



## FALCON JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL

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TPHS at Cathedral Catholic Friday, Sep. 10, 2010

**Cathedral Catholic HS** – Torrey Pines Junior Varsity safety Brian Cuff is 6' 1", and showed a coach earlier in the week that he can dunk a football over the goal post cross bar.

Friday night, with just under two minutes to play, and the Cathedral Catholic Dons attempting a furious comeback, Cuff used every bit of his leaping ability to sky for an erratically bouncing Cathedral on-side kick attempt. He snagged the ball, and brought it safely to the turf. Cuff appeared to have snuffed out Cathedral's come-back attempt. But, a two-play Falcon drive ended with a controversial fumble, and the Dons had time for six more plays and another shot at the end zone. Cuff intercepted Cathedral's last pass to preserve the Falcon JV's, 14-11 victory.

Running behind a Falcon line that clicked all afternoon, fullback Chase Pickwell scored both Torrey Pines touchdowns. Defensive Tackle Grant McGahey had one of the finest games of his stellar career, with five tackles, (two for a loss, plus a sack), and numerous pressures. D-end Mark Detrow had three sacks to keep the Dons' QB off-balance.

We knew that Torrey Pines track star Sean Haratyk could run fast. Friday, he showed he could run hard. Haratyk had 7 carries for 34 yards, including three first downs. Collin Brown (8 carries, 70 yards) flew around the corner for several long gains, including a 29 yard pick-up late in the fourth quarter. Spencer Brewster kicked both PAT's, had a tackle on special teams, a tackle at linebacker, and carried the ball three times for 10 yards.

Linebacker / fullback Pickwell, known as "The Beast" to teammates, had three tackles, and 11 runs up the middle for 42 tough yards. In the third quarter, with Torrey Pines up, 7-3, Pickwell took a screen pass on the right side at the 26 yard line. It was third down, and the 190 pound Pickwell appeared to have a phalanx of Falcon O-Lineman in front of him. But, he saw some red Cathedral jerseys he didn't like, and cut left. Pressured in the middle of the field, he ran *backwards*. Uh-oh. But, the Beast has wheels, and he picked up a huge block from QB Mike Ward to turn the corner. He raced up the left sideline as WR Jackson Gentes laid out the last Don to open the way for the score.

After the game, Pickwell was covered with bruises, lacerations, and claw marks. He had his helmet ripped off under the pile on one play. It was that kind of game. There is no love lost between the neighbors on Del Mar Heights Road.

Many of the Torrey Pines players participated in last season's humbling Freshman opener: a 35-0 loss to these same Cathedral players. This year's game date had been circled on the calendar for months: payback time.

It started with a Lucas Doucette kick-off to Cathedral, and a Brewster tackle. The Dons then completed a 22 yard pass. Brewster, McGahey and Pickwell shut down run attempts on consecutive plays, but a late-hit penalty kept Cathedral in business. The pattern continued most of the game: the Falcon defense shutting down the Dons' running game, but Cathedral getting huge chunks of yards on the occasional completion.

The first Torrey Pines series was old-fashioned Wing-T football. No Spread. No West Coast offense. The Falcon O-Line of Derek Lipinczyk (LT), T-Bone Lavery (LG), Jake Ashby (C), Jack Condon (RG) and Andrew Maneval (LT) simply drove Cathedral off the line of scrimmage. The 11-play, 62-yard drive featured 10 runs by Brown, Haratyk, Pickwell and Brewster, ending with Pickwell's TD over the left side.

The Falcon Defense showed the same grit. Late in the first half, with the lead at 7-0, Torrey Pines fumbled on its own 9 yard line. Cathedral picked up six yards on its first carry to take the ball to the 3. The Falcon Defensive coaches put in the big bodies: Tackles AJ Nomikos and Phillip Wright to defend the shrinking piece of real estate. Cathedral tried to move the pile on second down, but Middle Linebacker Miles Ahles stuffed the run. Cathedral tried to go outside on the next play, but D-End Ryan Bath turned the play inside, and Wright leveled the ball carrier. On fourth down, with the defense snorting and pawing the ground, the nervous Don line false-started, and the penalty moved them back five yards. They opted for a field goal—a victory for Torrey Pines after turning the ball over inside the 10.

Similar defensive play kept Cathedral off-balance most of the second half. With three minutes left in the game, Cathedral had the ball near midfield, and managed a fourth-down conversion to keep a drive alive. They scored with 1:57 left, and were successful on the two-point play, to put themselves within a field goal, 14-11.

Cuff's recovery of the onside kick followed. Brown gained 29 yards—and more importantly—stayed in-bounds to keep the clock running on the first Falcon play. But, a disputed fumble (Haratyk looked flat on his back and down when the ball came out) gave Cathedral the ball. Miles Ahles stopped two runs on the ensuing short, six-play Cathedral drive. But, a late-hit on the Falcons and a key completion positioned the Dons for a last-gasp heave into the end zone with 0:16 left. Cuff gathered it in to seal the win.

TPHS JV 2-0 on the season. Next game v. Olympian in Chula Vista.