
Digger Stadium: Ruschmyer, Morris had the best seats in the house

For 25 years, Ron Ruschmyer and Mike Morris have been the eyes, ears and sound of Golddigger Stadium

By Alissa Noe

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Ron Ruschmyer has one of the best seats in Golddigger Stadium – in the announcer’s booth located a ladder climb away from the concession stand.



Sara Hertwig

Longtime public address announcer Mike Morris, left, and scoreboard operator Ron Ruschmyer look out over Golddigger Stadium. On Friday, they’ll be in the press box one final time at the iconic football facility in Idaho Springs as Clear Creek High School plays its final game there.

For the past 25 years, Ruschmyer and Mike Morris have served the Clear Creek community from behind the scenes, sitting high above the football fans at Golddigger Stadium in Idaho Springs. Ruschmyer, who lives in a house overlooking the field just west of the stadium, had been a big fan of Golddigger football long before he started helping out at games.

“I always watched the games from my backyard because I had what we called the ‘beer seats.’ People would come and sit in my backyard, drink beer and watch the games.”

Memories and laughs abound between the two Clear Creek County dads, who act as the announcer and scoreboard operator during high school football home games a few nights a year.

Although 72-year-old Morris saw his six kids through the school system years ago – they now range in age from 35 to 50 – he keeps coming back to announce for the community he’s called home since 1972.

“It’s just a nice connection to the community and to the kids. It’s fun,” Morris said. “You give up four or five Fridays a year, and it’s worth it. I’m seeing kids now playing who are kids of my children’s peers when they played. I’m almost positive I’ve seen a grandchild of one of my kids’ peers play or at least on the team.”

Ruschmyer’s family has lived in the county for six generations. His three children, although younger than Morris’ children, went through the school system as well.

The two men started working games together in the same year in the early ’90s and have enjoyed every minute of it. Each home game, the tandem works well together as Ruschmyer helps Morris keep an eye on the plays and which players were involved.

All night long, the two laugh and laugh as they take jabs at each other and the radio guys on the other side of the booth.

“After all these years, we’ve got a pretty set script down. It doesn’t change a whole heck of a lot,” Morris said. “We just basically have a good time. We just sit back. Sometimes we get caught up talking and not paying attention, then I say the wrong thing, and Ron gets me.”

Ruschmyer, 54, and Morris have a chemistry in the booth that goes back before they started working games together. And while they’ve seen their share of parents and students at the games, they’ve also witnessed some fair-weather fans stopping by to watch the action at Interstate 70’s favorite high school football stadium.

“We’ve seen people pull over on the highway, watching the games,” Ruschmyer said. “Since they made it three lanes, it’s not as much fun because they have to keep moving on after they slow down.”

To this day, semi-truck drivers still show their support for their favorite players by blaring their horns from the highway during games.

That’s nothing compared to the fans who, like Morris and Ruschmyer, have been an integral part of the Clear Creek County sporting

community, long since their own children have moved on from the school system.

“You see these people that their kids have long graduated, are long gone. They’re still coming to the games,” Morris said. “They’re going to volleyball games, going to basketball games, going to the baseball games. It’s just part of Small Town America. People are involved in the community. Friday night is football.”

Although this was going to be Morris’ last year announcing games regardless, Ruschmyer said he’s not sure if he’ll still play his part once the matchups are moved to the high school on Floyd Hill.

Either way, it’s been a good run.



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