

**REID RESIGNS AS SAN TAN HEAD FOOTBALL COACH, DCOORD. WALKER TAKES REIGNS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018**

*By Preston English
San Tan Media Relations Director*

GILBERT, Ariz. – After one season at the helm of the San Tan Charter football program, head football coach **Darryl Reid** has resigned as he and the school have decided to mutually part ways. With Reid's departure, defensive coordinator **Stephen Walker** has been promoted to head coach.

"I want to thank San Tan from the bottom of my heart for entrusting me with your child/children this year," said Reid. "This year was just the first step for what is certain to be a great program in the very near future. I will miss them and all of you. I hope your child will continue to grow on and off the field, and the lessons learned this year will be cherished for a lifetime."

The Roadrunners posted a 5-3 regular season record this year in their first year of 11-man football including two shutouts. They reached the state semifinals before falling to eventual champion South Pointe. San Tan also had two players who were among the league leaders in two statistical categories. QB **Jaylen Galaviz** was second in the CAA in passing yards despite missing two games due to injury. WR **Kris Sippel** was the league leader in receiving yards despite having to play quarterback when Galaviz was hurt.

"I want to thank Coach Reid for getting our 11-man program started," said San Tan Athletic Director Dr. Kristofer Sippel. "He was a positive influence on the players and the school. We can definitely build on the foundation he laid for us."

Walker, who has mentored the Roadrunners defense for the last two seasons, takes over the head coaching duties. Walker has played for or coached three state championship winning teams, and recently was named to the Mesa City Sports Hall of Fame for his outstanding play at Red Mountain High School. He was a star two-way player for the Mountain Lions in the early 2000's under legendary Arizona football head coach Jim Jones. Red Mountain won back-to-back state titles in 2000-2001. Walker was named the class 5A Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year in the same season, an unprecedented feat. He also earned All-America status from the National High School Coaches Association.

Walker went on to play junior college football at Scottsdale Community College before ending up at South Dakota. Unfortunately, a shoulder injury derailed his college career and he turned to coaching. He started as an assistant at Red Mountain before coming to San Tan as defensive coordinator. Now he gets to helm the program.

"It's a great opportunity," said Walker. "I can't wait to get started and hopefully create an environment like we had at Red Mountain. Playing for Coach Jones, I basically had (former Arizona State coach Frank) Kush as a head coach. He coached you hard, but loved you at the same time. It's exactly the way I want to run my program."

The Walker Docket

- Mesa City Sports Hall of Fame, 2018
- 5A Offensive and Defensive Players of the year, 2000
- National High School All—America, 2000
- Back-to-Back State Titles (player), Red Mountain High School, 2000-2001
- State Title (defensive coordinator), San Tan Charter School, 2017

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