

ALL-CHIEFTAIN FOOTBALL TEAM

Three-time champs dominate squad

Ten Eagles are selected, including offense, defense MVPs and coach

BY NICK JURNERY
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

East High School just keeps winning. After capturing a third straight Class 3A state championship, the Eagles boast 10 members on *The Pueblo Chieftain* all-area team — including the year's top performers on both offense and defense. East running back Bryson Torres made his second consecutive appearance on the team and was named the offensive most valuable player for his senior campaign, which included 1,808 rushing yards and 28 touchdowns.

The Eagles also feature the defensive MVP in senior defensive end Josh Tellez, who led the state champions in sacks (15) and tackles for loss (18). First-year head coach Andy Watts was named the coach of the year for guiding East to an unprecedented third state title under a different head coach.

Torres was the definition of durability and dependability over the course of his senior season — his third as the Eagles' starting running back.

He set personal-high marks in carries (370), rushing yards (1,808) and rushing touchdowns (28). His 28 rushing touchdowns were the second-most in the state regardless of classification. He was nearly unstoppable throughout the stretch run. Torres had three 200-plus yard games during the season — including

221 yards against South in the Cannon Game — and tallied 638 yards and 11 touchdowns in postseason play.

In his final high school game, Torres ran for 124 yards and two touchdowns against Discovery Canyon. He finished his prep career with 911 carries for 4,727 yards (5.2 average) and 70 rushing touchdowns.

Tellez was a disruptive force off the edge for a defense that allowed an average of 11.6 points and 97 rush yards in its final 11 games — all wins.

The senior ranked third in the state with 15 sacks — five of which came in a dominant performance against Central on Nov. 4 and five more coming in the Eagles' playoff run. Tellez forced and recovered three fumbles. He finished with 84 total tackles this year and recorded 28 sacks in three varsity seasons.

Tellez also made an impact on offense as a fullback, carrying the ball 49 times for 303 yards and five touchdowns, including a game-winning 29-yard TD run with under 30 seconds left against Durango on Oct. 7.

Watts took East's reins after spending several seasons as an assistant for the Eagles, including under two former state-championship winning coaches.

He guided the Eagles to a second consecutive 13-1 record en route to their third straight South-Central League and Class 3A titles.

Under Watts, the Eagles



East High School's Bryson Torres fights off Discovery Canyon's Caleb Grotelueschen during the 3A state title game. CHIEFTAIN PHOTOS/CHRIS MCLEAN

exacted revenge on the only opponent to beat them — Discovery Canyon in Week 3 — in the state title game.

There were a couple of additions to the all-Chieftain team this year, including two selections at quarterback and two utility players.

East sophomore Luc Andrada was touted as the top quarterback after guiding his team to a state championship in his first year as the starter. Andrada went 11 for 205 (a 54 percent completion rate) with 1,853 yards and 16 touchdowns through the air, and added 336 yards and seven TDs on the ground.

But South's Zach Cozzolino also played well enough to garner recognition in his first varsity season. Cozzolino helped the Colts to a 7-4 record and Class 4A playoff appearance with 1,545 passing yards and 16 touchdowns against just three interceptions.

In the utility positions were Central's Isiah Collins, a senior who saw time at defensive end, tight end and quarterback in leading the Wildcats in multiple offensive categories, and East senior Grant Baggett, who was a mainstay at left tackle for the Eagle offense while creating havoc at line-backer and multiple spots on the defensive line.

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PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN ALL-AREA FOOTBALL TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Player	School	Yr.
QB	Luc Andrada	East	So.
QB	Zach Cozzolino	South	Jr.
RB	Bryson Torres	East	Sr.
RB	Devyn Morgan	Pueblo West	Jr.
RB	Steven Brock	South	Jr.
WR	Marcell Barbee	South	Jr.
WR	Luke Padula	East	Sr.
OL	Zach Maez	East	Sr.
OL	Jonah Stupar	Pueblo County	Sr.
OL	Ben Hidalgo	Pueblo West	Sr.
OL	Justin Gomez	South	Sr.
OL	Trevor Cordova	Centennial	Jr.
UTIL	Isiah Collins	Central	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Player	School	Yr.
DL	Josh Tellez	East	Sr.
DL	Weston Hunt	Pueblo West	Sr.
DL	Donovan Rincon	Pueblo County	Sr.
LB	Gaige Hess	Pueblo West	Sr.
LB	Cruz Trujillo	East	Sr.
LB	Hunter Kovac	South	Sr.
LB	Zach Adkins	Pueblo County	Sr.
LB	Lane Bourdon	Centennial	Sr.
DB	Zach Thomas	Pueblo County	Sr.
DB	Noah Huth	South	Jr.
DB	Mitchell Mayber	Pueblo West	Sr.
DB	Donavyn Nailor-Lewis	Central	Sr.
UTIL	Grant Baggett	East	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Pos.	Player	School	Yr.
P	Jason Aragon	Centennial	Sr.
K	Sebastian Benavidez	East	Sr.
KR	Dusty Biggers	East	Sr.
PR	Kain Medrano	East	So.

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Bryson Torres, RB, East

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Josh Tellez, DE, East

COACH OF THE YEAR

Andy Watts, East

STATS

Football

All-league teams

Class 3A South-Central League First team
Central: Isiah Collins, sr., DE; Nico Martin, so., WR; Alejandro Tapia, jr., OL; Donavyn Nailor-Lewis, sr., DE.
East: Bryson Torres, sr., RB; Luke Padula, sr., WR/DB; Luc Andrada, so., QB; Zach Maez, sr., OL; Josh Tellez, sr., DE; Mark Vivoda, jr., LB; Cruz Trujillo, sr., LB; Grant Baggett, sr., LB.
Pueblo County: Zach Thomas, sr., DB; Jake Wilson, sr., WR; Johan Stupar, sr., OL; Zach Adkins, sr., RB; Brandon Bueno, jr., TE.

Honorable mention
Central: Diego Servantez, sr., LB; Kyle Romero, sr., TE; Vincent Vasquez, jr., OL; Isiah Valdez, jr., DB.
East: Dusty Biggers, sr., WR; Kyle Bloms, sr., OL; Marcus Winston, jr., WR; Kain Medrano, so., S; Nick Rooney, jr., OL; Dominic Finley, sr., OL; Jeremiah Arellano, sr., LB.
Pueblo County: Donovan Rincon, sr., DE; Daniel Hanson, sr., DE; Michael Esquilin, sr., DB; Justin DeHerrera, sr., LB.

Offensive player of the year: Bryson Torres, East
Defensive player of the year: Josh Tellez, East

Class 4A Southern League First team
Centennial: Trevor Cordova, jr., OL; Lane Bourdon, sr., LB.
Pueblo West: Ethan Hildebrand, jr., OL; Cody Cozzolino, sr., LB; Devyn Morgan, jr., RB; Ben Hidalgo, sr., OL; Weston Hunt, sr., DE; Jared Aragon, jr., DB.

Second team
Centennial: Buddie Niccoli, so., LB; Chandler Livingston, sr., LB.
Pueblo West: Mitchell Mayber, sr., DB; Gaige Hess, sr., LB; Garrett Casio, sr., OL; Deandre Gonzales, jr., DB; Jacob Wilkinson, jr., QB; Grant Guerra, jr., OL.

Coach of the year: Monte Pinkerton, Pueblo West

Class 4A Foothills League First team
South: Gage Archuleta, sr., LB; Justin Gomez, sr., OL; Hunter Kovac, sr., LB; Steven Brock, jr., RB; Marcell Barbee, jr., WR; Noah Huth, jr., DB.
Second team
South: Kyren Zarger, sr., OL; Kyle Aumiller, sr., OL; Reese Bravo, jr., RB; Zach Cozzolino, jr., QB; Jason Adakai, sr., DB; Gabe Martinez, jr., DB.
Honorable mention
South: Thomas Pannunzio, jr., WR; Henry Corral, sr., OL.



East High School's Josh Tellez strikes a pose after scoring a touchdown during the Cannon Game at Dutch Clark Stadium.