

---

## Digger Stadium: As good as gold: A look back at Golddigger Stadium

For 62 seasons, it's been the most famous high school football stadium in the Rocky Mountains – Golddigger Stadium in Idaho Springs, sitting just off Interstate 70 westbound. There's barely enough room on the south sideline for the players and coaches to stand, and it's close enough to practically feel the vibration of the cars and semi-trucks rolling down the highway. On Nov. 1, 2019, the final game will be played there. Let's take a look back at some of the more memorable moments at the iconic football field.

### **1958: THE BEGINNING**

- With the likes of seniors Clyde Turner, Jim Groves, Al Kline, Ron Straub and Sam Grillo gracing the gridiron, then Idaho Springs High School played the first game ever at Golddigger Stadium.

### **SEPT. 7, 1973: A COLE MINE**

- Jim Cole threw three TD passes – two to his brother, Jerry, a split end – in Clear Creek's 18-2 season-opening win over Nederland. Jordan Plant caught the third TD pass in the third quarter in the first game covered by the Clear Creek Courant, which was first published on Aug. 24, 1973.

### **SEPT. 4, 1982: DARRELL'S DEBUT**

- Legendary head coach Lyn Darrell makes his coaching debut with the Golddiggers. The Saturday afternoon tilt doesn't go Clear Creek's way as Denver Christian scores the 20-6 victory. CCHS' only touchdown game on a third-quarter kickoff return by David Schuessler.

### **OCT. 15, 1982: BOUNCING BACK**

- Greg Kincaide ran 65 yards for a touchdown on the first play from scrimmage and David Schuessler added a 66-yard scamper of his own as Clear Creek shut out Mapleton 14-0. The Diggers held Mapleton to just 18 total yards in winning just days after being notified that earlier wins in the season had been forfeited due to the use of an ineligible player. The win helped CCHS on its way to a three-way tie for second place in the Metro League, a tiebreaker it would

win as the Diggers advanced to the playoffs for the first time in 32 years.

#### **OCT. 29, 1983: NOT TO BE**

- A Metro League championship wasn't meant to be as Kent Denver defeated Clear Creek, 27-6. The Golddiggers' lone touchdown against the fourth-ranked Sun Devils came via an 8-yard pass from Scott Wilcox to Craig Abrahamson in the fourth quarter. Despite the loss, CCHS reached the playoffs for a second straight year. This was part of 10 postseason appearances in 18 seasons between the 1980s and '90s.

#### **SEPT. 20, 1985: A NAILBITER**

- A standing-room only crowd at Golddiggers Stadium witnessed Clear Creek clip No. 2 Kent Denver, 14-13, improving to 4-0 on the season. Linebacker Kevin Murphy returned an interception 60 yards with 9 seconds left in the half, and quarterback Blake Ackerman engineered a three-play, 75-yard drive, finishing it off with a 3-yard TD run. Senior Casey Buckley secured the win when he deflected a two-point conversion attempt by the Sun Devils.

#### **OCT. 31, 1997: PLAYOFF HOME SWEET HOME**

- No tricks, but all treats in this postseason opener. Junior quarterback Blake Ackerman accounted for Clear Creek's three touchdowns via the rushing attack, and the Golddiggers' defense held Roosevelt to just 74 yards total in a 21-0 shutout. The win marked Clear Creek's first postseason victory in school history.

#### **NOV. 14, 1998: A HEARTBREAKER**

- A week after scoring arguably the biggest win in program history – a 7-0 road victory over perennial playoff powerhouse and thorn in the side No. 3 ranked Monte Vista – Clear Creek's season came to a crushing halt with a 3-2 loss to Buena Vista. Despite holding the Demons to just 114 total yards, CCHS, which scored a third-quarter safety, was thwarted by a fourth-quarter field goal from Buena Vista in the 2A state quarterfinals.

#### **NOV. 4, 2017: POSTSEASON BLUES**

- Monte Vista, behind 414 yards rushing, overcame the passing of Ty Judge (216 yards, two TDs) and rushing of Noah Sarria (13 carries for 142 yards and three TDs) to nip Clear Creek, 39-34, in the final playoff game played at Golddigger Stadium. CCHS finished 8-2 on the season after a 4-0 start.

**OCT. 5, 2018: FINAL HOMECOMING WIN?**

• The final homecoming “win” unofficially was a victory. In the record books, Clear Creek scored a 2-0 forfeit victory over Sheridan, which didn’t have enough healthy bodies to play. Instead, the Diggers played Cheyenne Mountain’s junior varsity squad and won, 28-7, overcoming a 7-6 halftime deficit. Lucas Gerding rushed for 120 yards and three TDs.

**SEPT. 6, 2019: INEPT DEBUT**

• This was not the way new head coach Landon Wright wanted to debut. Hotchkiss had its way with Clear Creek, scoring a 57-0 victory. It was 43-0 by halftime, in a game delayed when officials couldn’t get to the stadium on time due to traffic delays caused by inclement weather. A lightning delay pushed back the start of the second half.

**NOV. 1, 2019: THE LAST HURRAH**

• Clear Creek High School plays its final game at Golddiggers Stadium against Jefferson High. Beginning next season, the team will host games at the high school, located on Floyd Hill.



[Add new comment](#)

Read and share your thoughts on this story

Copyright © 2020

The Clear Creek Courant is your source for local news, sports, events, and information in Clear Creek County, Colo, and the surrounding area.