

# Gae reac leav

Bishop Gorman  
final games in

By RAY BREWER

Fred Walker plays Bishop Gorman's inau home basketball game than 50 years ago.

Little did he realize basketball facility would come legendary through the state, known for opponents fits as the relied on the court's proximity to the fans i ating an advantage.

The gym is filled 1,142-spectator capacity tually every night with crowd just 18 inches from the action. They the 84-foot court seem smaller, forcing team turnovers, mental mis and changing the g momentum.

"That's a historic v for basketball in Las V Durango coach Al LaR said. "It's the toughest in town."

Long before the ( home court was du the "House of Glory" i 1980s and decades b the school flexed its m as the state's marquee gram, Walker and his mates were simply hap have a place to play.

"Schools like Henderson (Basic), Las Vegas and der City would just lau us," Walker said. "In fo



JEREMY LYVERSE/NEWS STAFF PHOTO

Jay White blocks a shot on goal during a Las Vegas Wranglers practice at the Fiesta Rancho. White, who grew up in Detroit, has been playing hockey since he was a teenager.

## Puck on the rocks

Neil Diamond impersonator doubles as Wranglers' practice goalie

By TIM MULLIN

Have you ever seen Neil Diamond stop a 90 mile per hour puck?

Probably not. Hockey really isn't the singer's forte.

But if you didn't know any better you just might catch a glimpse of him in net for the Las Vegas Wranglers of the East Coast Hockey League.

For one local Neil Diamond impersonator, hockey is life.

Even though Jay White, the impersonator, is more than twice the age of some Wranglers, the 40-something goalie still takes every chance he gets to stop a few pucks.

White, who grew up playing goalie in Detroit, doubles as a practice goalie for the Wranglers since the team's first season in 2003-'04.

"For whatever reason it is still just as fun as it was when I was 15 or 20 years old," White said. "I just can't see myself giving it up."



JEREMY LYVERSE/NEWS STAFF PHOTO

Neil Diamond tribute artist Jay White does five performances a week at the Riviera. White also serves as a practice goalie for the Wranglers.

King Errison, White's friend and the real Diamond's percussionist, said he is passionate about the game.

"He had a broken hand once and we were suppose to pay golf, but he cancelled and later that day he decided he wanted to play hockey," Errison said.

White, who looks like a younger Diamond with a little more hair, said he only played that day last March because it was the NHL Alumni Classic, in which local players teamed up with NHL alumni in a charity game for DiabeticLife of Las Vegas, a support organiza-

tion for valley residents with diabetes.

"I was told this isn't a good idea (playing the game), but I actually made two saves," White said. "One I caught in my glove with my broken wrist, it was quite a bit of pain, but there was no way I was going to miss that game. No way I am going to pass up this opportunity to play with all the players I watched on television during the 1980s."

White, who practices with the Wranglers for a couple of weeks before the season opens and only a few times throughout the season, also plays in Henderson city leagues.

He said the gig with the Wranglers started when he was talking with former Las Vegas Thunder coach Chris McSorley after singing the national anthem at a game in 1995.

White told McSorley that

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FROM THE PRESS BOX Ray Brewer

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