



FALCON FRESHMAN FOOTBALL

Falcons v. Fallbrook - October 29, 2009

Fallbrook HS – They are the toughest crew on the field. And, we're not talking about the 11 Torrey Pines Freshmen Defenders who played the entire game Thursday against Fallbrook with only two substitutes.

Statistically, these kids suffer more injuries than linebackers or running backs. No, we're not referring to Falcon cornerbacks, Brian Cuff (two interceptions), Cole Jaczko (one interception), Patrick Boyd, or safety Jaxon McAllister who shut down the Warrior passing attack all afternoon and into the Fall night.

We're talking about the group whose slightest miscue can lead to disaster or scary injury. No. Not the Falcons Special Teams, who had an uncharacteristically tough, pre-Halloween night—allowing a screaming 85-yard touchdown return and a spooky punt play with 8 seconds remaining.

The Falcon Freshmen Cheer Team never misses a game. At home. On the road. In the heat at Poway. In the chill of Fallbrook. Win. Lose. Way ahead. Or not.

They are always "ON", always in rhythm, and never complain. Execution has been flawless for Rachel Harbison, Lexie Lewis, Caiti Lumpkin, Kacey Mikuteit, Sara Mills, Ellis Murrow, Taylor Onosko, Julia Osinski, Casey Regottaz, Sarah Smith, Madi Souza, Hannah Turner, Megan Wilcox and Shaina Wooley. They were again spectacular during Thursday's 14-13 victory by the 9th Grade Boys over the Fallbrook Warriors. Cheer coaches Scott Chodorow, Suzy Chodorow, and Ashley Bascom have achieved a perfect record: the girls have the crowd standing on every kickoff; they have executed every half-time banner bust, they have cheered every defensive stand.

And, lately, the young ladies have had a lot to cheer about. The Falcons have a four game winning streak, a 5-2 record overall, and are on top of the Avocado League standings at, 3-0.

The Falcons ran a record 68 offensive plays in Thursday's game, but had relatively few points. The contest nearly had a very scary Halloween graveyard ending. Which was frightening, given the promising beginning.

Torrey Pines received the Opening Kick-Off, and put together a patient, methodical drive. Like a kid going door-to-door on Halloween with a pillow case. Quarterback Mark Detrow handed off to Fullback Chase Pickwell for the first carry (one yard), then took it himself on the next (five yards). A flare pass to Pickwell earned 11 yards and a first down. Another Pickwell run, then Detrow for another five yards. Jaxon McAllister got the carry on third down, and showed great patience waiting for the blocking to develop as he picked his way through the crowd and cut-up sharply for a first down. After Pickwell (6 carries, 2 receptions, 12 yards for the day) hit the middle of the line, Billy Maggs (3 carries, 20 yards on the day) got the call for 11 yards and a first down. McAllister earned another first down with a run of 13, and added five more to bring the ball down to the Warrior 31 yard line.

The Falcon Line of Jacob Alsadek, Andrew Maneval, Derek Lipinczyk, Jack Condon, and Tyler "T-Bone" Lavery kept pushing Fallbrook back. A short carry by Pickwell brought up 4th down and a few. For the first time all season, a Detrow QB keeper failed and the Falcons turned the ball over on downs. 13 plays and nothing to show for it.

Fallbrook revealed an ambitious, if often ineffective, passing attack. With linebackers Mile Ahles and Pickwell stuffing the middle, and D-End Ryan Bath containing, the Warriors quickly decided to go long. Fallbrook often lined up with three wide-outs on one side, forcing Falcon linebackers Jonathan Raby and Jack Condon to join the secondary in coverage. But, the defense held the entire first half as the Warriors went “3-and-out” on five consecutive series.

The Falcon Offense was staying on the field longer than their counterparts, but without much success. QB Detrow (9-12, 124 yards, 1 TD, and 13 yards rushing with 1 TD for the game) was able to move the chains on the third series with downfield completions to tight end Ryan Bath, and wide receiver Brian Cuff, but the team still had to punt after seven plays. First Quarter Ends: **0-0**.

Finally, on their fourth series, with only five minutes left in the half, Detrow found wide receiver Lucas Doucette for a big first down at midfield. On the next hand-off, Billy Maggs made a great move to the outside, got a nice block from McAllister, and earned seven critical yards. Already on the field for 27 plays at this point, the Warrior Defense finally was a step slow. Jaxon McAllister blew through the previously solid Fallbrook middle for 20 yards to take the ball to the 15 yard line. (For the game, Jaxon had 112 yards on 17 carries and one reception.) An incomplection, and a run for a loss, had the Falcons looking at 3rd and 12 yards to go. Detrow faked a pitch to the right, spun 180 degrees and hit tight end Ryan Bath in stride at the 5 yard line. Bath busted through two tackles and TPHS was ahead, **7-0** (after the JW Morrison snap, the Mike Ward hold and the Jack Condon conversion).

The second half started abruptly with the Fallbrook touchdown return. After a Half of hard work, suddenly (a mere 13 seconds), the game was tied, **7-7**.

The Falcons immediately pieced together an 11-play drive, stitching runs by Pickwell and Jaczko together with nice gains by McAllister, and a big first down completion to Bath. However, the field goal attempt failed and you could feel a sickening shift in momentum. Too many blown opportunities.

But, the Falcon Defense wouldn't give. On the next series, Pickwell, Bath and Condon stuffed the Warrior ball carrier. Brian Cuff had a nice open field tackle, and Cole Jaczko followed with an athletic tackle on the outside. Instead of going long, the Warriors tried an interior screen, but Pickwell snuffed it out to force the punt.

The frustrated Falcon Offense could manage nothing on its own with the next series, and busy punter Brian Cuff kicked it back to Fallbrook after three plays.

The game was tied, in the balance, “up-for-grabs,” there to be won. Or lost. With less than two minutes left in the third quarter, Fallbrook broke loose for a 56 yard touchdown. Oh, but wait. Yellow hanky on the ground. At least two guys moving before the snap. Called back. Cornerback Jaczko went vertical to break up a pass on the next play, while Pickwell and Maggs stopped a run attempt for no gain.

On the next play Fallbrook's QB took a deep drop and looked downfield. D-tackle Grant McGahey busted free up the middle and hit the QB as he released. The pass wobbled and came up short, as Cuff snared it on a dead run. He raced down the sideline, with the Warrior team converging. Hustling Falcon D-End Ryan Bath threw a block at the 15, and Cuff picked up 10 more yards before being tackled at the 5.

Detrow wasted no time. He took the snap, sprinted wide, picked up a block, and scored to put the Falcons up, **14-7** as the 3rd Quarter ended. The Morrison-to-Ward-to-Condon PAT would loom large.

The fourth quarter featured some Falcon offensive frustration, and some stellar defense. Cuff picked off a pass in the end zone and ran it out for 29 yards (giving him over 80 return yards on two INT's), while Jaczko killed another drive with an interception.

With 1:45 left in the game, the Falcons got the ball and started what was supposed to be a clock-killing final drive. Four plays, and 1:36 seconds later, it was fourth down at mid-field with only 8 seconds left. Take a knee? Run around in the backfield for 8 seconds? A line plunge? Leave the Warriors with a few seconds and 50 yards to go?

The Falcons trotted out the punting team, hoping to pin Fallbrook as far back as possible with very little time. A high snap went over Cuff's head, and he was chasing the ball downfield like a boy chasing a chicken. Boy and ball re-united at the 20 under a pile of Warriors. An ecstatic Fallbrook team, back from the dead, lined up with 3 seconds to go. A slant route, a perfect pass, and the Torrey Pines Halloween Horror had started. Touchdown, Fallbrook. Score, **14-13**.

The "book" says 'play for the win on the road, the tie at home'. But, the Warrior coach, to his credit, sensed the momentum and went for two points. Tension on the Falcon side. Cheering on the Warrior side. Nerves everywhere.

"Offsides." Falcons. Half the distance to the goal line. Only two yards. But, every inch is precious at the goal line. No time remaining.

The Warriors handed it to their biggest, toughest player, tight end No. 85, a great North-South runner. He went East. Pickwell dived in and tripped him with a right hand. No. 85 kept going. But, the stutter step was costly. Bath and Maggs strung the play out and stood up the Warrior tight-end as help arrived and the game ended with a gang tackle on the 1 yard line. Final, Torrey Pines, **14-13**.