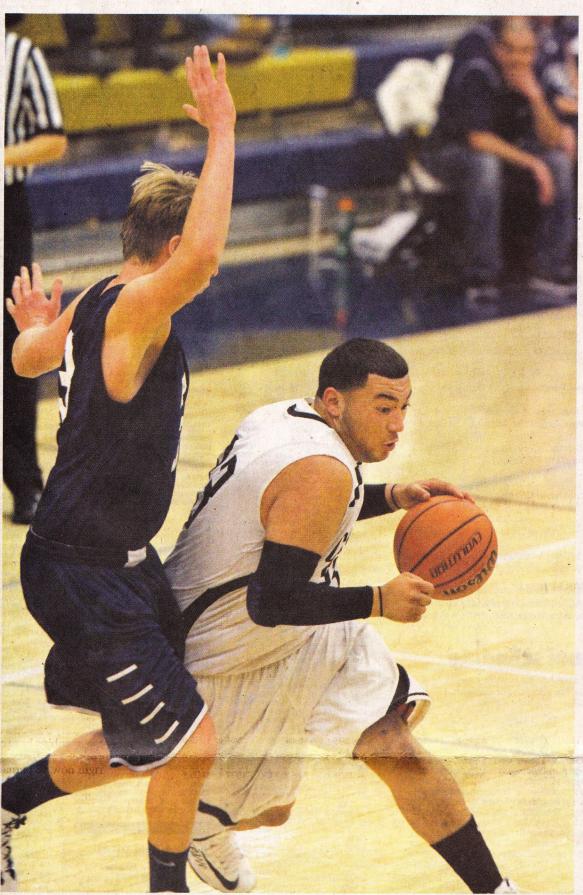
Adapting to change



Capital senior Michael Lopez drives around Santa Fe Preparatory junior Will Lenfesty in the second quarter of a Capital City Invitational semifinal Friday night in Toby Roybal Memorial Gymnasium.

Boys: St. Michael's bear Pueblo Central as Cap gets past Santa Fe Pre

By James Barron The New Mexican

> he amphibian takes on the beast urday night. While the team monikers are

St. Michael's Horsemen and the Capital Jaguars, their characteristics bett the other descriptions.

There are the Horsemen, whose lizard ability to absorb the loss of a key compowas on display Friday.

After losing senior forward Matt Barel the season with a torn left anterior cruci ligament, St. Michael's relied on depth to past Pueblo (Colo.) Central 44-29 in a se final of the 52nd Capital City Invitationa Toby Roybal Memorial Gymnasium.

Contrast that with Capital, which used its size and muscle to help thump Santa Preparatory 69-48 in the other semifinal matchup.

However, the Jaguars (7-1) will deal witheir own loss, albeit temporary.

Senior center Taylor Martinez likely was the championship because of a spraright ankle he suffered in the second half against the Blue Griffins.

But that is a significant loss, because C tal's bench does not run as deep as the or for the Horsemen.

That depth, though, was tested by the Wildcats. Justin Flores, the 6-3 junior pos on the bench for most of the second half four fouls, and another big, Isaiah Dominguez, missed the second half with an inju

Still, St. Michael's (3-0) didn't back down as evidenced by its paltry 11-for-27 from the free-throw line. Horsemen head coach R Geyer focused more on one part of that stiction.

"What's great is that we got to the line 27 times," Geyer said. "We're not proud of 11-for-27. We work on it every day. That n to improve."

So does the ball handling. St. Michael's committed 16 turnovers overall, and four of them came in the second quarter when Pueblo Central trimmed a 14-6 deficit lat the opening quarter to 18-15.

The Horsemen scored but one Kamero Romero free throw in the second quarter that came with :04 left before the half.

Chalk part of that to life after Barela.

"Matt was a huge part of our team, and we're going to miss him," said Romero, w finished with a team-high 10 points. "But got these players behind us. We got a lot

Please see BOYS, Pag

Santa Fe High sophomore Sabrina Lozada-Cabbage, right, Girls: Santa Fe High meets Pojoaque Valley in fin