

Football Alumni Gather for Anniversary

On Saturday, October 16th, 2021, Salida High School was proud to welcome back our 1971 SHS football team to celebrate the commemorative 50-year anniversary of the State AA Championship game against the Monte Vista Pirates. SHS honored and represented the players of 1971 who dominated in 13 games leading to the state championship in their undefeated season.

The team was led by head coaches Joe Hergert, Jim Gentile, John Quirin and Tom Breunich. The quarter-finals against Fort Lupton ended with a winning score of 42-12 making way for Salida's 37-18 win over Lafayette in the semifinals. The overall state championship score between Salida and Monte Vista was 32-0, with Salida taking home the 1971 AA State Championship trophy.

The team consisted of 15 seniors, ten juniors, six sophomores, and two freshmen. Captains of the team were seniors Dave Salvi, Tim Berry, and Steve Lucero. The

Story by Makiah Parris

offensive lineup consisted of Rich Young, Dave Salvi, Tom Murphy, Larry Medina, Rick Meyers, Terry Gipson, Steve Davis, Ed Budd and Tim Berry (who played defense as well). Berry was joined by the defensive lineup of George Osborne, Steve Lucero, John Stokes, Jim Passerelli, Mike Argys, Leo Leonardi, Doug Davis and Rich Young.

The committee who hosted the 50-year anniversary consisted of Marc and Anna Martellaro, Cherith Marchase, Gus Argys, Mike Nance, and Mike Argys. Local businesses, including Jeff Post with First Colorado Land Office, Wade Harris with Pueblo Bank and Trust, Michael Luchetta with Masterson & Luchetta LLP including many others who generously financed the weekend event.

During the state championships of 1971, the community of Salida was electrified for their boys' team.

"Lights and sirens and police cars, everyone was just



Courtesy Photo

MEMORIES: The Salida High School 1971 football state champions stand for a photo at their reunion game on October 16, 2021.

lined up. Everyone in town greeted us on the highway, we thought there was an accident," reminisced Steven Davis, a team member from 1971.

The accomplishment was huge and exciting. The 1971 team remembers their successful season together during which they created lifelong memories.

"I felt invincible," expressed

Davis.

Coming out to support the 2021 boys football team, brought out a lot of fond memories for the alumni. This year Salida had a losing score of 28-36 against the Monte Vista Pirates but kept up with hard work, determination and finished the game strong as one of their last games of the season.

"I wouldn't have missed it,

you couldn't keep me away. I was screaming at them, and I think they heard me," stated Davis.

Over five decades later the 1971 team continues to stay close and connected. They grew up together and played hard together because a successful team beats with one heart.

"They're my brothers," said Davis.

Wilcox Earns Eagle Scout

Salida High School senior Elijah Wilcox recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout which is the highest rank one can earn in Boy Scouts of America. He's been working for this honor since the seventh grade putting in considerable time and effort.

"I went to one meeting and I was hooked immediately," he said.

After going to scout meetings every Monday for over five years, earning 21 merit badges and going before an eagle scout board of review, he also had to complete an intense Eagle service project.

Wilcox coordinated

with Longfellow Elementary School principal Chuck McKenna to set up a replica of the solar system on the elementary school playground. The project took around 13 hours of planning and 20 hours of actual service.

"The idea was that somewhere in the fourth grade curriculum they have the solar system as part of their teachings. My goal was to help these kids spark an interest in STEM."

Wilcox was inspired for his project by his own love of STEM. His project was an attempt to engage kids with their curriculum and excite

them about space. According to Wilcox, it was a success.

Along with the service projects, Merit badges are another essential part of becoming an Eagle Scout. Earning a merit badge for a skill he struggled with was very rewarding for Wilcox.

"When we did our fishing merit badge camp out, it took me probably the whole camp out to catch the one fish [...] Seemingly very insignificant, but for me it meant a lot because I'm not a good fisher at all," he recalled.

Another moment that stood out to Wilcox took place on Old Monarch Pass.

"We hiked out to Old Monarch Pass, about a quarter mile up, and we had some snow piled up from the night previous. We carved them out for about four hours, and then we slept in them. We called them quinzhees. I think that's the technical term. Snow cave would be under the snow, quinzhee above. It was freezing cold, and you get a little candle in there, you get tucked in real tight, and it ends up being a pretty cool experience," Wilcox reminisced.

While Eagle Scout is a final goal for a lot of boy scouts, it doesn't have to be the end. After earning Eagle Scout,

Story by Olive Ritchie

you can try to earn palms. There are bronze, gold, and silver palms. They signify going above and beyond normal scout requirements by getting extra merit badges.

"The merit badges, often the self-paced ones, there's a lot of paperwork, and at this moment I'm applying for my college applications, and more paperwork is not looking super favorable. So, I probably am not going for palms at this point," Wilcox said.

With his time in Boy Scouts behind him, Wilcox looks to his future in which he hopes to serve in the Airforce.



Courtesy Photo

SERVICE: Senior Elijah Wilcox completes his eagle project alongside his peers in order to obtain the prestigious honor of Eagle Scout. Wilcox has been working towards earning this title for over five years and enjoyed the process of working with others to master new skills through the Boy Scouts of America program.



Courtesy Photo