calif.) and Skyline (Salt Lake City, Utah) in the first two weeks of September.

"They definitely believe in the old Bobby Bowden philosophy of, 'If you want to be the best, you have to play the best,'" Avansino said. "They always play a real tough non-league schedule."

"We just felt that if we didn't play a tough non-league schedule that we might get a confidence that wasn't deserved," Faircloth said. "You know, if you've never been in a tough battle before, you're not going to know how you are going to react when you are. I really think our non-league schedule has helped us a great deal this year."

The Wildcats have had a winning season in each of the past 12 years. But their goals have clearly gone beyond just having a winning record.

"I remember when we lost to Palo Verde a couple years ago," said Joe Mac Sellers of the 2004 state title game. "Our (season-ending) banquet was a little somber. The coaches there let it be known that losing wasn't acceptable."

The Wildcats went 12-3 that year.

"We've won a lot of games this year and we're back in the state championship game again," Faircloth said. "But the only thing that carries any weight with our players and our coaches is if we win a state title. Anything less than that on Saturday and we would have fallen short of our goals."

The Wildcats have a simple philosophy.

"We want our kids to expect to be the best," Faircloth said. "If you don't think you are the best there is no way you can be the best. But that doesn't mean that we are arrogant or overconfident about what we've done. We just always try to keep a blue-collar attitude and work ethic all the time. We keep things humble around here."

The Wildcat focus is always on the next state title and not the last.

"We're not going to hang our hats on two state championships," Faircloth said. "We want to keep going."



Las Vegas High quarterback O'Ryan Bradley is the Class 4A player of the year, awarded by the Review-Journal and Reno Gazette-Journal.

Photo by Jane Kalinowsky.

<http://www.mers.byu.edu/long/>

TRAMLINES

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The Tramlines began as a recording project for Felix and McKusick, lifelong friends who first cut their teeth in emotive local rockers First October.

From the onset, the band has stuck out from its peers -- mainly because it doesn't have many. Coming of age in a punk, emo and hard-core dominated scene, the Tramlines have never really fit in with anyone.

"When we were all younger, everyone was doing the whole screamo thing," Catalano says. "I'd go to local shows, and I didn't really like that music at all. I never listened to it. I was listening to the Beatles and stuff while everyone else was listening to Thrive."

With a more subtle, nuanced sound, the Tramlines have slowly made headway locally, but with its debut due out by the end of the year, the group is as promising as any young, unsigned Vegas band.

"We're working, we're going to school, and we're trying to do this," Felix says. "It's the only thing we want to do."

Jason Bracelin's "Sounding Off" column appears on Tuesdays.

