

Defense Plays a ‘Heck’ of a Game for Eagles



Christian Rivera, Chris Mullins and #29 Steven Sellens close in on a Lawndale running back

By Gregg McMullin

The El Segundo High School football team’s success this year hasn’t been all offense. Just ask Eagle head coach Steve Shevlin. No, the Eagles aren’t just a one dimensional team that averages 26 points per game. They also have a defensive unit that has been very limiting. When the Eagles faced Lawndale in a Pioneer League game match-up with playoff implications, the offense put up their points and the defense shut down the high-octane Cardinals 24-20, thus ensuring a second straight postseason playoff appearance for the Eagles. “The defense really stepped up tonight just like they have all year long,” said Shevlin.

The pre-game pep talk by the Eagles’ coaching staff reminded the team that Lawndale is an explosive running team that has averaged 42 points per game when it wins and 17 points when it loses. So the defense would need to stop the Cardinal running attack, while El Segundo’s quarterback would have to keep Eagle drives going and moving the chains. “It will all come down to ball control and who makes the fewest mistakes. They’ll get the yards we just need to stop the big plays,” Shevlin reminded his team.

The Eagles’ defense took heed during the first series to start the game and make a statement. Cardinal running back Jamal Fleming, who averaged over 9.4 yards per rushing attempt, led his team carrying seven times for 32 yards to the Eagle’s 21 yard line. On fourth-and-one, the Eagle defense stacked Fleming behind the line of scrimmage and thus had made its statement. Eagles’ defensive coordinator Dan Heck said it was important to make a stop early on and give the offense an opportunity. “The guys have really been playing well all year and it’s been paying

off and it really showed during their first series,” he said.

The offense took over and Bundy led the group on a 10-play drive that included the senior quarterback completing 7-for-7 for 67 yards before Grant Palmer connected for a 28-yard field goal. The Eagles’ defense once again forced Lawndale to give the ball back and the offense went back to work, going on a nine-play drive. It all came together on a Bundy to Brice Savage 31-yard touchdown pass. “I saw the defense in a man-to-man defense and I’ll take Brice in that situation 100 percent of the time,” said Bundy.

El Segundo went into halftime with a 10-0 lead and all the momentum and although it seemed like they were dominating the game, the Eagles had merely done what they’d set out to do. Limiting the Cardinals to 124 rushing yards in the first half was huge and Heck reiterated his plea to the defense to make sure the running backs were aware of the defense. “Swarm the ball carrier and make sure we get more than one helmet on him,” he said.

The Eagles continued their momentum to start the second half and went 78 yards in seven plays. Bundy, who was 20-for-26 for 226 yards, completed three straight passes before hooking up with Nigel Nootbaar on a 16-yard touchdown pass for a 17-0 lead. Lawndale countered on its first possession of the second half with a two-yard run by Fleming to make it 17-6.

After the Eagles were forced to punt on their ensuing possession, the Cardinals had the ball on their own 15 yard line. On the first play from scrimmage, Belton fumbled

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Student’s forum

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Completing Your College Applications Without Stressing Out

By Michelle Lanphere Green

After building the perfect list of schools, the hard work of completing the applications, begins. The first step should be researching each school’s application deadlines and requirements. Creating an outline of the deadlines and tasks can keep you organized and on-track through this process.

Getting acquainted with what the colleges require is critical. What is the application deadline? Do they need your current transcript of grades? (You can get this from your school registrar.) Will they also require “mid-year grades” at the end of your fall semester? There may be a fee for these official transcripts, depending upon your high school policy. Order transcripts early, to avoid the rush and to guarantee you get them on time.

Do you need a recommendation from a counselor, a teacher, a coach or a personal recommendation? How many will you need? If so, you should have already asked them nicely, well in advance, that you are hoping

they can recommend you to your colleges. Providing them with a resume of your activities, your goals and GPA will help them complete the recommender in this task. (The UC and CSU schools do not require recommendations, but private colleges need them.) Can recommendations be sent on high school letterhead, or completed online? Make sure you find out what is the proper way to return these to the admissions office and let the recommenders know, so they do it right and on time.

Most applications are submitted electronically at each college’s website. Some schools offer a “snap app”, with reduced fee or fee-free. Hundreds of colleges now take the Common Application. If any of your colleges are on the list, you can fill out fewer applications and essays by using this service, which can be a big timesaver.

When you sign up for your account at the college websites, don’t forget to keep your

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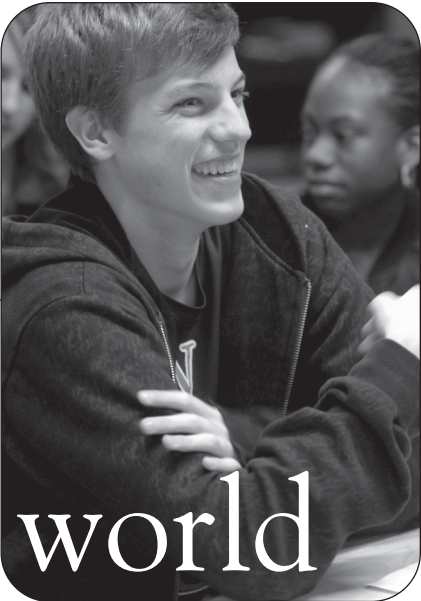
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