

Austin Green  
MCO 502 Digital  
Story 1  
Prof. Hill  
9/10/21

CHANDLER—As Chandler prepared to play its first interstate game at home since 2017, the Wolves coaching staff had a message for the defense: Attack the ball. Fly to the ball when the offense tries an outside run play. And when you arrive at the ball, arrive angry.

That message came through loud and clear during Chandler's (2-0) 17-7 win over Colorado Cherry Creek (2-1) on Friday.

When senior three-star cornerback Travis Roberts (CQ) saw Cherry Creek receiver Ky Oday Jr. (CQ) take a handoff on a jet sweep and dart towards the outside early in the second quarter he arrived angry, ramming into Oday right in front of Cherry Creek's sideline. The ball popped out, the Wolves recovered, and seven plays later, Chandler took the lead for good on a 25-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Ethan Moore (CQ) to receiver Junior Nsubuga (CQ).

"Any time that you have playmakers on the defensive side of the ball, it just spins games," Chandler coach Rick Garretson (CQ) said. "Our defense is who we hang our hat on right now." good quote

Cherry Creek entered having scored 73 points over the first two games of its season. Chandler held the Bruins to seven, and limited Cherry Creek's dominant power running game to 73 rushing yards on 24 attempts, good for just over three yards per carry. Oday, a three-star Colorado State commit, is considered the best class of 2022 high school receiver in Colorado. With Roberts as his primary defender, Oday had 48 yards on just two catches.

"It makes me feel like we've got one of the best defenses if not the best defense in the nation," Rogers said. "I feel like we can go with anybody in the nation, I feel like we can go with anybody in Arizona easily."

Chandler's defense had four takeaways, including three on consecutive drives in the second quarter. After Roberts' forced fumble led to a touchdown, safety Blaine Mourning (CQ) ended the next Cherry Creek drive with an interception, then Roberts added a pick of his own by jumping a slant route in the following Bruins possession.

"We played really hard," Cherry Creek coach Dave Logan (CQ) said. "We just made too many mistakes... against a really good team"

While Chandler's offense stalled in the second half, the Wolves defensive line stepped up, recording four sacks and sealing the game on a fumble forced and recovered by defensive tackle Isaiah Johnson, a three-star University of Arizona commit. good summary graf

"It just shows how hard we work," Johnson said. "Physicality is everything for us."

Austin Green  
MCO 502 Digital  
Story 1  
Prof. Hill  
9/10/21

Throughout its three-year-old winning streak, which improved to 38 games with the victory over Cherry Creek, Chandler has rarely been forced to rely on its defense as much as it did on Friday. Not only were the Wolves facing a team that had yet to allow a single point in 2021, but starting quarterback Blaine Hipa (CQ) was sidelined all week with a non-COVID-19-related illness, and did not even dress for Friday's game.

That left the job to Moore, who like Hipa transferred to Chandler after coronavirus pandemic restrictions in his home state took away his junior season. Moore, originally from University City High School in San Diego, had 21 completions on 28 throws for 231 yards, one touchdown and no interceptions.

"I always tell the quarterbacks, 'Be ready when the opportunity arises,' and he was," Garretson said. "He hasn't played ball for two years, so it was great to see him get in there and have some success as well."

He had help from two of Chandler's best offensive weapons--sophomore Ca'lil Valentine and senior three-star Iowa State commit Quaron Adams (CQ). After Valentine helped spark the Wolves' offense in their season-opening win against Peoria Centennial last week, it was Adams who got things going this time, using his speed for 14-yard and 9-yard third- down receptions before taking a handoff 14 yards into the end zone untouched with 2:25 to go in the first quarter.

"He's a Division One player," Garretson said. "So when he makes Division One plays, we try to get the ball in his hands. And that's what we did."