

# Eagles' Great Effort Not Enough in Opener

By Gregg McMullin

The 2009 El Segundo Eagles' football season opened up at West Torrance, but before the game the players and fans paid tribute to the victims who died on September 11, 2001 when America was savagely attacked. Each player interlocked their arms with their opponents' arms as they stood in the end zone staring at an American flag at half mast. Afterwards, the two teams locked up in a battle of their own with the Eagles' hard effort coming up short in a 14-7 loss.

This would become a game of who had what, and may be a peek into what is to come later on during the season. For West Torrance, it would look to a smash mouth-type running game and ball control to set up a pass to its talented wide receiver. For the Eagles, they would look to their three-year starting quarterback Mike Bundy to once again lead their high-octane offense. The only question would be depth and who had it and who didn't.

Early on, the Eagles had trouble running the ball behind an athletic but inexperienced front line. So Bundy took to the air, but was just one of five during the first series of the year. The Warriors put pressure on Bundy, but the senior QB was mobile enough to escape time and time again. "The line did a great job giving me time—I just missed my targets," he said.

The game was a defensive struggle for both teams, but West was able to move the ball on the ground behind senior running back Dan Henggeler. The Warriors were moving the ball well on their second possession when Eagle defensive end Michael Rae tracked down West quarterback Ronnie Clark for a 10-yard loss, forcing the Warriors to punt the ball back to the Eagles.

On its next possession, West once again stuck to the running game and consistently picked up three and four yards per carry. On second down, the Warriors went to the air and Clark completed a short pass to his favorite target Kyle Slowey. Slowey turned to go up field, where he was met by senior cornerback Jimmy Quinones. Quinones hit the West receiver with such force that he not only caused a fumble, but stripped the ball away to give the Eagles great field position. The Eagles and Bundy made the most of it by going 38 yards in five plays, capped by a 15-yard scoring strike from Bundy to Brice Savage and a 7-0 Eagles lead.

The Eagles had the ball for two more possessions in the first half, but couldn't capitalize on other decent field position. On the other hand, the Eagles' defense kept up its relentless pressure on West's offense and held the Warriors in check. In fact, the Eagles' defense limited the Warriors to just four first half first downs, including one on a personal foul late in the second quarter.

"We played well on both sides of the ball," said Eagle head coach Steve Shevlin.

If the Eagles set the tone in the first half by countering everything West did, then the Warriors set the tone in the second half by keeping the ball away from the Eagles' offense. The Warriors took the opening kickoff of the second half and used up over seven minutes of the third quarter. They went 55 yards in 13 plays before Michael Rae came up with his second sack of the Warriors' quarterback to stop the drive at the Eagles' 39 yard line.

The Warriors used another time-consuming drive to finally get on the scoreboard, and it was capped off with Henggeler's six-yard touchdown run to tie the game at 7-7. With the Eagles' line going both ways for the most part, it appeared that West's line was able to control the Eagles and continue to keep possessions for longer periods of time.

El Segundo had just four second half possessions because of the ball control offense that West had presented. In fact, the Eagles had a net minus-three yards for the third quarter, during which they ran just six plays. "Our guys were on the field long periods of time and especially in the third quarter," said Shevlin.

West Torrance had the momentum in the fourth quarter, but El Segundo's defense kept up its fight to stave off the Warriors from scoring until late in the fourth quarter. With 4:40 left in the game, the Warriors went on a seven-play drive that started on their own 27 yard line. Henggeler, who rushed for 174 yards on 28 carries, picked up 41 yards on three carries during the Warriors' final scoring drive. The drive ended with his eight-yard burst up the middle to give the Warriors a 14-7 lead with 1:32 left on the clock.

The Eagles took their last possession of the game at their own 32 yard line. Bundy then completed three of four passes to get the Eagles down to the Warrior 23 yard line. On the drive, Nick Kessler picked up 17 yards on a screen pass and Grant Palmer picked up another 20 on a naked screen over the middle.

With 0:42 seconds left in the game, the Eagles, without any timeouts, fumbled the ball back to the Warriors on the snap. With that, any chance of a comeback was quashed. "I'm not sure what happened on that last snap, whether it was me or a bad exchange," said Bundy.

Afterwards, Shevlin congratulated his team for its overall effort and said that if it kept up this level of progress, the Eagles would be okay. "It hurts to lose a game that you know you put so much into it and to come up on the short end," Shevlin said. "They are a good football team and so are we, and

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# Eagles Cross Country Off to a Speedy Season Start



Megan Freiburger dukes it out against Mater Dei for third place in the homestretch.

Provided By Doug Sersun

Backed by three top-ten finishes, the El Segundo High School cross country team opened the 2009 season with a solid showing at the Fastback Shootout on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Mt. San Antonio College. The season opener featured a unique competition format in which the athletes competed by class year in contrast to the usual Varsity/JV breakout over a two-mile course.

Freshman Megan Freiburger was the Eagle's top finisher placing third clocking a time of 12:36 on the famed course in the hills of Walnut. Classmates Jordan Mullins and Anna Farello followed close behind placing fifth (13:12) and ninth (13:26) respectively. Mandie Segura ran to an impressive 21<sup>st</sup> place (14:50) finish, followed by Macy Vezina in 28<sup>th</sup> (15:03). Hannah Garza (57<sup>th</sup>), Analise Fernandez (58<sup>th</sup>), Savannah Long (64<sup>th</sup>), Keri Schumacher (70<sup>th</sup>), and Kelly O'Shea (113<sup>th</sup>) rounded out the freshman ladies' team with great performances of their own. The remarkably strong finish by these young athletes bodes well for the future of El Segundo's growing cross-country program.

The upper-class ladies were paced by senior MacKenzie Lee who had a medal-winning 34<sup>th</sup> place (15:03) showing in the

tough senior division and by junior Cara de Freitas Bart (66<sup>th</sup>).

On the young men's side, junior Austin Van Biezen was the swiftest of the bunch with a medal-winning 36<sup>th</sup> place (11:57) finish. The juniors also had impressive runs by Michael Moore in 51<sup>st</sup> place (12:34), Sebastian Maurino in 74<sup>th</sup> (13:24), brother Cristian Maurino in 89<sup>th</sup> (14:23), and Jordan Stalls in 97<sup>th</sup> (15:00). Sophomores Rex Umbenhaur and Charlie Nicholson showed that they are varsity contenders with strong efforts in their race heat at 75<sup>th</sup> (13:30) and 78<sup>th</sup> (13:47) place respectively. Seniors Chris Reed (78<sup>th</sup>), Zac Garland (90<sup>th</sup>), and Nick Fletcher (93<sup>rd</sup>) ran well in the last race of the day.

As with the lady Eagles, the freshmen guys look to be a force to be reckoned with as they mature. Newcomer Joel Foster missed out on a medal by one position at 41<sup>st</sup> (13:15), surprising the talented Chris Reimann who slowed to a 48<sup>th</sup> place finish (13:23) after a minor mid race injury. Brett Wood (56<sup>th</sup>) and Ethan Liang (64<sup>th</sup>) showed their ability to be varsity contenders. Six freshmen rounded out the deep pool of talent running brave races of their own. They included Conor Forsythe (91<sup>st</sup>), Ryan Steele (97<sup>th</sup>), Spencer

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