

Cy Creek's Demas, Gipson are headed to the Mountain West Conference next year

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By **MICHAEL SUDHALTER**

A college football rivalry nearly 2,000 miles away is heating up between a pair of Cy Creek High football standouts.

"Now (Devan Demas and I are) teammates," Cy Creek High senior wide receiver/tight end Jarred Gipson said. "But when the season's over with, it's on."

Gipson verbally committed to the University of Nevada, and Demas – the reigning Class 5A-District 17 rushing leader – pledged to rival, Boise State.

"It's going to be fun," Demas said.

Boise State played in the Western Athletic Conference from 2001-10, but they'll debut in the Mountain West Conference this fall. Nevada will depart the WAC in 2012 for the MWC.

The rivalry between the Broncos and Wolf Pack heated up last Thanksgiving Weekend in Reno.

Boise State was still in BCS National Championship Game contention, and they led Nevada, 24-7, but the Wolf Pack came back to earn a 34-31 overtime victory.

Demas said the Broncos are capable of winning a national championship.

"That's one of their biggest goals, and I want to achieve that goal when I get there," he said.

Demas and Gipson were teammates on Cy Creek's 2010 team that finished 8-4 and won a share of the 5A-17 title (after winning consecutive district crowns in 2008 and 2009). The Cougars advanced to the third round of the playoffs for the first time in 20 years, before losing to eventual 5A-Division I state champion, Pearland, 54-7.

"A lot of people are underestimating us," Demas said. "I think we're going to double what we did. Personally, I want to double what I did. And team-wise, I want to take us farther than we've ever been."

FAMILIAR SETTINGS

Although they'll be traveling long distances to go to college, both Demas and Gipson will have reasons to be comfortable in their new settings.

Demas will get the opportunity to team with former Cy Creek running back D.J. Harper, who tore his ACL last September with the Broncos.

“(Boise) felt like a second home,” Demas said.

When Demas was a student at Bleyl Middle School, he'd watch Harper play for Cy Creek; they got a chance to talk during Demas' visit to Boise.

One of his fellow incoming freshmen will be Klein Collins High senior running back/wide receiver Shane Rhodes, the reigning Class 5A-District 13 Offensive Player of the Year, whom Demas already knows.

Gipson grew up with Rhodes, and they played youth football together in the Spring area.

Nevada hasn't recruited too much in Texas, but they run the Pistol Offense.

“At Cy Creek, we run the Pistol Offense,” Gipson said. “So that's another Thumbs Up.”

Gipson plans on visiting Nevada on July 27, and he said that the school's strong programs in his potential career choices of Engineering and Pharmacy were another important factor in his decision.

He chose the Wolf Pack over Louisiana-Lafayette, Northwestern and Texas State.

Since Boise State and Nevada are leaving the WAC, they'll no longer play Utah State in conference games, but they could meet in a non-conference matchup.

That would mean Gipson and Demas could face Utah State quarterback Chuckie Keeton, who graduated from Cy Creek earlier this month and is currently in summer school at USU.

“Chuckie basically taught me everything I know,” Gipson said.

They could face Air Force, which has offensive lineman Kyle Bockeloh, another 2011 Cy Creek graduate.

Demas chose the Broncos over Indiana, Iowa State, Rice and Wake Forest; he hopes to study Kinesiology at BSU.

Last fall, he was expected to start at the slot position, but he was moved to running back after the district's reigning rushing leader, Jermichael Selders, tore his ACL one week before the season.

Selders missed the entire season but signed with Baylor in February, and Demas led the district in rushing.

(http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/cyfair/sports/article_5e4a4ab9-acc0-5740-b85e-6faa19a76581.html)