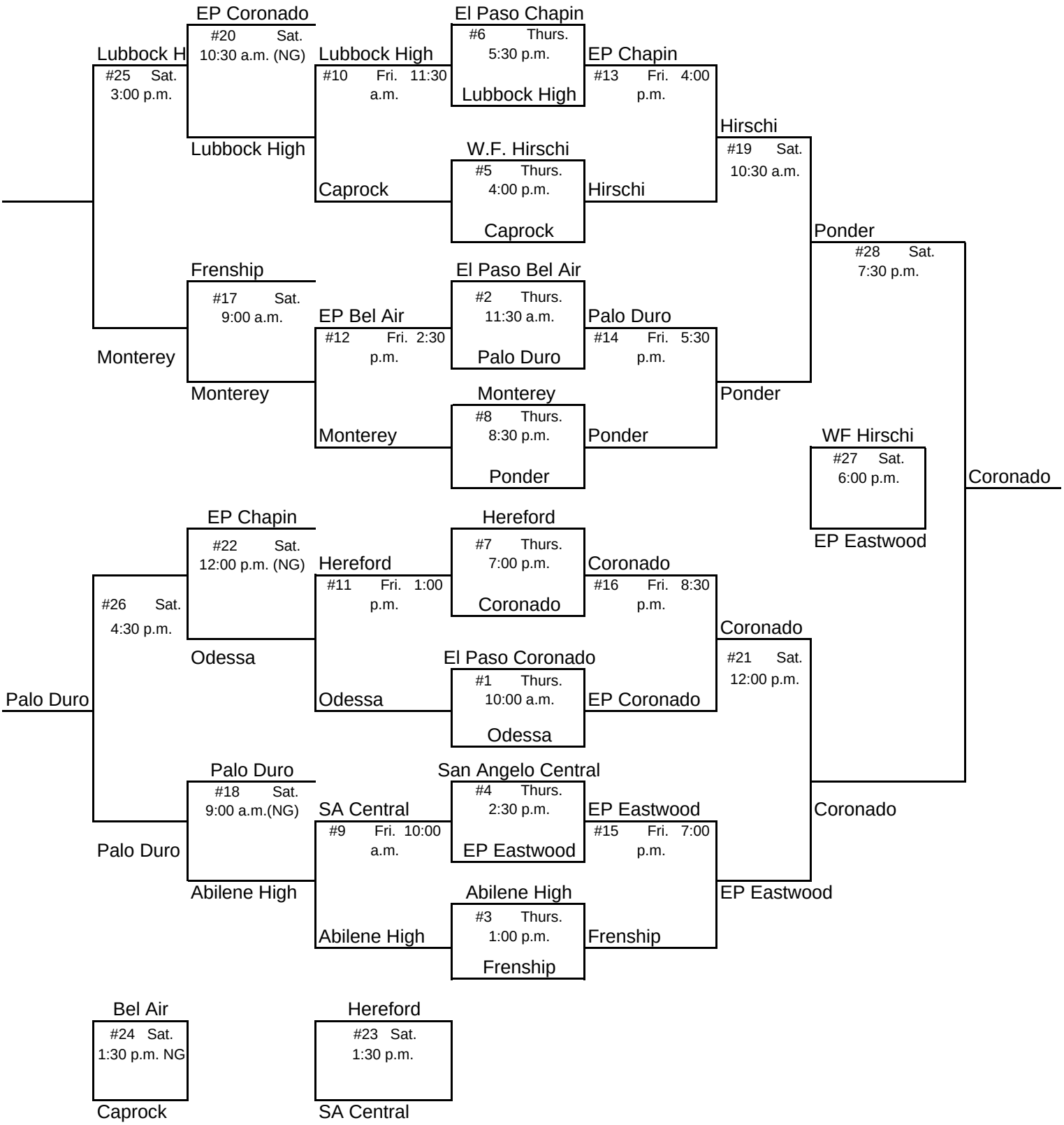THE GENE MESSER SHOOTOUT