



FALCON JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL

TPHS v Westview Friday, Oct 15, 2010

Westview HS – When a team averaging 31 points a game on offense meets a team that allows less than 4 points a game on defense, something has to give.

But, for nearly the entire first half of the Palomar League Football Opener for the Westview Wolverines and Torrey Pines Falcons nobody gave an inch.

The undefeated Westview Junior Varsity ‘No-Huddle’ Offense had Torrey Pines backpedaling. Despite some pressure and a stop for a loss by noseguard Grant McGahey, Westview QB Nick Wilson kept hitting star wide-out Terrell Best for big gains. The Wolverines took the opening kick down to the Falcon 15 yard line in seven quick plays, before a McGahey sack on third down caused Westview to trot out the field goal team. Mercifully, for a Falcon team that has never trailed, not once, not even for a minute, in any game this season, the FG attempt was wide left.

The Falcons promptly went 3-and-out on offense. The Defense had to quickly retake the field. Could they solve the no-huddle, down-field pressure from Westview? Weighing on the team was the absence of star D-End Mark Detrow who had been elevated to the Varsity mid-week. The starting D-line of Ryan Bath, McGahey, Mike Cox and Nolan Weinberg had to step up. On the first Westview play, McGahey stopped a run up the middle. On the next, Weinberg stood up the Wolverine QB on a keeper, and his teammates swarmed in to hold Wilson to a short gain. Bath and Cox brought the pressure on the third play, and the pass was incomplete to force a fourth down punt.

However, it was 3-and-out again for the Falcon offense, as QB Ward was blind-sided on third down and fumbled. Alert Torrey Pines Guard Tyler “T-Bone” Lavery hustled to the ball, which gave the Falcons a chance to punt it away on fourth. Eight Falcon offensive plays in the first quarter. Two punts, a fumble, an incomplete, and four runs for a net 4 yards. Never mind the Westview Offense, their defense was impenetrable.

As was the Falcon “D”. After a punt and a penalty gave Westview the ball at midfield, linebacker Jack Condon had tackles on consecutive plays to force another Wolverine punt.

Torrey Pines JV Head Coach and Offensive Coordinator Burt Blackwell decided to try some old fashion football on the next drive. He ordered up a steady diet of hand-offs to backs Collin Brown, Sean Haratyk and Chase Pickwell. Running behind the line of Derek Lipinczyk, T-Bone Lavery, Jake Ashby, Aaron Small, Jack Condon, Andrew Maneval, and tight end Weinberg, the trio gained five first downs on the ground, and one

in the air (Ward to Brown) to take the ball to the nine-yard line. But, the six minute drive ended with an interception in the end zone.

Feeling a momentum shift. Westview's Wilson went back to the air, hitting his favorite wide-out, Best, and scrambling. The Wolverines covered 36 yards in two minutes, bringing up a second down on the 36-yard line with 1:05 to go. Wilson dropped back, looking for Best. He was covered up the middle. With, the D-Line closing in, Wilson looked right and threw. Falcon linebacker Jonathan Raby stepped in front of the receiver for the pick. Torrey Pines had the ball on the 22-yard line.

Score, 0-0. Nearly 80 yards to go. About one minute remaining. Only one time-out. Offense sputtering. Torrey Pines would have been forgiven if they had tried three line plunges and regrouped at the half.

QB Mike Ward, (one fumble, one pick, and one completion, so far), was just getting set-up for his finest minute of the season. The sophomore signal caller proceeded to show clock management skills that would rival an NFL QB. The first play was a 26 yard run by Sean Haratyk (who alertly went out-of-bounds to kill the clock). Then, a pass attempt. For a QB, sometimes the best pass is the one you don't make. With everyone covered, Ward scrambled up the right side-line for 8 yards and stepped out-of-bounds to stop the clock. *45 seconds to go.* Next, Ward completed a 26 yard screen pass to Chase Pickwell (who, again, went out-of-bounds to stop the clock). *38 seconds.* Collin Brown ran the ball inside for four yards to the 15. Torrey Pines used its final time-out. *22 seconds left.* Ward rolled out on the next play, and hit Haratyk for a 13-yard gain. Haratyk went out-of-bounds at the 2 yard line. *16 seconds remaining.* Coach Blackwell decided to mix-it up with a line-plunge: Pickwell was stopped after 1 yard. *11, 10, 9 . . . precious seconds ticking off.* No time-outs. Ward hustled the team to the line. The backs tried to settle down. *7, 6, 5 . . .* The line hustled into position. Ward waited the split second for everyone to freeze, took the quick snap from Ashby, and spiked the ball.

3 seconds left.

The Falcon Field Goal unit came onto the field. As kicker Spencer Brewster lined-up, the Wolverines called a time-out. It is common in the college game. Call a time-out to "ice" the kicker. Let him ponder the pressure of a close game. Hope he chokes. Both teams headed for the sideline to discuss the field goal attempt. Coach Blackwell changed his call.

As both teams re-assembled for the final play after the time out, the Falcon field goal unit unfolded into the regular offensive set. *Mind games.* Ward faked a hand-off up the middle to Pickwell. The Wolverine defense collapsed on him, while Haratyk took the ball from Ward on the misdirection and raced around the right side. Touch Down! Time expired with the Falcons up, **6-0** (PAT missed).

Forget the two-minute drill. In one minute, Ward completed two passes, scrambled for 8 yards and, brought his team to the line for a pro-quality clock-killing spike that left 3 seconds for the scoring play. Eat your heart out, Joe Montana.

During the half-time, fans braced for a continuation of the tense defensive struggle.

After the grueling drives of the first half, however, the Falcons struck like lightning to open the second: Up-man Jaxon McAllister took the short opening kick-off and the Falcons started the second half on the 36 yard line. Two Pickwell carries put the ball at midfield. Ward then dropped back and threw a difficult, deep fade pass on the left side-line to his favorite receiver, Jackson Gentes. Gentes made the over-the-shoulder catch at the 30 yard line, slipped a tackle, and raced in for the 52 yard TD. **13-0**, Torrey Pines.

Two minutes later, Gentes was again the hero, when the Safety stepped up to intercept a Wolverine pass. The Falcons couldn't move the ball, but Punter Collin Brown hit one 65 yards (80 with the roll), and Westview was back at its 20.

Jack Condon stuffed Westview on the first play. On the second, the pitch was high and bobbled, Spencer Brewster hit the back hard, and Jackson Gentes came diving in for the fumble recovery.

Pickwell then scored on the first Torrey Pines play, a 15-yard run through a Lipincyzk-Lavery hole on the left side. Falcons, **20-0**.

McGahey and linebacker Miles Ahles combined to harass the Westview QB (two sacks on the three-play series), and Torrey Pines had the ball again as time was expiring in the 3rd Quarter. Collin Brown scored on an 8 yard run on the first play of the 4th quarter to make the score, **26-0**.

6-0, at half time. Then, 20 points in 10 minutes, 7 seconds. Falcons cruising.

The Torrey Pines Defense now included linemen Daniel In, Kyle Gross and Phillip Wright. They kept the pressure on Westview. On offense, Jaxon McAllister had 4 carries in the final quarter, while Brown, running behind a line that now included Johnny Yacovelle and AJ Nomikos added 17 yards, to keep the chains moving and the Wolverines off the field as much as possible.

A desperation Wolverine drive, and some nice scrambling by the QB Wilson (despite being sacked again on the drive by McGahey) made the score, **26-6** (2-point attempt stopped by Michael Shepherd).

Notes: In addition to McGahey's three sacks, Ahles, Pickwell and Aaron Small had sacks. Ward was 4-7 for 101 yards, 1 TD and 1 pick on the day. Balance:

Collin Brown: 10 carries, 55 yards; 1 TD; 1 reception for 10 yards.
Sean Haratyk: 7 carries, 56 yards; 1 TD; 1 reception for 13 yards.
Chase Pickwell: 11 carries, 56 yards; 1 TD; 1 reception for 26 yards.

Torrey Pines (6-0, 1-0) plays at home against **Rancho Bernardo** (1-5, 0-0) next week.