



FALCON JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL

TPHS v. Paloma Valley Thursday, Sep. 2, 2010

Carmel Valley – Philadelphia Phillies pitching great, Steve Carlton had a designated catcher. Every fourth day when the future Hall-of-Famer took the mound, Tim McCarver replaced the regular catcher. Pro golfers have their favorite caddies.

Why should quarterbacks be any different?

On the Torrey Pines Junior Varsity Football team, QB Mike Ward rarely takes the field unless Center Jake Ashby is handing him the ball from 6” away. Sometimes Andrew Maneval replaces Ashby. For QB Mark Detrow, nobody but Johnny Yacovelle is allowed to handle the center duties. While the other positions on the two offenses fluctuate and overlap, it’s almost always Ward / Ashby / Maneval and Detrow / Yacovelle in the QB / C spots. It may be beefy Derek Lipinczyk at Left Tackle, T-Bone Lavery at Left Guard, Aaron Small at Right Guard, and Andrew Maneval in the rotation, at Right Tackle, but, the QB’s have their favorite centers.

Ward / Ashby are more “Air Falcon”, while Detrow / Yacovelle are three-yards, and a cloud of those black rubber shavings your kid shakes out of his cleats.

So, far, after one game, the contest is even. *One TD apiece.*

The QB / Center pairings competed Thursday at Ed Burke Stadium, as the 2010 JV Falcons beat the Paloma Valley (Menefee)Wildcats, **16-0** in the season opener for both teams.

The Falcons started on Defense, and held the Wildcats to 3-and-out for their first two series. The D-End Book-Ends, Detrow and Ryan Bath tipped passes, stuffed passes and combined for a sack to clobber the Paloma Valley QB on the first series. The next series saw Falcon Linebacker Miles Ahles stopping a run, while hard-working, bull-strong nose guard Grant McGahey flushed the QB into Detrow’s arms. A tackle by cornerback Jackson Gentes after a short completion ended the Wildcat series.

Unfortunately, the Ward / Ashby offense was starting slowly. Three modest runs, a missed field goal, another run, and two incompletes were the Falcon Offense in the First Quarter.

With three-and-half minutes to go in the 1st Quarter, Brian Cuff downed a Collin Brown punt on the 1-yard line. A Flock of Falcons, including Bath, Detrow and

linebacker Chase Pickwell tackled the Wildcat QB for a safety on the next play. **Falcons, 2-0.**

The Wildcats kicked off, but a Falcon penalty put Torrey Pines on the 35 yard line. Another penalty pushed them back five more to the 30. A misdirection to RB Collin Brown had the elusive scat back picking his way upfield for a 35 yard gain—but multiple hits caused him to fumble.

No worries. Right Guard Aaron Small is the lightest, fastest Falcon lineman. And, 35 yards downfield, long after his larger brethren were huffing, puffing and watching the play from behind, he picked up the fumble, and preserved the Torrey Pines gain.

A penalty on TP promptly ensued.

A five yard run by slotback Sean Harytek gained back five yards.

Most sane Mothers don't want their boys to play football. It's a reasonable position. You break your fingers. You ruin the summer vacation plans. You could lose teeth. And, the laundry! Jackson Gentes' Mom, Julie Wheaton, is quite sane, and has had to be persuaded each of the past few years. She tried to sell Jackson on Canyon Crest (no football team). She encouraged baseball (no linebackers). But, Jackson has been persistent. She has reluctantly relented. *Thank Goodness.*

No. 10 slipped behind two Paloma Valley defenders, and QB Mike Ward laid one into his fingertips for a 36-yard touchdown. With Ward holding, Jack Condon converted the PAT. Falcons, **9-0.** Later in the game, Jackson hauled in a 20-yard pass. Three catches on the day for nearly 70 yards.

Second Half

Coach Blackwell threw the Wildcats a curve. After 20 minutes of Ward / Ashy, it was Detrow / Yacovelle to start the second half. RB Spencer Brewster (6 yards), Brown (1st Down), Jaxon McAlliser (9 yards), Harytek and then Brown again moved the chains upfield.

10 plays into the third quarter, right guard Small looked at the clock and told the huddle, "we have a seven minute drive going."

"All part of the plan," said QB Detrow. "We're going to have a 10 minute drive."

Helmets swiveled slightly. The team was already on the 25 yard line. How were they going to eat up three more minutes without scoring?

The next play was a Falcon disaster, and the running back was stuffed for a loss.

“All part of the plan,” Detrow announced when the huddle reconvened. “We’re eating up the clock.”

Three plays, two of them with motion penalties on the Falcons, caused the ball to move back-and-forth over the 50-yard line.

“We are stinking up the stadium!” Coach Burt Blackwell announced to the (relatively) innocent boys on the sidelines. The coach was livid at what would turn out to be 8 Falcon penalties on the day.

The Falcons then converted a 3rd-and-four yards when tight end Ryan Bath found a seam downfield and Detrow hit him for an 18 yard completion. A Brewster run, a stop for a loss, an incomplete, and a Collin Brown 6 yard gain that was just a few inches short of the first ended the drive after 8 minutes and 16 seconds of clock-killing Falcon offense.

The Wildcats took the field, but looked anything but rested. An entire first half of being pounded by Falcon nose guard Grant McGahey finally took its toll. The Paloma Valley Center short-hopped his first two hikes to the QB, who was easy prey for linebackers Jack Condon, Chase Pickwell, and D-End Detrow. Jackson Gentes had tight, *very tight*, coverage on a third down passing attempt, and the Wildcats punted after a 1:00 minute drive.

Detrow and the Offense managed three more plays (four if you count another illegal motion penalty) to run out the third quarter.

Time of Possession in **Q3**: Falcons, 9 minutes. Wildcats, 1.

Score, still, **9-0**.

Final Act

The 4th Quarter opened with Torrey Pines punting, and the first and second Falcons downfield missing the Wildcat return man. Patrick Boyd, the sure-tackling cornerback, did not miss. The wiry wrestler killed a potential run-back with a 3-point take-down to put Paloma Valley on the 18 yard line.

Only two scores needed, and an entire quarter to work with. Had Torrey Pines let the Wildcats ‘hang around’ too long? Could the score hold up?

Linebacker Chase Pickwell delivered the hit of the game and met the Wildcat back full speed for a pad-cracking, three-yard loss. Outside linebacker Jonathan Raby tipped the next pass, and then intercepted a third down pass, to give Torrey Pines the ball at the 12 yard line.

Detrow / Yacovelle were in for the offensive series, which started with a Collin Brown three-yard gain . . . but, wait! *Illegal motion*. The Falcons were moving backwards to the 18 yard line.

Detrow handed off to Fullback Pickwell, who followed Yacovelle's lead: left, right, he ran over some Wildcats, and rumbled 17 yards up the middle for a . . . (the chains came out . . . they measured . . . the ref signaled . . .) . . . First Down! Detrow handed off to Pickwell who followed Yacovelle up the gut. Touch down! PAT by Jack Condon. **Torrey Pines, 16-0.**

Notes: Will Johnson cracked his shoulder blade during practice in the 2009 summer and missed his entire Freshman season. The CB / WR / Kick Returner is back . . . **and how!**. He had over 75 yards returning punts Thursday, and looked solid at CB with a great open field tackle in the second quarter to stop the Wildcats short of a first down.

Brown (8 carries), Brewster and Harytek (7 each) Pickwell (6), McAllister and Raby helped the Falcons gain over 100 yards on the ground. The team had another 100 in the air, but marched backwards 60 yards due to penalties.

D-Line: Detrow, Bath, McGahey came up huge. Late, it was Phillip Wright and Nolan Weinberg to snuff out all hope.

Right Player, Right Place, Right Time: Jonathan Raby either tipped or intercepted passes on three consecutive Wildcat plays in the second half. S Brian Cuff, CB Patrick Boyd and CB Dillon Loyek also had interceptions. Loyek's was text book: he ran with his man downfield. When the receiver put his hands up, Dillon turned his head, picked up the ball in flight and picked it.

Next Game: Cathedral Catholic (rated No. 1 by both the SD U-T, and NC Times) at Cathedral, Friday, Sep. 10 at 5:00 PM.