



## Centennial vs. Ironwood 10.8.10

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Vivolve.com

After scoring four first half touchdowns which led directly to a 54-7 halftime lead over visiting Ironwood, Centennial's Vegas Johnson was selected the homecoming king during a half time ceremony.

Talk about being king for a day!

After halftime, the Coyotes picked up where they left off by scoring on two of their first three possessions. The result was a 68-7 dismantling of the Eagles on Friday night in Peoria.

"(Ironwood) came out strong and were ready to play and we were a little flat," Johnson explained. "But our defense came up big and had two turnovers for TDs, forced two fumbles and blocked a kick."

The Eagles (1-5) did come roaring out of the gate on the game's opening drive, when a 9-play, 70-yard drive was capped with a Andrew Dicarlo 27-yard TD run.

The touchdown was made possible by a gutsy 4th-and-1 play from the Ironwood 33-yard line, which saw the Eagles' quarterback Justin Butler (8 for 18, 87 yards) finding star receiver Gary Chambers (4 catches, 25 yards) for 8 yards.

But that 7-0 lead lasted exactly 2:50, when Johnson scored from 1-yard out, knotting the score at 7-7.

Ironwood tried to show that their game plan was right on, grinding out 10 plays on the game's next series. The Coyotes, however, proved why they are ranked No. 2 in the latest rankings, stopping the Eagles' drive and then answering with a 30-yard Johnson run.

And the rout was on.

Second quarter fumble recoveries by Jebron Harrington and Jesse Callahan (both forced by Abel Fernandez), interceptions by Hayden Sovacki, Gary Ross and Harrington, and a blocked punt by Tyler Beenau, all resulted directly in five touchdowns in six possessions.

The interceptions by Ross (29 yards) and Harrington (40 yards) were both brought back for TDs.

"After that first drive, that really woke us up," said Centennial linebacker Tevin Ray. "We looked at the situation and what we were doing and just started executing."

Ray scored the only two scores for the Coyotes in the second half on runs of 4 and 19 yards.

Through the first half, Centennial piled up 190 yards (19 carries) on the ground and another 49 through the air. These were not overly impressive when stacked against a 54 point total.

But the lack of huge numbers was more of a result of how dominating the Centennial defense really was.

"I give Ironwood credit. They designed that first drive very good. The players were very intense," Centennial coach Richard Taylor added.

"That was a real slap in the face and it woke us up. That is how we need to respond."

Johnson finished the game with 74 yards rushing (9 carries) and another 31 yards in receptions, while Troy Hawthorne added two more rushing touchdowns (16 yards and 19 yards).