

# Adapting to changes



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 beats Pueblo Central as Capital gets past Santa Fe Prep

By James Barron  
The New Mexican

**T**he amphibian takes on the beast on Friday night.

While the team monikers are St. Michael's Horsemen and the Capital Jaguars, their characteristics better describe the other descriptions.

There are the Horsemen, whose lizard-like ability to absorb the loss of a key component was on display Friday.

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

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

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

Senior center Taylor Martinez likely will miss the championship because of a sprained right ankle he suffered in the second half against the Blue Griffins.

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

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

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 Ron Geyer focused more on one part of that statistic.

"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 needs 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 late in the opening quarter to 18-15.

The Horsemen scored but one Kamere 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, who finished with a team-high 10 points. "But we got these players behind us. We got a lot

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Santa Fe High sophomore Sabrina Lozada-Cabbage, right,



## Girls: Santa Fe High meets Pojoaque Valley in final

By Angela Maria Williams  
The New Mexican

"I brought it back," Drake said. "We did a good job. we did a lot of camps, we c