



## FALCON FRESHMAN FOOTBALL

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### Falcons v. Mission Hills - October 22, 2009

**Torrey Pines HS** – Three weeks ago a switch went on, and Torrey Pines Freshman quarterback Mark Detrow went from tentative to terrific. His improved play is one reason the Falcons (4-2; 2-0 in League) are sporting a three-game winning streak after defeating the Mission Hills Grizzlies, 28-7, Thursday at Ed Burke Stadium. Detrow threw for two touchdowns, ran for another, and gained two first downs on QB-sneaks to help lead the Falcons, while the rock-solid defense shut-down another opponent.

The pre-game looked a bit uncomfortable. The Grizzlies have a large squad (75 players) with big linemen. With 16 players sidelined with injury or illness, the Falcons were outnumbered for the first time all year. The missing included three dependable trenchmen: Derek Lipinczyk, Andrew Maneval and Grant McGahey. The Falcons had been deprived of preparation game film, and had instead viewed clips of *last year's* Mission Hills Freshmen to understand the basic formations.

Falcon Tully Burgoon took the opening kick-off 10 yards to start Torrey Pines on its own 42. Detrow promptly hit tight-end Ryan Bath for a 23 yard completion. Running back Billy Maggs carried the ball for three yards, and then the Grizzlies Defense supplied 10 yards with back-to-back offsides penalties to bring the ball to the 20-yard line. Fullback Chase Pickwell took the handoff and ploughed up the middle, bouncing off Grizzlies, and scoring the first Falcon TD barely two minutes into the game. With Mike Ward handling the snap, kicker Jack Condon put Torrey Pines ahead, **7-0**.

The 2008 Mission Hills film showed an unbalanced attack. But, the 2009 Grizzlies came out in the “spread formation.” *Uh-oh.*

But, D-linemen Billy Maggs and Michael Cox apparently weren't paying attention in film study. They just attacked. Each had a sack, and Maggs threw in an extra tackle to force a Grizzly punt after a short, unproductive series.

Falcon return man Jackson Gentes made a sure-handed catch on a dead run in traffic on the punt to give Torrey Pines the ball at midfield. Detrow kept the ball on the first play for a 9-yard gain, then handed off to Pickwell for gains of seven and 14 yards and two first downs. After a Jaxon McAllister run took the ball to the 19-yard line, Detrow spotted a wide-open Brian Cuff in the end zone. Condon kick good, Falcons up, **14-0**.

Some Grizzly trickery on the kick-off fooled 10 Falcon coverage men, as a cross-field lateral left a Mission Hills player alone and streaking up the left sideline. Fortunately, Falcon Chris Carter sniffed-out the play and made a solid open-field tackle to kill the threat.

WR/CB Brian Cuff, still pumped from his touchdown, had one of the two best hits on the day when he stopped a Mission Hills sweep for a two-yard loss. Middle linebacker Chase Pickwell checked-in with two consecutive tackles to stop Mission Hills. Then, mysteriously, stuck on the wrong side of the 50-yard line, facing fourth down with four yards to go, the Grizzlies decided to go-for-it. A hustling Philip Wright flushed the QB out of the pocket and trapped him against the sideline, while D-end Ryan Bath came crashing in for the kill.

Turning the ball over to the Falcons and Detrow with a short field was—simply—a bad idea. TPHS Center Johnny Yacovelle, moved over from Guard for the ill Maneval, and Tyler “T-Bone” Lavery, Mike Cox, Jack Condon and Jacob Alsadek proceeded to open big holes for backs Cole Jaczko, McAllister and Maggs. The trio moved the chains 20 yards before Detrow found Cuff for a 21-yard completion and another touchdown. Falcons, **21-0**.

With eight minutes left in the half, Mission Hills put a drive together. Despite a tough stop by Hamlet Gonzalez the Grizzlies moved the chains. CB Cole Jaczko, listed at 130 lbs, found himself isolated on the edge when Mission Hills executed a nice screen. Jaczko managed to dodge one blocker, fend off a 200 lb lineman and bring down a 150 lb back in a superb solo effort. LB Pickwell and DT Wright managed to clog the middle on three plays, but Mission Hills still managed to eke out a first down. A holding penalty pushed the Grizzlies back, and then, re-introducing himself after a 4-game injury absence, hard-hitting Falcon linebacker Miles Ahles single-handedly destroyed a screen and dropped the back for a 7-yard loss. On third-and-27, the Grizzlies completed a 22-yard pass. But, on fourth down, feeling pressure from a blitzing Pickwell, the Mission Hills QB tried to complete a down-and-out for the first down. Falcon cornerback Patrick Boyd had tight coverage and batted the ball down.

The second half started with Dillon Loyek knocking the Grizzly return man out at the 14 yard line. Another nice open-field stop by cornerback Jaczko, and a swarming gang tackle, forced a Mission Hills punt.

Penalties stalled the Falcon drive, and an errant snap somehow sailed over punter Jacob Alsadek’s 6’ 6” head. He chased the ball down and turned upfield (and might still be rumbling his 300-lb frame toward the end-zone with 6 Grizzlies draped on him if the zebras hadn’t blown the ball dead).

With only 24 yards to go, Mission Hills hit hard. Torrey Pines linebacker Spencer Brewster, returning from a broken collarbone, was in on two tackles and had a nice stop on the corner, while Ahles decked a receiver after a short completion. But the Grizzlies took the ball to the one-yard line, and went for it on fourth-and-goal. “The kid’s head broke the plane, but the ball never did,” complained multiple Falcon players who were at the scene of the crime. “We stopped them!” complained a linebacker. But, the zebras saw otherwise, and Mission Hills was on the Board. Torrey Pines still up, **21-7**.

Brian Cuff returned the next kick-off 20 yards to the 33, giving the Falcons 67 yards to work with. Back Jaxon McAllister chewed up 20 on three consecutive carries,

while Detrow kept the ball twice for two first downs in a row. Pickwell then moved the ball 36 yards on consecutive 18-yard gains, before Detrow went in from the one. Falcons, **28-7**.

The Grizzlies never threatened again. Will Johnson, another return from the injured reserve list, Jaczko, Boyd and the rest of the Torrey Pines secondary clamped down on the Mission Hills passing game. The Falcon bullpen, lead by QB Mike Ward, and hard-charging back Eric Mejia took Torrey Pines to the goal line before head coach Mike Wahlstrom gracefully ordered a knee with 30 seconds left to keep the final at, 28-7.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Quarter**

The Falcons started on Defense, and linemen Cameron Dale and Brad Hayes stood out with aggressive, hustling play and two tackles each. Dale sacked the QB and caused a fumble. Eric Stagg stopped a Mission Hills back for no-gain, while Hamlet Gonzalez was strong up the middle. Falcon running backs Troy Woodhall, Mejia and Loyek continued their strong play from the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter into the 5<sup>th</sup> and kept the Grizzlies off-balance, while QB Ward had two completions, including one to Hayes who transitioned from rugged defender to rangy, hard-to-bring down wide receiver.