

Not a Good Knight for the Eagles



Michael Bundy finished his football career at El Segundo as the second most prolific passer with over 6,800 in passing yards.

By Gregg McMullin

The El Segundo Eagles' football season came to a close with their 34-11 loss to third-ranked St Joseph's (Santa Maria) in the quarterfinals of the CIF Southern Section Northwest Division. In a game that was more of a David versus Goliath, the obvious underdog Eagles did all they could against a team that has an offensive line that averages 274 pounds. They battled the odds throughout the night and even when a number of starters were knocked out of the game, the Eagles did what they could until the very end.

This was the third playoff game these two schools have played in the past five year. But unlike the previous two games when the Knights defeated the Eagles 14-6 in the first contest and the Eagles won last year's battle 24-20, this game wasn't close. It was a game in which the Eagles were outmanned and were much smaller than their parochial counterparts. El Segundo came into the game big underdogs for a number of reasons, but their odds of an upset decreased even more in the second half. When Jimmy Quiñones, Hunter Hovland and Dakota McAllister couldn't play in the second half because of injuries, the Eagles' season appeared on the

brink. "I couldn't have been any prouder of this team, especially with the adversity we went through with the injuries and all," said Eagle head coach Steve Shevlin.

The Eagles' defense, which had been solid all year long, had no answer for the running game of the Knights behind their massive line. Knights' running back KJ Cusack, who has run for over 1,800 yards on the year, literally held on to the back of his linemen as he hit the holes that opened up. Once through the opening, he used his speed and agility to find extra yardage in the Eagle secondary. Cusack ended the night rushing 29 times for 261 yards and four touchdowns.

Early in the first quarter, it looked as though the Eagles might be able to hold their own against the Knights. On the third-and-long during St Joseph's first possession to start the game, Cusack found a small opening in the line. He shrugged off one defender and broke out into the open on his way to a 65-yard touchdown run. The Eagles countered on their first series with quarterback Mike Bundy moving the offense from its own 33 yard line to the 47. But a muffed play that caused a fumble on the handoff exchange

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El Segundo High Girls Soccer Season Preview

By Rick Reaser

The Lady Eagles girls' soccer team is working hard for what they hope will be a repeat of last year's magical season. In 2009, they were Pioneer League Champions and made it to the CIF-SS Division V semi-finals. With 10 returning varsity players, Head Coach Juan Mosquera has experienced talent that should serve him well over the coming months. The squad will need it as they face some of the toughest teams in the South Bay during their 21-game regular season. The Eagles' 11 seniors, four juniors and four sophomores have their eyes fixed on back-to-back League Championships and moving deep into the CIF-SS Division V playoffs.

Leading the charge will be Senior Halima Abdelshife, one of the team's three Captains. Abdelshife returns as the Eagles Varsity Best Defensive Player, Pioneer League Best Defensive Player and a member of the LA 84 All CIF Division V First Team. Coach Mosquera is looking for Halima to fill the big shoes left empty by Jenna Rich, now at Stanford. Abdelshife brings a lot of energy to the game. Look for her to be a major play maker in the midfield. Sophomore Darcy Brown, will be the other key midfielder assisting Abdelshife in the transition from defense to offense. Brown hopes to fill the void left by last year's Pioneer League

MVP, Courtney Hobbs who now attends Arizona State.

Senior and Captain Natalie Barbosa will be leading the team's offense. Barbosa was the Eagles Varsity Best Offensive Player in 2009. She was also named to the Pioneer All League First Team as well as the LA 84 All CIF Division V Third Team. Her speed and skills will pose a serious threat to all who El Segundo faces on the pitch. Junior Erin Burner, the 2009 JV Best Offensive Player, will be a major force assisting Barbosa to ensure the ball gets into the opponent's net.

Shoring up the defense will be Sophomore Captain Amanda Romero. The versatile Romero, was named the Eagles Varsity Rookie of the Year in 2009 and comes off an impressive club season as a key starter on an exclusive Premier team. Amanda can stop nearly any striker she faces, and nimbly carries the ball from 18 to 18—as a fullback! Working closely with Romero will be Junior Sammy Laplante who was named to the Pioneer All League Second Team in 2009. Laplante is able to rocket the ball from touch line to touch line with surgical accuracy. Her skill, speed and size puts fear in the heart of any striker who crosses her path.

Though many players have left since last

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Frankly

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good prediction, eh?

Wife told me that another person actually read and liked one of my columns last week. Up to five supporters, the number is growing, and in 2010 the goal is to take this sucker national, to reap in the big bucks that the syndicated guys like Mitch Albom garner. Led a column last week with the reference to garages, and does anyone still park their car there? This lady apparently has two cars that she shoehorns into her garage. Good for her. But then where does she store all of her nebulous junk? Boy, am I jealous. I pay for a storage unit, store stuff here and there, and still don't have enough room. Thinking of subletting some of my storage space. Any takers?

Mentioned last week that the front-room TV in the mansion wasn't working, that the DVR box had a corrupted access card. Talked to the DirecTV folks Thursday night and still hadn't seen the replacement card by Wednesday morning. Yikes! Almost a full week without access to the boob tube in the front. Maybe shouldn't use "boob tube" because of last week's reference to adult TV. But how the hell did I survive? *Did I survive?* As of Monday a.m., still no card. What a pisser!

Bet you really care how my Fantasy Football team is doing, right, fans? Especially after everyone's favorite fantasy QB, the blob that was/is JaMarcus Russell, was finally cast off to the pine by the next Vince Lombardi of the NFL, Raider coach Tom Cable. Who may have some trouble of his own down the road, what with his reported "anger" issues.

Well, thanks for asking. I am currently sitting in fourth place after losing in my game against my kid this week. He is leading the family league that we play in, trying to defend his crown that he won last year.

I have actually been paying attention to my team this season, shuffling guys in and out of the lineup each week. Dropped a bunch of Ram players from the roster, but have held on to running back Steven Jackson, who has been playing his butt off for the woebegone Rambos. Who are going to have to survive the rest of the season, probably,

without QB Marc "Tinman" Bulger, who got himself hurt, again, a couple of weeks ago. Still cashing the checks, though. Course I benched Jackson this week because he was "questionable" before the loss against Seattle. But he played. Oh, well. Win some, lose some.

Back to my Rams. In reality, I am way too critical of Bulger. Not his fault that he is way overpaid, having put up some gaudy numbers when the offensive genius, Mike Martz, was still running the foosball show that used to be known as the Greatest Show on Turf. I wouldn't have turned down the ludicrous money that was bestowed upon the second-tier QB. By the way, the original gunslinger in the Martz offense, one grocery-bagger from the now-defunct Arena League, Kurt Warner, is still doing a pretty decent job captaining the ship that is the Arizona Cardinals. And Mr. Warner, who I have admitted to having a man-crush on, also happens to be my Fantasy QB. But he missed last week's loss to Tennessee with a nasty concussion.

By the way, did you notice that when Warner was dinged in the noggin in a recent game against my Rams, Matt Leinart, pride of the school down the street Figueroa way, came into the game and led the Cardinal offense straight into the tank? Which seems par for the course for Matty boy. And on the same day, some ex-SC QB by the name of Sanchez continued to circle the drain, chucking picks left and right in another Jet loss, this time to the New England Pats?

Wasn't it about two months ago when the Sanchez kid was being sent straight to the Hall of Fame in Canton by the East Coast frontrunners and myopic morons who blather on at ESPN? Watching the ex-Trojan QB stink up the joint, sitting next to a local ex-SC sports legend who was definitely beside himself. And then said legend of the sand took a shot at current SC disappearing D-back Taylor Mays, who decided to stay at SC and not enter the pro draft, as the befuddled Sanchez did last spring. Said the legend, and I paraphrase, "Mays stinks!"

Maybe the legend of the sand is a little more forgiving after the Trojans' victory? •

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