

Jimenez and Quinones to Lead Eagles' 2009 Defense



Jimmy Quinones was an All-Pioneer League selection on defense in 2008

By Gregg McMullin

The El Segundo Eagles' football team has been known for its scoring machine offense. With a long line of great quarterbacks who annually throw for over 2,000 yards, it wasn't an issue with scoring. The defense wasn't getting the publicity because the offensive unit was doing so well. Much of that has been erased and the opposition has had to deal with the Eagles' stout defense in recent years. Much of that design is due to defensive coordinator Dan Heck and how well his defensive alignments have stopped the opposing team's offense.

The Eagles were a play or two from making a CIF finals appearance in 2008, and in 2006 they were one play from advancing to the quarterfinals. Both losses were to CIF powerhouse Serra and in both games the plays were on defense. But don't let those two losses fool you because in both cases the Eagles had dominated on defense. Luck and a very generous spot by the officials prevented the Eagles from victory in both cases.

Though the Eagles lost their entire defensive line, they do return perhaps one of the best secondary units in the Pioneer League if not the South Bay. The linebacking corps is quick and physical and the defensive backs have a knack to read the plays well. "We're inexperienced on the line, but the linebackers and our secondary will more than make up for that," said Heck.

Up front, the Eagles will use Michael Rae, Mike Port, Matt Booterbaugh, John Krause and Justin Escobar to start. They are all capable athletes, but inexperience may be their downfall. What might bring them up to speed in a hurry is that most of them are playing on the offensive line too. Going both ways should give them a better understanding for the game as the season moves along. "The downside is being on the field for so long, but they have all worked hard all summer long to get in shape and they're capable of staying on the field," said Heck.

Every good defense will rely on its linebackers like the Eagles did in 2008. Lost to graduation are Gage Mortesen (Northern Arizona) and Kyle Yatabe (Willamette, Oregon), who were two of the area's best. Returning to anchor the linebackers and the defense is senior Brandon Jimenez. He has the size and speed to fill the vacancies of Mortesen and Yatabe and he reads the play extremely well. Other linebackers will include Brandon Vallejo, Nigel Nootbaar and Nick Kessler (a 2008 All-Pioneer League selection).

The secondary should be the real strength of the Eagles on defense. Jimmy Quinones is at one cornerback spot and is a three-year starter. The All-Pioneer League selection in

2008 already has the most interceptions in El Segundo football history. He returns once again to anchor a secondary that not only has experience and speed, but has football sense as well. Sean DeFrancesco (three-year starter) will be at another cornerback spot while Grant Palmer (two-year starter) will be at safety.

What may plague the Eagles will be the depth they have or not have since El Segundo was forced to cancel its junior varsity team due to budget cuts. The varsity team may have more players on its roster, but what once was a feeder system for players to get some experience will be gone. So those same players will need to pick the game up in practices to see valuable playing time. "It's a numbers game but the entire team is coming together," said Heck.

The Eagles held a scrimmage against Bay League power Peninsula and according to Heck, the defense was spectacular. The Panthers looked out of shape while the Eagles were ready for more. Coach Heck said that the Eagles' first teams on both sides of the ball dominated. "We looked good so we'll see how we do against West Torrance," he said.

The Eagles open their 2009 season Friday night at West Torrance for a 7 p.m. kickoff. The Eagles shut out West last year 3-0 and would like to spoil the Warriors' home opener on their new turf field. Next Friday the Eagles travel to Cathedral to take on the Phantoms before returning home on September 25 to take on Mary Star at 7 p.m.

Eagles News and Notes

Former Eagle football standout Jordan Orchewa has turned in his football helmet for a different kind of helmet. Orchewa was one of the Eagles' top linemen who graduated this past June. He is currently enrolled in the Army ROTC Ranger program and is attending classes at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs.

The Ranger program is the Army's version of the Navy Seals program and it takes hard work and a passion to succeed to get through the program. Orchewa, who didn't start playing football until high school, credits his teamwork and work ethic to his football coaches, including Steve Shevlin and Jun Masuda. Coach Shevlin said, "Jordan Orchewa worked as hard learning the game of football and what he could do for the team as anyone I've ever coached. Jordan was truly a team player."

Two other Eagle 2008 standouts are continuing their football careers at the community college level. Kicker Alex Merced and receiver Kevin Post are playing at Harbor College and both look to bolster a team that went 3-7 in 2008. •

Police Reports

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

One male adult was arrested at 0132 hours from Imperial Highway and California Street for misdemeanor DUI, driving on a suspended license with a prior DUI, and one ESPD misdemeanor warrant.

Two juveniles were detained at 1153 hours from Imperial Highway and Pershing Drive for burglary.

Vandalism report was taken at 1617 hours in the 400 block of Indiana Street. Victim's parked vehicle was found "keyed."

Grand theft property report was taken in the 2100 block of East El Segundo. Taken were two plasma televisions.

Found property report was taken at 1756 hours in the 400 block of Sheldon Street. Found was a black Canon Rebel camera with lens.

Two male adults were arrested at 2054 hours in the 1200 block of East Acacia Avenue for suspicion of burglary and possession of burglary tools.

One male adult was arrested at 2118 hours from Main Street and El Segundo Boulevard for plain drunk in public.

One male adult was arrested at 2207 hours in the 300 block of Main Street for one ESPD misdemeanor traffic warrant.

One male adult was arrested at 2343 hours from Rosecrans Avenue and Isis for one LASD misdemeanor traffic warrant.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

One male adult was arrested at 0106 hours from Sepulveda Boulevard and Mariposa Avenue for one LASD misdemeanor traffic warrant.

One male adult was arrested at 0447 hours from El Segundo Boulevard and Standard Street for giving false information to a peace officer.

One female adult was arrested at 0543 hours from Holly Street and Indiana Court for possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Vandalism occurred between 0545 hours and 0745 hours in the 300 block of East Walnut Avenue. Victim found a green liquid substance on the hood of his parked vehicle.

One female adult was arrested at 0940 hours in the 400 block of Main Street for plain drunk in public.

Burglary (vehicle) report was taken at 1907 hours in the 800 block of South Nash Street. Taken were a computer and tools.

One female adult was arrested at 1921 hours in the 1400 block of East Walnut Avenue for plain drunk in public.

One male adult was arrested at 2206 hours in the 100 block of Sierra Street for violation of a court order.

One male adult was detained at 2157 hours in the 600 block of West Imperial Avenue and transported to Harbor General Hospital for 72-hour psychiatric evaluation.

Battery report was taken at 2322 hours in the 500 block of North Continental Boulevard. A male adult injured victim during an altercation over money she owed him.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

One male adult was arrested at 0220 hours from Vista Del Mar and Hyperion for possession of a controlled substance, misdemeanor DUI, and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

Grand theft report was taken at 1057 hours from the 2200 block of Park Place. Unknown suspect(s) took the victim's catalytic converter.

Traffic accident (no injuries) occurred at 1555 hours in the 1400 block of East Mariposa Avenue.

Traffic accident with minor injury occurred at 1559 hours at Continental Boulevard and El Segundo Boulevard, two vehicles involved.

Traffic accident with minor injury occurred at 1754 hours at El Segundo Boulevard and Sepulveda Boulevard, vehicle versus motorcycle.

One female adult was detained at 1916 hours in the 100 block of South Sepulveda Boulevard and transported to Harbor General

Hospital for 72-hour psychiatric evaluation.

One male juvenile was detained at 2251 hours at Maple Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard for suspicion of receiving stolen property.

One male adult was arrested at 2335 hours at Hyperion and Vista Del Mar Boulevard for possession of a controlled substance and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Burglary report was taken at 0355 hours in the 2000 block of E. Rosecrans Avenue. Unknown suspect(s) entered a building and took items.

Found property report was taken at 1152 hours from the 900 block of Hillcrest Street. Found was a set of keys.

One female adult was arrested at 1320 hours from Eucalyptus Drive and Pine Avenue for driving without a license and was subsequently issued a citation.

Property report taken at 1406 hours from the 1500 block of E. Palm Avenue. Two guns were turned in for destruction.

One male adult was arrested at 1650 hours from Sycamore Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard for possession of less than an ounce marijuana in a vehicle and was subsequently issued a citation.

One male adult was detained at 1954 hours from the 300 block of E. Grand Avenue and transported to Harbor General Hospital for a 72-hour psychiatric evaluation.

One male adult was arrested at 0002 hours from the 600 block of Vista Del Mar for one outstanding LAPD misdemeanor traffic warrant.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

One male adult was arrested at 0124 hours at El Segundo Boulevard and Sierra Street for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving without a license.

Two males adults were arrested at 0124 hours at El Segundo Boulevard and Sierra Street for plain drunk in public.

One male adult was arrested at 0348 hours at Imperial Highway and Main Street for a probation violation.

Grand theft report was taken at 0829 hours from the 900 block of Selby Street. Unknown suspect(s) took the catalytic converter from the victim's vehicle.

Property report was taken at 0957 hours from the 700 block of Loma Vista Street. An old gun was turned in for destruction.

One male adult was arrested at 1501 hours from the 800 block of Lomita Street for assault with a deadly weapon, domestic battery and criminal threats.

Vandalism report was taken at 1539 hours from the 700 block of W. Imperial Avenue. Unknown suspect(s) keyed the victim's vehicle.

One male adult was arrested at 1756 hours at Imperial Highway and Sepulveda Boulevard for one outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

One male adult was cited at 1815 hours at Imperial Highway and Sepulveda Boulevard for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.

Annoying phone calls report was taken at 1912 hours from the 300 block of Kansas Street.

One male adult was arrested at 0046 hours from California Street and Imperial Highway for one outstanding Inglewood P.D. misdemeanor traffic warrant.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

One male adult was arrested at 0202 hours from LAPD Pacific Division for one outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

Lost property report was taken at 1055 hours in the 500 block of N. Sepulveda Boulevard. A tour guide misplaced his video camera in the Hacienda Hotel.

Identity theft report was taken at 1532 hours in the 400 block of California Street. Unknown suspect charged \$45.00 over the last

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