

# The Pueblo Chieftain

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## Coach gives credit for 100



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/MIKE SWEENEY -- South High School's Jordan Ruiz (1) and Zack McGinn (32) celebrate the Colts' win over East in the Cannon Game on Friday at Dutch Clark Stadium.

By **TOM PURFIELD**  
**THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN**

All South High School football coach Mark Haering has done since his first season is win football games. With the Colts' 37-31 win over East on Friday in the 50th Cannon Game, Haering now has 100 career victories as South's coach.

"What I'm really proud of is the coaching staff and the kids who have played for me over the 11 years," the 38-year old Haering said. "They've committed to me and that's obviously why I'm at 100. It not because of me, it's because of everybody around me. I'm proud of everybody around us who makes this program what it is."

Only legendary Centennial coaches Tom Brockman (144) and Jim Grieve (107) have more wins than Haering in the city's all-time prep football coaching log. Perhaps more impressively, his 100-24 record is good for 80.7 winning percentage, the most successful in Pueblo history.

Haering has never lost a Cannon Game as South's coach. His teams have won eight consecutive Foothills League titles and is riding a 37-game regular-season winning streak. The Colts have made the playoffs nine times in a row, including reaching the quarterfinals six times and the semifinals twice.

Prior to taking over at South, Haering had a 39-9-2 record at Marin Catholic in Kentfield, Calif., taking his career winning percentage to 80.5. "When I took the program over at South, I knew it was going to be a challenge," Haering said. "I wanted to make it a program that year-in and year-out is in the playoffs and people say it is one of the top teams in 4A."

Haering was South's quarterback in 1986 and '87 and went on to play at Div. I-AA Boston University. His coach at South, Pat Smith, is eighth on the city's all-time win list with 68.

**SYMMETRY:** It's easy for East senior Armando Chavez's grandparents to remember how many times the Eagles and South have played football. It matches their wedding anniversary.

Armando Chavez Sr. and his wife, Sadie, are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary today. All of their children attended East and participated in athletics, and Chavez Sr. said he remembers the first meeting between East and South, plus every game since.

If Chavez Sr. was in the stands Friday, he would have liked what he saw from his grandson. Armando Chavez III had three receptions for 132 yards and two touchdowns.

**LOCKED IN:** Throughout the week, there were questions about the health of South's Brody Lockett, who had a scary knee injury last week at Air Academy. Not only did Lockett play, he finished with 98 yards rushing before re-aggravating the knee. He said he was OK after the game.

"I'm glad I played now," Lockett said. "It was just a good game. They came to play and they're a tough team."