



## FALCON JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL

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### Pre-Season Report: Scrimmages v. Ritsumeikan Uji and Oceanside, Friday, Aug. 27, 2010

*“To be the Best, you have to play the Best.”* - Torrey Pines Varsity Coach Scott Ashby explaining the Program’s rugged pre-season and early season schedule.

**Carmel Valley** – With two State Football Championships in the past three seasons, and a 38-0-1 record over the past four, Oceanside High is one of the strongest programs in California. Six players from last year’s Pirate Varsity received Division I athletic scholarships. Cal-Hi Sports has the Pirates ranked No. 15 in the State.

Oceanside is strong and deep at every level--the 2009 Torrey Pines freshmen were mauled in last August’s pre-season scrimmage against the Oceanside Freshmen.

In a mid-summer 7-on-7 passing league contest against Oceanside, the Torrey Pines JV got a little redemption, and looked decisively better than the Pirates. But, two-hand touch and no-rush, drop-back passing are not Oceanside’s game. They play smash-mouth football.

On Friday, every level (Frosh, JV, Varsity) of Pirate Nation descended on Ed Burke Stadium for several hours of scrimmages. The Pirates were 80 strong at the freshman level, and had nearly as many players on JV. (Torrey Pines suited up 41 kids on JV, with another injured 4 in street clothes).

Adding to the festivities were 17 seniors from Ritsumeikan Uji High School in Kyoto, Japan. The Panther players have been making the 8,000 mile road trip to San Diego each of the past few summers to work under the tutelage of retired Torrey Pines Head Coach Ed Burke.

Would the Oceanside scrimmage be a humbling repeat for the 2009 Freshmen (now the 2010 Falcon Junior Varsity)? Can the Japanese play football?

#### **The Offseason**

There have been changes in the 12 months since Torrey Pines and Oceanside clashed. After last year’s scrimmage, the Falcons opened the season with two losses, but then ran off a big winning streak and finished, 6-3.

Also, the boys grew. And grew.

Several months of Football PE, summer weight lifting with Strength Coach Chas Doerrer, and gorging at the Soup Plantation “All-You-Can-Eat” Buffet paid off.

Last year’s undersized back-up QB Mike Ward grew five inches and seems poised to see considerable playing time. He started Friday.

Last year’s starting QB Mark Detrow grew even more. He is now a beefy 6’ 2” presence at Defensive End. He dominated his Panther and Pirate counterparts all afternoon.

With few exceptions, every member of the starting offensive line is now over 6’, and north of 200 pounds: Derek Lipincyzk (LT), Tyler “T-Bone” Lavery (LG), John Yacovell (C), Aaron Small (RG), and Andrew Maneval (RT).

The guys waiting in the wings behind them (Jake Ashby, Jack Condon, Mike Cox, Philip Wright, AJ Nomikos, Daniel In, and Eddie Rodriguez) are even bigger. Some, like Condon and Cox, are tougher. Ashby shaves twice-a-day.

The team “lost” enormous lineman Jacob Alsadek and running back Billy Maggs to the Varsity, while cornerback Cole Jaczko was brought up for the scrimmage due to injuries in the Varsity secondary.

The team added nearly a dozen boys who transferred in (Georgio Petrou), came over from Track (Michael Sheppard), returned from injuries (Aaron Small, Spencer Brewster, Will Johnson), skipped the beach and decided to try football (Richard Rosales, Jacob Han, Brandon Fan and others), or, returned after a year off (Jordan Andrusky, a junior who played as a Freshman but not as a sophomore had several tackles in the late going against Oceanside)

### **The Coach**

If there’s one man who knows how to squeeze victory out of a sophomore mosh-pit, it’s Falcon JV Head Coach Burt Blackwell. Blackwell founded the Football PE Program. In the past three seasons, his JV teams have an astounding, 28-2 record.

Blackwell’s insights on life, his motivational sayings and exhortations—a combination of Knute Rockne and Yogi Berra—have inspired former players to create the Burt “Bip” Blackwell Facebook Page (**Content warning!**).

Blackwell has been grading the boys all year in Football PE, and coaching them in Spring Football and two-a-days.

### **The Panthers**

There was a circus atmosphere with two scrimmages going, and seven different squads on the field or warming up. KUSI was there with a film crew to report on the boys from Kyoto. The Japanese Panthers started off on offense in scrimmage style: on

the 40-yard line going in. They ran 15 consecutive plays against the Falcon JV first-string defense.

Detrow started things by dropping the Panther back for a 3-yard loss. A play-action pass fooled the entire middle of the D, and the Uji-men gained 8 yards on the completion. A tackle by linebacker Spencer Brewster, a fumble recovery by D-Tackle Grant McGahey, and a blocked pass by End Ryan “Nando” Bath had the Panthers on their heels. The Japanese kids appeared to have good size and strength. Speed wasn’t a problem. But, could they execute? How many plays had Burke taught them? Cheered on by their host families, the Kyoto Boys continued to suffer, as Tackle Jack Condon and Safety Brian Cuff made nice stops. But, then the left-handed Panther QB found his rhythm, and two long completions on fade routes gave the Japanese a touchdown. With the ball back at the 40-yard line, the Panthers managed a long run, with Defensive Back Dillon Loyek saving the Falcons from a score. But, then a sack by Detrow, a stop by McGahey on a busted play, and an interception by cornerback Patrick Boyd finished off the Falcon defensive series. On a later defensive series, D-End Nolan Weinberg came up big with sacks on consecutive plays, while blitzing linebacker Jaxon McAllister forced an incompletion and generally disrupted the Panthers.

The Falcon Offense tried some edge running with little effect. Fullback Chase Pickwell gained 8 yards and then a first down on consecutive runs up the middle. QB Mike Ward found WR Jackson Gentes for a deep completion, but then some ineffective sweeps, confusion on a screen pass, and two fumbles finished off the drill.

Conclusion: the Japanese boys can play American football. Quite well.

### **The Main Event**

With some JV starters having played 40 snaps against the Japanese, the Main Event against Oceanside started at 5:00 PM.

Detrow relieved Ward at QB. FB Pickwell gained five yards up the gut, while Detrow had a nice completion to WR Gentes for the first down. A false start, another botched screen, and a sweep for a loss stalled the drive. But, another long gain by Pickwell on a draw, followed by an 8 yard gain by Brewster on a misdirection had the Falcons moving in the right direction. After an option play that attracted too many Pirates, Mike Ward replaced Detrow.

Sean Harytek is still learning how to play football. But, he knows how to run. As a freshman, the basketball player started on the Falcon Varsity Track 4 x 100 relay team which qualified for the State Meet. Sean posted a smoking 11.44 time in the 100 M.

The play was pretty simple. He lined up alone, wide left, and sprinted for the cone. The O-Line blocked, Ward hit him in stride, and he outran the Pirate DB.

**Touchdown Falcons!**

The Torrey Pines Defense took the field, and the Pirates got a quick dose of Detrow blowing up a play. Linebacker Aaron Small got penetration to disrupt the next call, while Condon stopped the Pirate back on another.

The Torrey Pines D had Oceanside stopped on the next snap, but the shifty Pirate QB picked his way downfield for a 30 yard score. Tackles by Detrow, linebacker Miles Ahles and Bath stymied Oceanside for several plays. But, the Pirate QB scrambled again (there were no refs to flag him for being over the line of scrimmage) and connected with his wide-out who had got behind the secondary. Pirates up, two TDs to one.

Lifelong safety and wide receiver Brian Cuff stepped in as a QB trainee for the Falcons on the next series. He was fortunate to have the 2009 Falcon Freshman Team MVP, Jaxon McAllister, in the backfield. It was Jaxon up the middle for long yards; Jaxon up the right side for another 5, and Jaxon with another carry for positive yardage. McAllister was shipped Back East for the summer, and missed Summer Weights. Instead, he repaired roofs in the Virginia humidity and sun. Chas Doerr may need to look into this program. The star wrestler McAllister is a few inches taller and 20 pounds heavier. It was Jaxon up the middle for 30 yards and a touchdown. *Two TD's apiece.*

What a difference a year makes.

**Notes:** Paloma Valley (Menefee) HS comes to Torrey Pines next week for the only *THURSDAY* Junior Varsity contest this year. Game time in flux; possibly 4:30. JV Defensive Coordinator Tim Staycer reports that Paloma Valley runs a 'No Huddle.' Don't be late. You might miss something.

At the conclusion of the Torrey Pines-Oceanside JV scrimmage, the Japanese players returned to the field, exchanging their red jerseys for white. They faced the Pirate JV, while the Falcon players showered. The Japanese were rested, and seemed to get the better of a now tired Oceanside squad.

If you missed the customary post-game handshake between the Falcons and the Pirates, it wasn't bad sportsmanship. It occurred *after* the Pirates had finished playing the Japanese, when the Falcon JV, now in street clothes, returned to the field and slapped hands with the Oceanside squad.

KUSI had an abbreviated version of The Prep Pigskin Report at the end of the sports segment Friday night. Ritsumeikan Uji was featured. They showed the Japanese QB toss for a TD, and then showed the Detrow sack of the QB. If anyone can find the film, please share.