



## FALCON FRESHMAN FOOTBALL

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Falcons v. LCC, November 12, 2009

**Ed Burke Stadium** – Heading in to the Avocado League Freshman Championship Game against Torrey Pines High School, La Costa Canyon was averaging 52 points a game in League play, and had a reputation for “shock and awe”—fast, overwhelming starts. The Mavericks also boasted a back, Deon Dicky, who TPHS Coach Michael Wahlstrom accurately labeled, the “most complete Freshman football player” he had seen

So, it didn’t help when Torrey Pines found itself buried on the seven yard line after the opening kick-off, then went backwards with a delay-of-game penalty. A punt from the end zone gave La Costa a very short field—only 35 yards to go. That the Maverick scoring drive took as many as seven plays was a moral victory for the Falcon Defense. LCC, 7-0.

A still nervous Falcon squad promptly fumbled the kick-off giving LCC the ball on an even shorter field—only 31 yards to go. This scoring drive took three plays. After 5 minutes and 10 seconds of play, the potent LCC scoring machine was up, 14-0.

But, aided by a roughing the passer penalty, and five solid runs by fullback Jaxon McAllister, the Falcons managed a 10-play drive on their next possession that took them past mid-field before punting from the Maverick 40.

A defensive stand here, and the Falcons might make a game of it. Maverick running back Dicky promptly went 32 yards before safety McAllister stopped him to prevent another touchdown. Linebackers Miles Ahles and Chase Pickwell stopped the Maverick full back on the next play, while D-End Billy Maggs had a tackle for a loss on the following. A “hook-and-ladder” play (completion downfield and pitch back to Dicky) gave the Mavericks 15 yards and another first. But, the Falcon D-Line, with Maggs again and Ryan Bath sent LCC backwards. The Mavericks went into a punt formation facing 4<sup>th</sup> down with over 20 yards to go. They then called time-out.

With the Falcons lined up with their punt receiving unit, LCC broke from the time-out with its regular offense. The Falcon punt unit scrambled to align itself into a semblance of a defense, and a quick snap Maverick pass play went for 19 yards, barely missing the first down and a touchdown, but turning the ball over to the Falcons on the 13 yard line.

From there, quarterback Mark Detrow found tight-end Ryan Bath for a 16 yard third-down completion, and then again on a 10-yard completion for another first down. The next pass was intercepted, and a run-back was averted when McAllister knocked the

Maverick player out at the 15. The refs also saw a “face-mask” and marched off half-the-distance to the goal line, to give LCC the ball on the 7 yard line.

On LCC’s first play from scrimmage, Falcon nose guard Grant McGahey helped cause and recover a fumble, and Torrey Pines had dodged a big bullet.

Despite a 6-yard Detrow to Liam Barnes completion, the Falcons were forced to punt. LCC had a big return stopped by Bath and Mike Cox, and then were sent backwards with a block-in-the-back penalty.

With two-and-a-half minutes left in the second quarter, LCC had the ball at the Torrey Pines 45-yard line. The D-line promptly flushed the Maverick QB, and Maggs dropped him for another sack. But, a third down play went for 20 yards, and LCC was within striking range at the 27-yard line. Big (6’ 6” 300 lb.) Torrey Pines offensive right tackle Jacob Alsadek came into the game for his debut on D-Line. He helped stuff the middle while linebacker Jonathan Raby and safety McAllister stopped one play, and Ryan Bath tipped a ball to cause an incompleion on another. Middle linebacker Miles Ahles came up with a one-on-one fourth down stop to end the Maverick threat and bring on half-time.

After everything that had happened in the first half. The lousy field position and two turnovers, the Falcons had to be feeling good to be down only 14-0. LCC was being held well below its season scoring average.

A brilliant on-side kick by Falcon Jack Condon was recovered by Ryan Bath past mid-field to start the half. But, the refs thought they saw a Falcon touch the ball at the 49-yard line (the ball must travel 10-yards to the 50 before the kicking team can recover), and LCC was awarded the ball at midfield.

Despite some defensive heroics, and stops by Cox, Condon, Raby, Pickwell, McGahey, McAllister, Bryan Cuff and Cameron Dale, the Mavericks marched it in on a 9-play drive. LCC, 21-0, mid-way through the third quarter.

The Falcons kept pressing, but could not sustain a drive longer than six plays. A tiring Torrey Pines defense gave up a touchdown to end the third quarter, and another with less than five minutes to go in the game.

And thus are rivalries refueled. The Falcon Freshman can look back proudly on a 6-3 season, a 4-1 league record, and a five-game winning streak. They can look forward eagerly to a rematch with LCC.