

# Bundy Has Eagles Soaring over St. Bernards

By Gregg McMullin

The El Segundo Eagles survived a scare against St. Bernards in a non-league football game match-up that pitted two high-octane offenses against each other. The Eagles' special teams gave up a touchdown on a kickoff, let another long kickoff return set up another one, and allowed the Vikings to recover a fumble to set up yet another score. But the Eagles, behind senior quarterback Mike Bundy and a defensive unit that allowed a total of only 186 yards in the game, prevailed 34-21.

The game was billed as a shootout and was to be much closer than last year's 49-6 win for the Eagles. Bundy has averaged over 200 pass yards in each of the first three games of the season. On the other hand, St. Bernards' QB Christian Smith had thrown eight touchdown passes in three games, and running back Daniel Pipkin was averaging 110 yards rushing per game. But in football, much like other sports, you throw out the statistics and play the game. "They have a talented QB and running back and they give many different looks. So our defense prepared all week for their different schemes and formations," said defensive coordinator Dan Heck.

St. Bernards struck first with a 95-yard kickoff return from Jarrad Shaw to start the game, but the extra point attempt was wide, giving the Vikings a 6-0 lead. A few minutes later, Nigel Nootbaar recovered a fumble for the Eagles at the Viking 15 yard line. Bundy rewarded the junior tight end with a perfectly executed pass in the end zone for a 15-yard touchdown pass to give the Eagles a 7-6 lead.

Late in the first quarter, the Eagles got the ball back after another defensive stop. But on their first play, running back Nick Kessler fumbled the ball at the El Segundo 13 yard line. St. Bernards took advantage and scored on the first play. With the two-point PAT successful, the Vikings led 14-7.

Bundy then led the Eagles on a seven-play drive that covered 80 yards. The southpaw QB was 6-for-7 during the drive and Jimmy Quinones caught back-to-back passes for 42 yards. Bundy capped the all-passing drive with a 14-yard touchdown pass to junior Grant Palmer to tie the game.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Vikings' Shaw

nearly ran back another kickoff but was caught at the El Segundo five yard line. Shaw racked up 223 yards on kickoff returns on the night. Three plays later, the Vikings made it 21-14 with a rushing touchdown "We've worked hard all season long on our coverage, but I'm not sure how to stop someone like that," said special teams' coordinator Casey Gardner.

The Eagles made it a 21-17 game on the strength of junior place-kicker Adam Hobbs' 42-yard field goal. Hobbs ended up the night 4-for-4 on PATs and one-for-one on field goal attempts before getting hurt later in the game attempting to make a tackle on a kickoff.

The Eagles' defense, behind the play of senior linebacker Brandon Jimenez, had limited the high-powered Viking offense to just 122 yards of total offense in the first half. "We put ourselves in a hole after the fumble and the kickoff return, but we came together and we didn't let that beat us," he said.

The Eagles seemed to dominate the game but not the scoring, and were down 21-17. Bundy, who was 9-for-16 for 105 yards in the first half, was upbeat going in at halftime. "The defense is doing a heck of a job and we're moving the ball on offense, so everything should fall into place in the second half," he said.

Bundy's premonition was right on target as the Eagles took their third possession of the third quarter and went 90 yards in 12 plays to score the go-ahead touchdown. During the long series, the Eagles ran the ball and passed the ball six times apiece. The key play during the drive was on third and eight from their own 35-yard line where Bundy found Jimmy Quinones open for a 45-yard pickup. Four plays later, Bundy found Hunter Hovland open in the back of the end zone for a 10-yard touchdown pass. The Eagles added a 12-yard touchdown run by Nick Kessler and a 32-yard field goal by Grant Palmer later in the fourth quarter to win handily 34-21.

Though impressed with his team's effort Eagle, head coach Steve Shevlin thought there was still room for improvement. "We played well on defense and moved the ball down the field on offense, but we need to do a better job of protecting Mike (Bundy)

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# Water Polo Wins Bronze!



Chris Cordobes prepares to block the Crescenta Valley score. Cordobes had 12 saves against Crescenta Valley and 14 against Santa Monica. Photo by Shelley Kemp, www.kemp.photorelect.com

By Kelly Kemp

Two top South Bay teams earned medalist status this past weekend in the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Henry Stuart South Bay Boys High School Water Polo Tournament—Mira Costa of the Bay League and El Segundo of the Ocean League—and each enjoyed a four-goal victory in their medal games. El Segundo put away Santa Monica 11-7 in the first final, and Mira Costa dispatched Crescenta Valley in the nightcap 10-6.

Entering the weekend, El Segundo found itself with a strong 7-3 record, having recently beaten Whittier Christian and Sunny Hills, highlighted by multiple goals by Beau Blacksten, Jackson Hogoboom, Csaba Nagy and Max Reynolds.

In the tournament, El Segundo's first round game was against San Marino, where it was refreshing to see new faces in the pool, se-

niors Stephen Laskey and Morgan Sommo, scoring goals, the latter with a really sweet sweep shot from the left post position. Both players have been on the bench recovering from injuries, so it was nice for the Eagles to be at full strength.

The second game was a runaway score over Ocean League foe Culver City, with Laskey and Sommo both scoring again. They had also had plenty of help from Max Reynolds and Beau Blacksten, who had four goals apiece. The keynote of the game was Reynolds' game-high of five assists. "High-five" to Eagles!

The third opponent, Crescenta Valley, did not prove as easy as the recent visit last week, when El Segundo led 8-3 early and coasted to a 15-9 win. This time, it was Crescenta

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