

Canyon Springs Pioneers

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

There's a celebrity on the court here at the Great Western Shootout.

It's Freddie Banks, the first-year coach of the Canyon Springs' Pioneers. If you bring a basketball and a pen, he might sign the ball. After that, he might toss the ball into the hoop, regardless of where he is in the gym.

That's "Fearless" Freddy, a UNLV legend who still holds the record for most three-pointers in an NCAA Tournament game.

It's Coach Banks now. And if you're asking for autographs, he'll probably direct you to the group of players who are coming off back-to-back visits to the 4A state championship game.

Last year, in just the school's sixth year, the Pioneers won it. That's an incredible achievement when you consider the amount of high-school basketball talent in Las Vegas these days.

Coach Daryl Branham resigned shortly afterward, and there was little doubt who would get the job. Banks had been his assistant since the school opened. He took over and immediately revealed his plan to keep the Pioneers on top.

"I'm going to do the same thing that me and coach Branham did," Banks told the Las Vegas Review-Journal. "It's going to be a lot of pressure ball ... a lot of fastbreaking."

Sounds just like the Runnin' Rebels.

Canyon Springs lost several great players that went 29-2 last season. However, three starters are back, including:

* - Nick Scott (6-foot-5), whom Banks called, "a hard-nosed player and very good rebounder".

* - James Jones (6-2) – "a good inside player."

* - Ladarell Mongkoltham (5-11) – "a good defender who takes pride in everything he does."

In addition, more talent is emerging. Gerad Davis, a quick 6-4 sophomore has shown he can

The Great Western Shootout
Welcomes:



SCHOOL: Canyon Springs (Nev.) *Pioneers*

LOCATION: Las Vegas, Nev.

COLORS: Blue and silver

WEBSITE: www.ccsd.net/canyonsprings

NOTABLE FACTS: Opened in 2004 and has an enrollment of 2,600 serving four grades (9-12). The football team surprised locals with a league title in 2007 and the boys basketball team has most recently provided some proud moments.



WHAT TO WATCH: Canyon Springs reached the 4A (large school) state title game in 2009-10 and then handily won it all last year with a senior-laden team. Nick Scott is one of three returnees, but the Pioneers have been pretty balanced so far.



Scott

Head Coach Freddie Banks

"Fearless" Freddie grew up in Las Vegas, where he won three state titles at Valley High. He moved on to UNLV and was part of some of the nation's best college teams.

Coach Banks is in his first year as head coach after serving as an assistant at Valley and Canyon Springs high schools.



Banks

score and act as the team's shutdown defender, too. Shaquille Carr, another sophomore, can glide past defenders to the basket.

Those two new players might be the key to Canyon Springs' success. Like any team with a new coach, it takes a while to adjust. The Pioneers, however, won their first three games this year. In its 71-60 loss to Palo Verde, Davis led the team with 21 points and Carr backed him with 14.

Coming into the Great Western Shootout, Canyon Springs still has a lot of questions, but there's no questioning its talent. High-school basketball is a different game in Las Vegas and we'll see how it measures this weekend.



Canyon Springs Pioneers varsity roster

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Year</u>
11	Shaquille Carr	G	6-1	Soph.
13	Ladarell Mongkoltham	G	5-11	Sr.
15	Chris Nelson	G	5-10	Soph.
21	Keveon Glenn	G/F	6-1	Jr.
23	James Jones	G/F	6-2	Sr.
25	Gerad Davis	F	6-4	Soph.
31	David Baze	F	6-5	Jr.
33	Anthony Jones	G	6-2	Sr.
35	Stanley Blake	G/F	6-2	Jr.
41	Nick Scott	F	6-5	Sr.
43	Devon Neal	F/C	6-5	Jr.
45	Kentabius Traylor	F/C	6-4	Jr.
51	Kashion Tucker	F	6-4	Sr.
55	Adam Tuala	C	6-5	Sr.

Head Coach: Freddie Banks

Assistants: Freddie Thompson, Allen Johnson, Eldridge Hudson

Principal: Milana Winter

Assistant Principals: Ronalyn Napier, Rick Ditsch, Laura Willis, John Granger

Athletic Director: Jonathan Hilmer

CANYON SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL
PIONEERS



Season schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>W/L</u>	<u>Score</u>
Nov. 29	LEGACY	W	63-62
Dec. 1	FAITH LUTHERAN	W	45-33
Dec. 6	CORONADO	W	60-50
Dec. 8	at Palo Verde	L	60-76
Dec. 13	LAS VEGAS	<i>not available</i>	
Dec. 14	at Rancho	<i>not available</i>	
Dec. 15-17 at Great Western Shootout			
Dec. 26-29 at Las Vegas Prep Championship			
Jan. 4	DESERT PINES*		
Jan. 6	ELDORADO*		
Jan. 10	SUNRISE MOUNTAIN*		
Jan. 12	at Valley*		
Jan. 20	CHAPARRAL*		
Jan. 24	at Las Vegas*		
Jan. 26	RANCHO*		
Jan. 30	DESERT PINES*		
Feb. 1	at Eldorado*		
Feb. 3	at Sunrise Mountain*		
Feb. 7	VALLEY*		
Feb. 9	at Chaparral*		

* - League games. Home games in CAPS