

# NYS NEVADA TACKLE FOOTBALL

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## SPRING 2018 WEEK 10 PREVIEWS – NEVADA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2018

**\*Editor's Note:** *Remember our Reviews & Previews are just for fun. If we misspell a player's name or get a fact wrong... no need to fire off an angry email or Facebook post. We will try our best to get the facts right. Remember that due to the size of the league, we may not review/preview every game, every week. We will make sure we get to every team throughout the season. In the meantime, enjoy the season.*

### **#1 Seed Henderson Cowboys (9-0) VS #2 Seed Desert Oasis Jr. Diamondbacks (8-1) – 7U Division**

Where: Liberty High School

When: 8:00 AM

It's Nevada State Championship game time and the day kicks off with the 7U Weighted Division as the top seeded Henderson Cowboys take on the 2<sup>nd</sup> seeded Desert Oasis Jr. Diamondbacks. These two teams opened the season facing each other and back on March 10<sup>th</sup>, very few would have anticipated this matchup, but here we are. The Henderson Cowboys are the defending champions in this division and have certainly played that way riding through a perfect season to this point. The Desert Oasis Jr. Diamondbacks however in their first season in this division have come out of nowhere to take this division by storm. Much like the Vegas Golden Knights, this team is red hot, riding an 8-game winning streak to get to this point. Both teams have continued to develop throughout the season and playoffs making this matchup look like game of the year material. The Henderson Cowboys have been roping up the competition week in and week out. The Cowboys managed to lasso the Sin City Spartans in the semifinals last weekend thanks to a stand out defensive performance that saw them pitch a shutout. The Henderson Cowboys have played stellar defense all season long, giving up fewer than 3 points a contest to their opponents which is tops in the division this season. The Cowboys offense is certainly also top notch, as they average divisional best 28 points a contest. Led by Caleb Ramaila, Malakai Boykin, and Judson Warner, this team is out to prove that they are still the sheriffs of the 7U Weighted Division. It will be Head Coach Jeremy Fredrickson's job to keep this team focused with their eyes on the prize The Desert Oasis Jr. Diamondbacks are looking to be the snake in the Cowboys boots this weekend as they try and bite down on a Nevada State Championship of their own. While this might be the Diamondbacks first time in this division, this coaching staff led by Cedric Allen is certainly experienced in big moments. The Diamondbacks got through their semifinals matchup with the Las Vegas Union by the skin of their teeth thanks to a huge 2-point conversion that would be the difference in the game. The Diamondbacks feature a dynamic offense that can attack defenses on the ground and through the air. Quarterback Tano Mendiola and running backs Isaiah Cooper and Chasen Sarmiento lead this dynamic squad that hope to take down the Henderson Cowboys and claim the Nevada State Championship. The Diamondbacks offense was stellar all season long, averaging nearly 23 points a contest while the defense was equally strong giving up just over 7 points a contest.

## **#1 Seed Las Vegas Badgers (8-0) VS #2 Seed Desert Oasis Jr. Diamondbacks (6-2) – 9U Division**

Where: Liberty High School

When: 10:00 AM

The Las Vegas Badgers and Desert Oasis Jr. Diamondbacks take to the field with the Nevada State Championship on the line for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive season. This past fall season the Diamondbacks came out and defeated the Badgers in impressive fashion. However, it seems like the Badgers have had the upper hand in their regular season matchups this season as they currently hold a pair of victories over the Jr. Diamondbacks to their name this season. In the regular season finale, the Badgers won by the skin of their teeth in what might have been the game of the year with how high the level of play was for these two teams. The Badgers followed up a perfect regular season with a semifinal playoff victory over the 702 49ers last weekend as they utilized their quick strike offense to claw their way into this Nevada State Championship Game. Matt Fletcher is a Coach of the Year finalist for a reason, but the stellar play of this team has really made things a little easier for him. The Badgers offense has certainly been on point each time they take to the football field, averaging over 29 points a contest while the defense has been incredibly stout, giving up fewer than 5 points a game to their opponents. Led by MVP Finalist Jai'shon Bradford, Kenneth Hill, and Nathan Fletcher, this team will try and come out ready to play as they look to claim their first ever Nevada State Championship. The Desert Oasis Jr. Diamondbacks meanwhile are looking to go back to back here in the 9U Weighted Division as they aim to keep their name as the only name on this division's trophy. The Diamondbacks looked fully venomous last weekend in their semifinal victory last weekend over the Las Vegas Aces as they managed to fold them with a shutout victory. The Desert Oasis Jr. Diamondbacks have a Coach of the Year finalist pulling the strings as Coach Cedric Allen is a finalist in this division as well! Coach Allen has a talented roster of his own as MVP finalist Bishop Allen, Treven Eddington, and Emanuel Baines will prove how strong a team they have. This matchup certainly appears to be a thriller in the making so make sure to buckle your seat belts when this Nevada State Championship Game kicks off at Liberty High School this weekend.

## **#1 Seed Las Vegas Thunderbirds Union (8-0) VS #2 Seed Las Vegas Sun Devils (7-2) – 8U Division**

Where: Liberty High School

When: 12:00 PM

While the Las Vegas Thunderbirds Union may have added the "Union" to their name this season, they are still the defending Nevada State Champions that haven't lost a game in quite some time here in the 8U Division. It will be the challenge for the Las Vegas Sun Devils to heat things up on the Thunderbirds Union this weekend as they look to do what no other team has been able to do this season is ground the T-Birds and claim the Nevada State Championship Crown for themselves. The top seeded and undefeated Las Vegas Thunderbirds Union have been playing inspired football all season long. Not only do they average divisional best 34 points a contest, but their defense has been impenetrable. They have yet to give up a single point this season. That is incredibly impressive for any team at any level. Leading the way for this team is Coach of the Year candidate Jeff Hall who has pulled all the right strings at the right times thus far this season. Coach Hall has a tremendously talented team underneath him will look for MVP Finalist Eric McFarland, Jerome Sequeira, and Cameron Turner to have their usual huge games and lead this team to victory as they did in the semifinals over the Las Vegas Badgers. The Las Vegas Sun Devils meanwhile had an impressive semifinal victory of their own last weekend as they managed to shut down and shut out the Henderson Cowboys in a thrilling low scoring

matchup to advance into this showdown with the Thunderbirds Union. The Las Vegas Sun Devils have an exciting team despite having one of the smaller rosters in the division. The Sun Devils offense averages an impressive 20 points a contest while they have given up just fewer than 6 points a game to their opponents all season long. Led by MVP Finalist Antonio Spann, Jordan Thompson, and Arron Hickman, this team full of fight. Coach of the Year Finalist Juan Palmes has been a master at his class this season getting the very most out of this squad each time they take the football field. This Sun Devils team has one final monumental challenge in front of them this weekend, in what should be an epic Nevada State Championship matchup at Liberty High School this Saturday afternoon.

### **#1 Seed Las Vegas Union (9-0) VS #2 Seed BG Gators (8-1) – 12U Division**

Where: Liberty High School

When: 4:00 PM

The Las Vegas Union and BG Gators square off with the Nevada State Championship on the line in what should be an epic matchup between a pair of heavyweight type contenders with glory going to the victor. The Union and Gators faced each other in an early evening tilt during the regular season in what was an incredibly exciting game that the Union won by a score of 20-14. We expect nothing less than another close matchup between these two top flight squads. The Las Vegas Union earned the top seed in the 12U Division with a perfect regular season and then followed that perfect regular season up with impressive playoff victories over the Arbor View Jr. Aggies and Silverado Hawks in the past two weekends. Their victory over the Hawks last weekend really showed their metal as they survived and advanced in a thriller of a matchup thanks to the heroics of Nehemiah Brooks. Brooks leads a very talented core of Union players including Makhai Donaldson and Tipsioni Manu who will look prove that this team belongs in the conversation of best 12U Division seasons. Led by Coach Terrell Collins who has done a stellar job managing this group all season, long, the Union boast the divisions most stout defense. That group has yielded fewer than 3 points a game to their opponents all season long and will look to limit a strong Gators offense this weekend. The Union offense has also been quite good this season, putting up over 30 points a game on their opponents. Those type of numbers show just how strong this Union is from top to bottom. The BG Gators meanwhile are tasked with breaking up the Union as they try and chomp their way to another 12U Division Nevada State Championship. This Gators squad is won't be outshined by anyone as they are as talented a group as any. Led by MVP Finalist Jeremiah Hughes, Elijah Lofton, and Drais Bellamy, this team can really put points up on the scoreboard in a hurry. To this point the Gators have averaged over 34 points a game on offense this season while giving up just under 5 points to their opponents. That leads to an evenly matched game that Head Coach Van Cooper will look to navigate with his usual tremendous skill and experience in coaching big games. The Gators are the defending champions and certainly won't want to relinquish that crown any time soon! Expect nothing less than a thriller this Saturday at Liberty High School in this 12U Nevada State Championship showdown for the ages.

### **#1 Seed Las Vegas Union (9-0) VS #3 Seed Las Vegas Elite (7-2) – 10U Division**

Where: Liberty High School

When: 6:00 PM

The Las Vegas Union and Las Vegas Elite face off in what should be an exciting 10U Division Nevada State Championship Game this Saturday evening at Liberty High School. These two teams did face off in the finale of the regular season, and in that game, the Las Vegas Union dominated to the tune of a 34-0 victory. The Union will look to repeat that result and put this game to bed early as they hope to quell the Elite this Saturday. The Las Vegas Union earned a hard-fought win this past weekend in the

semifinals over the Las Vegas Sun as they survived to cool off the Sun Devils by a score of 14-6. Head Coach Frank Starks leads an incredibly talented group of players but will certainly need to keep them focused if they want to reach their goal of claiming a Nevada State Championship victory. The Union will turn to MVP Finalist Trey'Shaun Jackson, Massiah Mingo, and Dominik Dadkhah to try and not only keep their perfect season alive, but also take home the big trophy! The Union offense has been humming along to an impressive tune all year as they have averaged over 30 points a game to this contest, when paired with a defense that gives up fewer than 3 points a contest, makes for a mighty tough team to contain. The Las Vegas Elite have the daunting task of breaking up the Union in front of them, but if any team can do it, the Elite can. The Elite had a tremendous season, but this playoff run is really where this team has found yet another gear. The Elite's victory over the 702 49ers last weekend was incredibly impressive and something this group they hope can springboard them to a Nevada State Championship. Led by Head Coach Diego Aguilera, this group has grown up and improved quite a bit each time they stepped out onto the football field. They will look to Vaimaon Manutia, Jacob Maiava, and Gavin Day to make this team not only Elite, but legendary with a Nevada State Championship victory. The Elite offense was very strong all year long, averaging over 20 points a contest. The defense is also quite impressive as they give up fewer than 6 points a game to their opponents. Will they be able to get past the Union this weekend? Time will tell so make sure to catch this game Saturday evening at Liberty High School!

### **#1 Seed Las Vegas Union (9-0) VS #2 Seed BG Gators (8-1) – 14U Division**

Where: Liberty High School

When: 8:00 PM

The final game of the Spring 2018 season will take place under the lights at Liberty High School with everything on the line as the Las Vegas Union take on the BG Gators in the 14U Nevada State Championship Game. Many of these players will don their teams and the youth uniform one final time this weekend here in this 14U Division showdown so we expect everything to be left on the field in this matchup. These two teams should be quite familiar with each other as many of these players have played against and with each other for years here in NYS, but on this final Saturday, there will be no love from the first whistle to the last. These two teams faced each other in the middle of the regular season in a matchup that the Union won by a score of 31-7, but the game was much closer than the final score would dictate as the Union would run away with that game late. The Union will look to repeat that results as they aim to complete not only a perfect 10-0 season, but also claim the title of Nevada State Champions. The Union are a juggernaut on both sides of the football as they average over 31 points a game while they gave up just 1 score all season long to their opponents. Led by MVP Finalist D'Andre Washington, Ferrari Busby, and Kyle Holmes, this team is looking to make one last stand under veteran Head Coach Marquis Hodge as they look to put their stamp on league history as one of the best teams the Las Vegas Valley has ever seen. The Gators meanwhile will certainly have something to say about that statement. The Gators historically have laid claim to numerous championships, especially here in the 14U Division. Head Coach Stephon Stowers has done a fantastic job with this group all season long as he leads a strong team of NYS veterans looking to prove that they are the reigning 14U Division Nevada State Champions for a reason. Led by Germie Bernard, Kodi Decambra, and Makavelli Novera, this team will come with everything they have one final time as they try and break up the Union with a big Gators chomp. The Gators offense was very strong this season as they have been able to rack up over 23 points a game as a team while the defense gave up just 9 points a contest to their opponents. Their victory over the Arbor View Jr. Aggies in the semifinals was especially impressive as their offense really broke through in the big win. Will they have enough left in the tank to take down the Las Vegas

Union this weekend? Expect nothing less than a heavyweight slugfest in this final contest of the Spring 2018 season.