

## Eagles Get Defensive About Their Season



The Eagles' defense stopped Mary Star all night long. Photos by Marcy Dugan. www.marcyduaganphoto.com.

By Gregg McMullin

For a number of seasons, the El Segundo Eagles' football team had been recognized for its high-flying offense. But for the past several seasons, the defense has really turned some heads, and it really showed against Mary Star in a non-league match-up. The Eagle defense came up with two fumbles on consecutive Mary Star possessions to start the game. The first fumble was returned for a touchdown, and the second one led to another score as El Segundo (1-2) jumped out to a 21-0 first quarter lead and cruised to a 38-7 win.

Mary Star (1-2) and the Eagles have been facing each other all decade long, with the Eagles holding a 6-1-1 edge in the series. The two teams have been so closely matched that in all eight games the final score was decided by three points or less except for last year when the Eagles won handily 53-10. This year the Stars are capable of putting points on the board, especially with a strong ground game behind senior running back James Hungerford. He has been averaging over seven yards per carry in the first two games of the season. But on this night, the speed and the athleticism of the Eagles' defense dominated and Hungerford was held

to just 30 yards on eight carries.

The Stars took the opening kickoff. On the third play of the game, junior quarterback Cole Webb went back to pass but was sacked by Eagle defensive end Michael Rae. On the play, the ball was knocked loose and senior defensive tackle Justin Escobar picked up the fumble and ran 18 yards untouched for the score. The next series for the Stars wasn't much better either. The defense forced another turnover and the Eagles' Mike Manzo recovered the ball at the Mary Star 14 yard line. It took El Segundo quarterback Mike Bundy just two plays to get the Eagles in the end zone with a perfectly thrown pass to Hunter Hovland. Just like that, the Eagles had a 14-0 lead.

The Eagles, who had just four possessions in the first half, scored again with 1:38 left in the first quarter. They started on their own 20 yard line and used big plays to march down the field in nine plays. The series was bolstered by a 30-yard pass play from Bundy to junior wide-out Grant Palmer and a 17-yard pass play from Bundy to Jimmy Quinones that set up an 18-yard touchdown

See Eagles, page 22

## Boys Polo splits Non-League Encounter

By Kelly Kemp

The El Segundo boys varsity and junior varsity traveled to Whittier to play perennial foe La Serna High School, and then had a home match against another perennial—Crescenta Valley High School (CVHS). The Eagles split 1-1, but keep up their winning ways with a 5-3 record to date.

The away game, played at the neutral new "Splash Aquatic Center" in La Mirada, highlighted both teams' ability to score. El Segundo's Beau Blacksten, driver, had eight goals; Jackson Hogoboom, center forward, had two; Max Reynolds, attacker/driver, had one; and newcomer Csaba Nagy, center back, had one. Unfortunately, La Serna's sharpshooters found their way through the El Segundo defense, coming from behind to eclipse the Eagles 15-12.

Back at the Urho Saari Swim Stadium (The Plunge), the boys in blue were able to take Crescenta Valley to task, jumping to a 4-1 lead at the quarter and an 8-3 lead at halftime, with all players contributing. Especially nice was the increased defense by Nagy, playing in only his second game of the season, at the two-meter guard position. Csaba is a senior foreign exchange student whose clearance by the CIF-SS office just came through—congratulations and welcome! In that new role, he not only had several steals, but completely shut down the high-powered

opponent while playing in that role. Others weren't quite as effective this time around, giving up shots and ejections, but that was okay, thanks also to the final line of defense, Chris Cordobes had nine saves, more than half against layouts from set and lobs that he just plain outreached to the crossbar!

The goal tally in the Crescenta Valley game was led by Hogoboom with five—mostly from the two-meter set position. One was an extremely crowd-pleasing kick-up move where he fooled the defender into thinking layout, but then backhanded the scoring shot past the guard and goalie! Senior Blacksten continued his scoring streak with four, followed by Nagy with three, Reynolds with two, junior Jeff Allison with one, and senior sprinter Corby Cordobes with one. But that wasn't the whole story. The teamwork was! There were assists, blocks and steals galore by Allison, Blacksten, Chris and Corby Cordobes, Johnathon Combs, Reynolds (with a team-game-high four steals) and Nagy, who had three steals and a game-high two field blocks that prevented sure goals.

Next up: The Henry Stuart/South Bay Boys High School Championship at Mira Costa Pool and Urho Saari Swim Stadium this Friday and Saturday respectively. Remember, admission is free! Your El Segundo High School boys' first game tomorrow is most likely at 3 p.m. •

## Frankly Plank

By Duane Plank

Wow, how far have the not-so-mighty fallen? If any of you happened to be cruising by the back acreage of the mansion early last Friday, you may have seen a somewhat amusing sight. Some idiot was trying to jump into the dumpster. And let me tell you, fans, that is not an easy thing to do without the added boost of a chair.

Guess who the idiot was? Yup, it was *Plank*, who was looking for a kid's birth certificate. Which I had lost.

I may have mentioned that I am the team mom for my kids' club soccer team. So I end up with players' birth certs and need to take them to the registrar up in the PV to sign the kids up. Well, the lovely *Soccer Mom* was kind enough to make the trip up to PV to sign up our final kid, but she wanted no part of the birth cert. Afraid that she might lose it. So she made a copy of the paperwork, gave me back the original, which I immediately lost.

Thought that I had thrown it out. So I went "dumpster diving" early Friday morning. Didn't find it. Looked and looked. Ready to give up cuz I had to go to a very important appointment. But, as I was ready to quit, which is what I normally would do, I decided to jump back in the stinking dumpster, and actually methodically look for the cert. And guess what, I found the sucker! Points for persistence, right? Another proud moment for *Plank*.

Is there anyone out there who watched the much ballyhooed but ultimately failed TV show *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*? It was billed as a behind-the-scenes peek at a weekly late-night sketch show. Think *Saturday Night Live*. The show was beamed down to earth

on the NBC network, starting in the fall of 2006. Starred, among others, Mathew Perry and Bradley Whitford. Was the creation of *West Wing* mastermind Aaron Sorkin.

Anyway, the show never got traction with the fickle viewers out there, who, then as now, seemed to rather watch alleged stars sing and dance, or make out on a desert island. No accounting for taste out there, is there? The show was canceled in year one. Don't remember if they even broadcast all 22 of the shows that they had in the can.

They must have done something right, because the show was nominated for multiple trinkets in the award season of 2007. I reference the show not because I was one of the few who watched it and apparently "got" the clever writing, but because I still remember the harried persona of Perry's character.

He played head writer Matt Albie, who was the guy in charge of making sure that his writers wrote enough hilarious stuff to fill the 90-minute show. Each and every week. Think that's easy?

Albie had a big countdown clock in his office that, shockingly, counted down the hours, minutes and seconds until air time. So as the days passed, the clock ticked down towards the Saturday night show time. Seems like a tad bit of pressure. Tick-tock, tick-tock. Gotta write something funny.

So here's the deal, and why it relates to *Plank*. Once the show for the week was over, and the cast and crew headed down the road to celebrate, the clock just rolled over and started ticking down the hours until the next show. Tick-tock, tick-tock. Congrats for a job well done; now back to work. Not that anyone says that overtly. It is more of

See Frankly, page 26

## Warner Tanks for the Cards; Read it, Randy!

By Duane Plank

Sunday night out here in the palatial digs, watching the Indy Colts take an early lead against Kurt Warner and the Arizona Cardinals. It's 21-3 at this time. Maybe I should tweet this stuff, what'cha think? Or blog it? Would anyone out there read it? That's what I thought.

The Cards pathetic start in game tres of the regular season is doubly vexing to me because Warner is the QB on my fantasy team, so I need the Cards to win and the ex-grocery store bagger to put up some good numbers so that I can triumph in my all-important match-up this week.

Met a couple more column supporters this week. *WW*, the lacrosse guru of Mayberry, said he liked to read the ramblings that I post weekly. Thought that I was a fair and balanced guy with the musings in the *PP*.

Okay, that is what I strive for, so help me, Doc. And then on Sunday, while I was sneaking in a little research between soccer games, spoke with another reader. Now we are up to five! Readers, that is, not soccer games. But while he was complimenting me on the incredible awesomeness of the columns, a supporter since the beginning and column fave commented something to the effect about the "inaccuracies" in said columns. Wow, that hurts. Cuts right to the quick, that one does.

Anyway, 21-3 at the half, Warner just threw a pick at the goal line after the Colts' defense held every receiver in the pattern. Carumba!

Told *LSU Randy* that I would again put him in the column this week because when I referenced him a couple of weeks ago, he didn't know about it and wasn't able to read the shot at him, mainly because he doesn't get one of these fine papers, living in the Redondo Beach. Wake up, RB, and start taking this fine paper.

Anywho, Randy is a supporter of maybe the worst QB in the history of the NFL, the fatso JaMarcus Russell. Who threw for a robust 61 yards with two picks in last week's oh-so-predictable loss to the Denver Broncos, 23-3. Randy, you had mentioned if the lardo tanked again this week, you might give up on him? So?

Said a defensive back who has played against Russell this year: "No, man, he's pretty good. Not his fault that he has thrown a few picks. Keep him as their man—he'll grow on the job." Ha, ha. I made that one up.

Both of you Raider fans remember that *JM* was the numero uno pick in the draft a few years back, and held out, ruining his first year in the pros as he munched down cheeseburgers before signing his ludicrous contract.

But, trying to be fair, I must also relate that Randy's college team turned in a white knuckle victory last Saturday, besting the vaunted Mississippi State, 30-26. Apparently the LSU kids mad a goal line stand at the end of the game to beat the Bulldogs. Didn't see it, was doing more of the club soccer thing, but I trust the highlights that I saw on the tube late Saturday night.

Quick aside, but didn't get much sleep late Saturday night, early Sunday morning. Ya wanna know why? Well, it wasn't because I was out and about. It was because the neighbors were up late celebrating something. At about 4 bleeping a.m. Maybe they are big SC fans, don't know. Who wouldn't want to celebrate that riveting SC victory over Washington State? Trojans will roll over the Cal Bears this week, it says here.

And you all remember that I picked the Bruins to go down in flames this Saturday, against the Cardinal, right?

See Warner, page 26