

4A PREVIEW

PUEBLO SOUTH COLTS

Coach: Mark Haerring
2006 record: 10-1
Returning starters: Four offense, four defense
Last playoff appearance: 2006, lost 26-19 to Loveland in preliminaries.
Strength: Skill positions and team speed.

Weakness: Depth at the line of scrimmage.
Players to watch: Wade Beauvais, Sr., DE-TE, 6-2, 205; Isaiah Cartmel, Sr., DT-OT, 6-1, 255; Marshall Dela Cruz, Sr., WR, 5-10, 165; Ken Harriman, Jr., OT, 6-3, 295; Brody Lockett, Jr., FS-RB, 6-0, 165; Tony Medina, Sr., QB, 6-0, 185; Ryan Romero, Sr., WR-DB, 6-0, 170; Cameron Rucker, Sr., RB, 5-6, 160; Matt Valdez, Sr., G, 6-2, 250.
In 2007: The Colts' football faculty has another solid team motivated by a stinging playoff loss blamed on breakdowns by the special teams. Better team speed should make for more wrinkles in the attack.
Schedule
 Aug. 31 at P. Centennial 7 p.m.
 Sep. 7 at Mesa Ridge 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 14 Sierra 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 20 Wasson 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 28 at Cañon City 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 4 Cheyenne Mtn. 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 12 at Pueblo East 7 p.m.
 Oct. 19 at Air Academy 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 25 Pueblo Central 7 p.m.*
 Nov. 1 Liberty 7 p.m.*

SIERRA STALLIONS

Coach: Joe Roskam
2006 record: 3-7
Returning starters: Nine offense, 10 defense
Last playoff appearance: 1998
Strength: Experience across the board.

Weakness: Adjusting to big changes to the coaching staff.
Players to watch: Clarence Bumpas, Jr., RB, 5-9, 175; T.J. Jeffery, Sr., LB, 6-2, 175; Kelly Dibs, Jr., WR-DB, 6-1, 160; Jarvis Harrod, Jr., FS, 5-10, 170; Cedric Jackson, Jr., C, 6-1, 195; Louie Lujan, Sr., G, 6-1, 270; Dominique Smith, Sr., DT, 6-0, 240; Mark Sterling, Sr., WR-DB, 6-1, 165; Terance Thomas, Jr., DE, 6-2, 260.
In 2007: When Roskam says the Stallions have some thoroughbreds in the backfield, believe him. Sierra is loaded with juniors and experienced so beware in 2008. The team's D-line is better, and hopes are high.
Schedule
 Aug. 31 at Harrison 7 p.m.
 Sep. 7 Coronado 7 p.m.
 Sep. 14 at Pueblo South 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 21 Air Academy 4 p.m.*
 Sep. 28 Liberty 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 5 Pueblo Central 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 12 at Cheyenne Mtn. 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 19 at Cañon City 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 26 Wasson 7:30 p.m.*
 Nov. 2 at Mesa Ridge 7 p.m.*

WASSON THUNDERBIRDS

Coach: Harold Brown
2006 record: 8-3
Returning starters: Six offense, four defense
Last playoff appearance: 2006, lost 33-6 to Wheat Ridge in preliminaries.
Strength: Both lines, plus depth at skill positions including receiver.
Weakness: Inexperienced quarterback.

Players to watch: Brad Leites, Sr., C, 5-10, 285; Jarell Reese, Sr., RB-DB, 5-10, 185; Jamil Thorne, Jr., QB-WR-DB, 6-0, 175; Zach Trester, Sr., TE-LB, 6-4, 190; Anthony Valdez, Sr., OL-DL, 6-0, 320.
In 2007: Reaching the playoffs is becoming a tradition, but the Thunderbirds must finish games stronger and get more physical to go deeper. They will run primarily and play with a purpose: This season is dedicated to 2006 graduate Dionteia Forrest, who was slain in July.
Schedule
 Aug. 31 at Coronado 7 p.m.
 Sep. 7 Cañon City 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 14 at Cheyenne Mtn. 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 20 at Pueblo South 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 27 Mitchell 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 6 at Mesa Ridge 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 12 Air Academy 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 20 Liberty 2 p.m.*
 Oct. 26 at Sierra 7:30 p.m.*
 Nov. 2 at Pueblo Central 7 p.m.*

Mountain Plains

ARVADA REDS
Coach: John Hilton
2006 record: 3-7
Returning starters: Four offense, two defense
Last playoff appearance: 1991
Strength: Team speed.
Weakness: Young team, especially at quarterback and running back.
Players to watch: Chad Bren, Jr., WR-DB, 6-0, 165; Cameron Orr, Sr., OL-LB, 6-1, 235; Hayden Staggs, Jr., OL-DL, 6-4, 265; Dennis Stanepich, Sr., C-DL, 6-1, 230; Mike Vaughn, Sr., RB-WR-DB, 5-10, 160.
In 2007: The Reds are faster than they have been in three seasons and will center their offense on Vaughn's playmaking ability. Fans will see some shotgun and option plays, with more passes to the wideouts. No league victories in six years looms large.
Schedule
 Aug. 30 North 5 p.m.
 Sep. 6 at South 7 p.m.
 Sep. 15 at Abraham Lincoln 1 p.m.
 Sep. 22 at Golden 2 p.m.*
 Sep. 29 at Standley Lake noon*
 Oct. 4 at Wheat Ridge 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 12 Ralston Valley 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 20 at Dakota Ridge noon*
 Oct. 25 at ThunderRidge 7 p.m.*
 Nov. 2 Green Mountain 4 p.m.*

Mountain Plains

ARVADA REDS
Coach: John Hilton
2006 record: 3-7
Returning starters: Four offense, two defense
Last playoff appearance: 1991
Strength: Team speed.
Weakness: Young team, especially at quarterback and running back.
Players to watch: Chad Bren, Jr., WR-DB, 6-0, 165; Cameron Orr, Sr., OL-LB, 6-1, 235; Hayden Staggs, Jr., OL-DL, 6-4, 265; Dennis Stanepich, Sr., C-DL, 6-1, 230; Mike Vaughn, Sr., RB-WR-DB, 5-10, 160.
In 2007: The Reds are faster than they have been in three seasons and will center their offense on Vaughn's playmaking ability. Fans will see some shotgun and option plays, with more passes to the wideouts. No league victories in six years looms large.
Schedule
 Aug. 30 North 5 p.m.
 Sep. 6 at South 7 p.m.
 Sep. 15 at Abraham Lincoln 1 p.m.
 Sep. 22 at Golden 2 p.m.*
 Sep. 29 at Standley Lake noon*
 Oct. 4 at Wheat Ridge 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 12 Ralston Valley 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 20 at Dakota Ridge noon*
 Oct. 25 at ThunderRidge 7 p.m.*
 Nov. 2 Green Mountain 4 p.m.*

DAKOTA RIDGE EAGLES
Coach: Ron Woitalewicz
2006 record: 5-5
Returning starters: Five offense, eight defense
Last playoff appearance: 2005
Strength: Skill positions and linebackers.
Weakness: Inexperience on the offensive line and in the secondary.
Players to watch: Eric Cain, Sr., QB, 6-0, 185; Zach Erfurd, Sr., FB, 5-10, 195; Dave McCulley, Sr., LB-OT, 6-1, 210; Ken Kimmon, Jr., OL, 6-3, 245; Cameron Pritchett, Jr., S-WR, 6-2, 170; Austin Rodriguez, Jr., WR, 5-10, 150; Ty Rosco, Sr., TE-LB, 6-2, 210; Brogan Voltz, Sr., LB, 5-11, 185.
In 2007: The Eagles believe they have the personnel to fuel their variable offense. This group will run and throw, restocked by a JV team that went 10-0 last season while outscoring opponents 339-93. Strong linebackers will anchor the defense.
Schedule
 Aug. 31 at Brighton 7 p.m.
 Sep. 6 Overland 7 p.m.
 Sep. 14 at George Washington 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 28 Golden 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 5 ThunderRidge 7:30 p.m.*
 Oct. 11 at Green Mountain 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 20 Arvada noon*
 Oct. 26 Standley Lake 7:30 p.m.*
 Nov. 1 at Wheat Ridge 7 p.m.*

GOLDEN DEMONS
Coach: Tom Ward
2006 record: 3-7
Returning starters: Three offense, three defense
Last playoff appearance: 2002
Strength: Running back.
Weakness: Young team and lack of depth at the line of scrimmage.
Players to watch: Tommy Cowden, Sr., WR-LB, 6-1, 190; Nick Estrada, Jr., S-RB, 5-10, 175; Ryan Stokes, So., QB, 6-2, 165; Colin Leffert, Sr., RB, 5-10, 185; Alex Taylor, Sr., DE, 6-2, 220; Dakota Werner, Sr., LB, 5-11, 200; Koby Whittaker, Sr., TE-DE, 6-3, 215.
In 2007: Leffert rushed for more than 1,200 yards last season, but the Demons might start up to six sophomores this season. Interior line play is the team's biggest concern.
Schedule
 Aug. 31 at Mountain View 7 p.m.
 Sep. 8 Montrose noon
 Sep. 14 at John F. Kennedy 4 p.m.
 Sep. 22 Arvada 2 p.m.*
 Sep. 28 at Dakota Ridge 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 4 Standley Lake 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 11 at ThunderRidge 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 19 Wheat Ridge 4 p.m.*
 Oct. 25 Green Mountain 7 p.m.*
 Nov. 1 Ralston Valley 7 p.m.*

GREEN MOUNTAIN RAMS
Coach: Bob Hudson
2006 record: 4-6
Returning starters: Three offense, four defense
Last playoff appearance: 2004
Strength: Linebackers and receivers.
Weakness: First-year coach trying to mesh with the players.
Players to watch: Ryan Baggett, Sr., QB, 5-10, 175; Jojo Garbarino, Sr., RB-DB, 5-9, 175; T.J. Jeffery, Sr., LB, 6-1, 220; Ranson Jones, Sr., G, 6-1, 230; Patrick Kissell, Sr., DE, 6-3, 215; Ryan Lopes, Sr., OL-DL, 5-9, 220; Gerson Lopes, Sr., WR, 5-9, 160; Andy Spencer, Sr., LB, 6-0, 215.
In 2007: The Rams need a turnaround to get into the playoffs and Hudson is that kind of coach. He has 19 seniors to help. The Rams will try to spread the ball around on offense and stop teams with a 4-4 defense, anchored by linebackers.
Schedule
 Aug. 24 Thomas Jefferson 7 p.m.
 Aug. 30 at Horizon 7 p.m.
 Sep. 8 Grand Junction 11 a.m.
 Sep. 22 at Standley Lake 11 a.m.*
 Sep. 29 at Wheat Ridge noon*
 Oct. 5 Ralston Valley 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 11 Dakota Ridge 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 18 ThunderRidge 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 25 at Golden 7 p.m.*
 Nov. 2 at Arvada 4 p.m.*

RALSTON VALLEY MUSTANGS
Coach: Matt Loyd
2006 record: 11-2
Returning starters: Four offense, two defense
Last playoff appearance: 2006, lost 28-7 to Wheat Ridge in semifinals.
Strength: Good skill-position players.
Weakness: Inexperience on defense.
Players to watch: Sam Bierbrauer, Sr., LB, 5-11, 185; Chase Champlain, Sr., OT, 6-4, 251; Joey Conway, Sr., DE, 6-3, 227; Justin Cosolo, Sr., C, 6-0, 250; Tim Flageolle, Sr., TE-LB, 6-3, 175; Dyan Roberts, Sr., TE-LB-NG, 5-11, 195; Brandon Ribbe, Sr., WR, 6-4, 195; Cory Lambert, Sr., RB, 5-8, 170; Nick Winter, Jr., DB-RB, 5-7, 165; Cameron Wright, Sr., QB, 6-1, 185.
In 2007: The Mustangs are just as tall and fast as last season's team and will attempt to strategize on running the ball hard. The offense might open up more with Wright's passing.
Schedule
 Aug. 31 Thompson Valley 4 p.m.
 Sep. 7 at Fruita Monument 7 p.m.
 Sep. 13 at Montbello 7 p.m.
 Sep. 20 Dakota Ridge 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 28 at ThunderRidge 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 5 at Green Mountain 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 12 at Arvada 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 19 at Standley Lake 7:30 p.m.*
 Oct. 26 Wheat Ridge 7:30 p.m.*
 Nov. 1 at Golden 7 p.m.*

STANDLEY LAKE GATORS
Coach: Don Morse
2006 record: 5-5
Returning starters: Six offense, six defense
Last playoff appearance: Never qualified.
Strength: Team speed.
Weakness: Lack of size, especially on the line.
Players to watch: Andrew Baker, Jr., G-DT, 6-0, 225; William Bradley, Jr., G-LB, 6-0, 225; Kyle Duran, Sr., FB-LB, 5-11, 205; Tony Kemper, Sr., RB, 5-9, 180; Pat Kramer, Sr., RB-DB, 5-10, 190; Adam Turner, Jr., TE-DE, 6-2, 200.
In 2007: The Gators were a salty bunch last season, but they must limit mistakes to take it up a notch. The line isn't deep, but has experience.
Schedule
 Aug. 24 at Central (G.J.) 4 p.m.
 Sep. 1 at G. Washington 2:30 p.m.
 Sep. 15 at North 4 p.m.
 Sep. 22 Green Mountain 11 a.m.*
 Sep. 29 Arvada noon*
 Oct. 4 at Golden 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 11 at Wheat Ridge 6 p.m.*
 Oct. 19 Ralston Valley 7:30 p.m.*
 Oct. 26 at Dakota Ridge 7:30 p.m.*
 Nov. 2 at ThunderRidge 7 p.m.*

THUNDERIDGE GRIZZLIES
Coach: Joe Johnson
2006 record: 10-2
Returning starters: Five offense, four defense
Last playoff appearance: 2006, lost 35-19 to Greeley West in quarterfinals.
Strength: Skill-position players.
Weakness: Question marks on the offensive and defensive lines.
Players to watch: James Breidel, Sr., LB, 6-0, 200; Matt England, Sr., G, 6-2, 230; Brennan Fox, Sr., TE, 6-2, 195; Alex Grado, Jr., RB, 6-1, 190; Chris Nwoke, Jr., FB, 6-0, 195; Will Palamet, Sr., DB, 5-7, 150; Patrick Pokrykfe, Jr., FL, 5-8 165; Zach Tiedgen, Sr., DE, 6-5, 225.
In 2007: Surprise! The Grizzlies are loaded and deep, and have talented juniors at the skill positions. Grado is a battering ram, Nwoke a burner. Even the receivers are deep. The Grizzlies will be tough to beat now and next season.
Schedule
 Sep. 1 at Fruita Monument noon
 Sep. 8 Central (G.J.) 7 p.m.
 Sep. 14 at Grand Junction 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 21 at Wheat Ridge 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 28 Ralston Valley 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 5 at Dakota Ridge 7:30 p.m.*
 Oct. 11 Golden 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 18 at Green Mountain 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 25 Arvada 7 p.m.*
 Nov. 2 Standley Lake 7 p.m.*

WHEAT RIDGE FARMERS
Coach: Reid Kahl
2006 record: 13-1
Returning starters: Four offense, four defense
Last playoff appearance: 2006, defeated Loveland 31-15 in championship game.
Strength: Fast backfield.
Weakness: Three new starters on the offensive line.
Players to watch: Taylor Aversano, Jr., QB, 6-0, 185; Zach Land, Sr., WR-DB, 6-0, 170; Mack Mulligan, Sr., FB-LB, 6-1, 205; Parker Orms, Jr., RB-S, 5-11, 175; Ryan Routs, Sr., TE-LB, 6-4, 210; R.J. Trione, Sr., OL-DL, 5-11, 235; Joe Wheeler, Sr., OL-DL, 5-10, 215.
In 2007: Though not as big as last season, the farmers are quicker. Orms will get the majority of touches in the running game. Aversano's transfer status remains uncertain. If he sits, Routsou should take over. The defense has some holes to fill.
Schedule
 Aug. 24 Montrose 7 p.m.
 Aug. 31 Adams City 6 p.m.
 Sep. 7 George Washington 4 p.m.
 Sep. 21 ThunderRidge 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 29 Green Mountain noon*
 Oct. 4 Arvada 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 11 Standley Lake 6 p.m.*
 Oct. 19 at Golden 4 p.m.*
 Oct. 26 at Ralston Valley 7:30 p.m.*
 Nov. 1 Dakota Ridge 7 p.m.*

Northern
BROOMFIELD EAGLES
Coach: Gary Davies
2006 record: 8-3
Returning starters: Four offense, six defense
Last playoff appearance: 2005
Strength: Defense, especially the secondary.
Weakness: Lack of depth at receiver and running back.
Players to watch: Clay Burns, Sr., RB, 5-8, 165; Jon Cooper, Sr., OT, 6-2, 315; Cody Lahman, Jr., QB, 5-11, 180; Luke Lahman, Sr., DB, 5-10, 175; Robert Oger, Sr., S, 5-11, 175; Ben Packard, Jr., G, 6-2, 235; Jeff White, Sr., LB, 6-2, 195; Zane Sigafos, Sr., LB, 5-11, 185.
In 2007: The Cougars held their own last season in a tough league. They have size and talent, though the defensive line is thin and will require some creative scheming. The offensive line looks solid.
Schedule
 Aug. 30 Legacy 7 p.m.
 Sep. 7 at Longmont 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 13 at Greeley West 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 21 Skyline 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 29 at Greeley Central 1 p.m.*
 Oct. 4 Loveland 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 11 at Mountain View 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 18 at Longmont 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 26 Greeley West 7 p.m.*
 Nov. 2 Skyline 7 p.m.*

NIWOT COUGARS
Coach: Ron Tesone
2006 record: 6-4
Returning starters: Four offense, six defense
Last playoff appearance: 2005
Strength: Defense, especially the secondary.
Weakness: Need to replace a center and guard from last year's offensive line.
Players to watch: Curt Barr, Jr., LB-G, 5-7, 185; Patrick Christofferson, Jr., OL, 5-10, 200; Isaac Davidson, Sr., WR-FS, 6-2, 185; Dominic Hagens, Sr., RB-DB, 5-10, 164; Malcolm Johnson, Sr., WR-DB, 5-11, 160; John White, Sr., OL-DL, 5-11, 200.
In 2007: The Cougars finished 2006 strong and believe their young players have grown up. Davidson will be the primary playmaker, but there are a lot of weapons on the skill positions. The defense remains a 4-3 alignment and should create plenty of pressure.
Schedule
 Aug. 30 Mesa Ridge 7 p.m.
 Sep. 7 at Pueblo West 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 14 at Ft. Carson 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 21 Pueblo East 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 27 at Wasson 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 5 at Widefield 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 13 Rampart 1 p.m.*
 Oct. 20 at Pine Creek 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 26 Coronado 7:30 p.m.*
 Nov. 1 Pueblo Centennial 7 p.m.*

GREELY CENTRAL WILDCATS
Coach: Mike Heatherly
2006 record: 2-8
Returning starters: Seven offense, eight defense
Last playoff appearance: 1996
Strength: Senior depth.
Weakness: Inexperienced offensive line.
Players to watch: Chaise Coffman, Sr., RB, 6-1, 185; Kyle Endres, Sr., LB, 5-10, 175; Pat Foster, Sr., OL, 5-8, 185; Rod Hesse, Sr., RB, 5-6, 155; Jarrod Magnuson, Sr., OL, 6-1, 267; Mike McFadden, Sr., WR, 5-11, 155; Drew Perry, Sr., OL, 5-10, 235; Josh Rangel, Sr., RB, 5-9, 185; Bart Rodriguez, Sr., DL, 6-2, 170; Joe Sinnwell, Sr., OL, 6-0, 180; John Sweeney, Sr., QB, 6-0, 170; Drew Switzer, Sr., LB, 5-9, 160.
In 2007: More than 20 seniors have Heatherly thinking the Wildcats will be much better in his second season. Improving weekly aims maintaining a balanced offense are vital.
Schedule
 Aug. 31 Cherokee Trail 7 p.m.
 Sep. 7 Mountain View 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 14 at Broomfield 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 21 at Thompson Valley 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 29 Niwot 1 p.m.*
 Oct. 5 at Longmont 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 12 at Greeley West 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 19 Skyline 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 26 Northridge 7 p.m.*
 Nov. 3 at Loveland 17 p.m.*

GREELEY WEST SPARTANS
Coach: Mark Rogy
2006 record: 12-1
Returning starters: Five offense, six defense
Last playoff appearance: 2006, lost 28-21 to Loveland in semifinals.
Strength: Defensive line and linebackers.
Weakness: Replacing three offensive linemen from last season.
Players to watch: Andrew Downing, Sr., DE-FB, 5-11, 230; Gavin Miller, Jr., LB, 6-1, 253; Rick Morgan, Sr., QB-FS, 6-1, 175; John Rodriguez, Sr., OT-DT, 6-1, 281; Ethan Schmitt, Sr., RB, 5-10, 170; Justin Waterman, Sr., FB-DE, 6-2, 205.
In 2007: The Spartans look to keep rolling with a talented quarterback and nasty defense that has lots of speed at linebacker. Schmitt is a playmaker at running back, though he's not too seasoned on the varsity.
Schedule
 Aug. 31 at Hinkley 6 p.m.
 Sep. 6 at Thompson Valley 4 p.m.*
 Sep. 13 Niwot 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 20 at Longmont 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 28 at Northridge 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 5 Skyline 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 12 Greeley Central 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 20 Loveland 1 p.m.*
 Oct. 26 at Mountain View 7 p.m.*
 Nov. 2 Broomfield 7 p.m.*

LONGMONT TROJANS
Coach: Doug Johnson
2006 record: 4-6
Returning starters: Seven offense, six defense
Last playoff appearance: 2004
Strength: Competitive depth.
Weakness: Tough league and non-league schedules.
Players to watch: Reggie Andersen, Sr., RB, 6-3, 185; Stefan Andersen, Sr., DB-RB, 5-6, 150; Beau Brittenham, Sr., RB-DB, 6-3, 185; Ryan Buckmaster, Sr., TE-DE, 6-5, 205; Brian Graham, Jr., DL, 6-2, 205; Casey Honeycutt, Sr., OL-DL, 6-3, 285; E.J. Kreis, Jr., S, 5-10, 170; Tyson Martinez, Sr., RB, 5-11, 180; Jason Spicer, Sr., LB, 5-9, 175; Bob Switzer, Sr., OL-DL, 6-0, 275.
In 2007: The Trojans should be "back to playing Longmont football," Johnson says. Nearly every position has capable players, and the experience is spread evenly. Look for only minor scheme changes.
Schedule
 Aug. 30 at Fort Collins 6 p.m.
 Sep. 7 Niwot 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 14 at Northridge 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 20 Greeley West 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 28 at Skyline 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 5 Greeley Central 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 12 at Loveland 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 18 Mountain View 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 26 at Broomfield 7 p.m.*
 Nov. 2 Thompson Valley 7 p.m.*

LOVELAND INDIANS
Coach: John Poovey
2006 record: 10-4
Returning starters: Two offense, five defense
Last playoff appearance: 2006, lost 31-15 to Wheat Ridge in championship game.
Strength: Defense and skill-position players.
Weakness: Inexperienced offensive linemen.
Players to watch: Collin Klein, Sr., QB, 6-5, 215; Matt Lewis, Sr., RB-DB, 5-6, 170; Kodi McPherson, Sr., DE, 5-11, 195; Travis Nuziardi, Sr., LB, 5-10, 235; Heath Stephenson, Sr., LB, 5-7, 225; Luke Vandenburg, Sr., FB, 5-10, 195.
In 2007: Poovey believes the Indians can be as good or better than last season, which says a lot. Lewis is a game-breaker and Klein rounds out an offense that has more weapons. The defense will be stingy, as usual.
Schedule
 Sep. 7 Northridge 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 14 at Mountain View 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 20 at Broomfield 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 28 Thompson Valley 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 4 at Niwot 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 12 Longmont 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 20 at Greeley West 1 p.m.*
 Oct. 25 at Skyline 7 p.m.*
 Nov. 3 Greeley Central 7 p.m.*

MOUNTAIN VIEW MOUNTAIN LIONS
Coach: Bart Mayes
2006 record: 1-9
Returning starters: Four offense, five defense
Last playoff appearance: 2005
Strength: Linebackers.
Weakness: Plenty of youth.
Players to watch: Brett Boyer, Jr., OL, 6-2, 230; Dylan Busser, Sr., LB, 6-1, 175; Blake Steier, DT, 5-10, 230.
In 2007: The Mountain Lions are young but excited. They will start a lot of juniors and sophomores, and will run more option on offense. Better blocking is vital.
Schedule
 Aug. 31 Golden 7 p.m.
 Sep. 7 at Greeley Central 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 14 Loveland 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 21 at Northridge 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 27 Broomfield 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 5 at Thompson Valley 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 11 Niwot 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 18 at Longmont 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 26 Greeley West 7 p.m.*
 Nov. 2 Skyline 7 p.m.*

MITCHELL MARAUDERS
Coach: Archie Malloy
2006 record: 3-7
Returning starters: Six offense, seven defense
Last playoff appearance: 2002
Strength: Good speed and experience in secondary.
Weakness: Need to replace a center and guard from last year's offensive line.
Players to watch: Curt Barr, Jr., LB-G, 5-7, 185; Patrick Christofferson, Jr., OL, 5-10, 200; Isaac Davidson, Sr., WR-FS, 6-2, 185; Dominic Hagens, Sr., RB-DB, 5-10, 164; Malcolm Johnson, Sr., WR-DB, 5-11, 160; John White, Sr., OL-DL, 5-11, 200.
In 2007: The Marauders finished 2006 strong and believe their young players have grown up. Davidson will be the primary playmaker, but there are a lot of weapons on the skill positions. The defense remains a 4-3 alignment and should create plenty of pressure.
Schedule
 Aug. 30 Mesa Ridge 7 p.m.
 Sep. 7 at Pueblo West 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 14 at Ft. Carson 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 21 Pueblo East 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 27 at Wasson 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 5 at Widefield 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 13 Rampart 1 p.m.*
 Oct. 20 at Pine Creek 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 26 Coronado 7:30 p.m.*
 Nov. 1 Pueblo Centennial 7 p.m.*

NORTHDRIDGE GRIZZLIES
Coach: Jeff Fulton
2006 record: 7-3
Returning starters: Three offense, four defense
Last playoff appearance: 2005
Strength: Versatility.
Weakness: Lack of speed on the edges.
Players to watch: Angelo Cantrell, Jr., RB-DB, 5-9, 170; Steven Duvall, Jr., WR, 6-3, 175; Damon Gallegos, Sr., TE-DE, 6-1, 225; Chance Green, Sr., QB, 6-0, 215; Tim Saucedo, Sr., C, 6-2, 270; Bryce Spencer, Sr., WR, 6-4, 210; Cameron Williams, Sr., DL-FB, 6-2, 240.
In 2007: In their second 4A season, the Grizzlies are as big up front as ever. But are they tough enough to play with the league's top boys? The offense may have a variable attack and good execution has become a staple.
Schedule
 Aug. 30 Windsor 7 p.m.
 Sep. 7 at Loveland 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 14 Longmont 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 21 Mountain View 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 28 Greeley West 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 4 Broomfield 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 11 at Skyline 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 19 at Thompson Valley 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 26 at Greeley Central 7 p.m.*
 Nov. 1 at Niwot 7 p.m.*

SKYLINE FALCONS
Coach: Kevin Rice
2006 record: 1-9
Returning starters: Six offense, six defense
Last playoff appearance: 2000
Strength: Depth at the skill positions.
Weakness: Lack of depth on both lines.
Players to watch: Derrick Bleeker, Jr., TE-S, 6-6, 200; Curt Colburn, Sr., QB, 6-0, 175; Nate Czapan, Sr., OL-DE, 6-5, 270; Jacob Garcia, Sr., S-WR, 6-2, 190; Kyle Rademacher, Sr., LB-FB, 6-1, 200; Cameron Tafoya, Sr., RB-S, 5-10, 165; Tyler Vavrina, So., RB, 5-11, 190; Kaleb Wagdy, Sr., DB-WR, 6-0, 175.
In 2007: Rice's arrival means the third offensive system in three years for the Falcons. They will run a traditional air-style offense and a 4-3, cover-2 defense. Participation is up, though, as are hopes.
Schedule
 Aug. 31 at Silver Creek 7 p.m.
 Sep. 6 Broomfield 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 14 Thompson Valley 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 21 at Niwot 7 p.m.*
 Sep. 28 Longmont 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 5 at Greeley West 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 11 Northridge 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 19 at Greeley Central 7 p.m.*
 Oct. 25 Loveland 7 p.m.*
 Nov. 2 at Mountain View 7 p.m.*

THOMPSON VALLEY EAGLES
Coach: Brian Inman
2006 record: 2-8
Returning starters: Seven offense, six defense
Last playoff appearance: 2005
Strength: Good experience, particularly on defense.
Weakness: Learning new defensive system.
Players to watch: Jordan Erlich, Sr., DE-TE, 6-4, 245; Nate Meiers, Sr., FS, 6-0, 165; Eric Masias, Sr., QB, 5-8, 175; Johnny Ortega, Sr., RB-LB, 6-0, 190; Chris Pelle, Jr., LB-RB, 6-0, 185; Alex Remmo, Jr., OL, 6-6, 260; Stefan Wilson, Jr., DL-OL, 6-3, 250.
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