

Eagles Have the Skill to Succeed in 2009



Offensive tackle Mike Port listens to his line coach Jun Masuda

By Gregg McMullin

The El Segundo Eagles' football team had a magical run in 2008 that ended in the CIF Northwest Division semifinals against Serra. The Eagles had only advanced to the semis once before (1987) and were loaded with seniors that were significant to their success. This year's team could be just as good if not better, according to head coach Steve Shevlin, because of the skill players returning. "I think we're going to surprise people with what we have coming back," he said.

Once again, El Segundo should have a high-flying offense and that, says Shevlin, should make opposing defenses skeptical about trying to stop one aspect of the Eagles' attack. With the skill players returning on the offensive side, the Eagles will produce a lot of points and should control the time of possession each week. There is a catch to all of the optimism though, and that's because the Eagles lost their entire starting front five on the line to graduation. With the likes of Dolph Adomian (Claremont-Mudd), Matt Manzo and Trevor Doukakakis (Santa Monica College) and Richard Seigel (West LACC) lost to graduation, the Eagles will have an inexperienced but physical line.

The line play will be a vital part of the offense and it should be interesting to watch as the team grows as a unit each game. The Eagles will have size, and the way they have been working together under the guise of line coach Jun Masuda, it doesn't appear that there is much of a drop-off from last year to this year except in experience. "They have really worked hard over the summer and they look like they have a grasp of our complex offense," said Masuda.

Matt Booterbaugh and Mike Port will be the tackles, and according to Masuda the play of Port could be important since he

has the most experience. The guards will be Armando Clemente and Matt Larson and both have shown quickness and improved blocking techniques. The key to the line will be its center where sophomore John Krause takes over for Adomian, who was one of the top centers in the South Bay in 2008. "John looks like he's been a starter for years and he's going to be another good one to watch," said Masuda.

The offense will once again be led by three-year starting quarterback Mike Bundy. Bundy, an All-Pioneer League selection, starts his senior year as one of the top quarterbacks in the South Bay, if not the entire Northwest Division. Bundy has thrown for 4,188 yards and has tossed 37 touchdown passes in his two-year career. Those numbers could have been higher, but injuries have kept him out of a number of games in the past.

In the past the Eagles had relied on their passing game, but last year with Gage Mortesen (Northern Arizona) and Kyle Yatabe (Willamette College, Oregon) running the ball so well, it was a more balanced attack. This year's running backs could continue that balanced attack with Nick Kessler, Brice Savage and Trevor Thompkins sharing the load. Kessler is a three-year starter, but this is his first year in the backfield. Savage is as powerful a runner with explosive speed as the Eagles have had. Thompkins is new to the offense and looks like he'll be another threat for defenses to contend with this season.

Perhaps the strength in overall experience will come at the receiver spots. Despite the losses of Kevin Post and Joey Schaffhauser (El Camino JC) to graduation, the corps of talented receivers continues with three-year starter Jimmy Quinones, and two-year

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Dear Carol

Dear Carol,

My nephew and his wife are coming for a visit. They are young, fun-loving and have stayed with me before. I've gone out of my way to make sure they have a good time. I buy lots of good food and drink for them and usually get tickets for a play or concert for all of us to enjoy. I recently retired and can no longer afford to treat them in such a generous way. They can afford to pay their own way but I've always had the role of generous hostess. How can I give them a hint that their financial contribution would really be appreciated?

Anxious Auntie

Dear Auntie,

There is no need to hint and hope that they get the message; they should contribute financially to the fun. If you would like to avoid a face to face conversation about finances just write them a brief note telling them how much you are looking forward to their visit and, because of your newly retired status you would like them to pay their own way. Wait until they arrive to do the major shopping for their visit; they can split the grocery and drink bill with you. We all get into habits in our relationships, expecting people and situations to stay the same. It is a kindness to let others know about lifestyle changes otherwise misunderstandings can lead to anger and confusion.

Dear Carol,

I live in a nice condo townhouse. Almost everyone gets along really well even though there is a real mix of people here. We have young singles, families with young children and retired folks. There is one grouchy old man who objects to just about everything. He yells at the children when they make drawings in chalk on the concrete in the courtyard. I think their art is beautiful and should be encouraged. He says he is going to go to the condominium association board and have the parents of the child artists fined for putting graffiti on the sidewalks. I think that is a terrible idea but I don't know how to stop him.

Art Appreciator

Dear Appreciator,

Get your neighbors who agree with you to go to the meeting so you can express your opinions. The condominium board is elected by the home owners and they would probably like to hear from more than just one resident. If others won't go with you please create a petition supporting the children's sidewalk chalk art, have the residents sign with their unit numbers and present that to the board. The majority should be able to establish a reasonable rule. Please make an effort to smile at this unhappy person, engage him in friendly conversation. Perhaps he is just lonely and needs something positive in his life.

Send questions to askcarolnow@gmail.com.

Political Penguin

By Duane Plank

The recent death of Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy, who held his senatorial job for 47 years, got me to looking back in time a bit, back to when I became interested in the political game. Remember, now, I am 50-plus years old, so I was just a tyke when JFK was assassinated in Dallas back in November of '63. By the way, Ted Kennedy officially announced his candidacy for the Senate back in 1962, on March 14. My third birthday. Try finding that info out anywhere else, folks. That's what makes this column so darn special.

For some reason, I became fascinated with the JFK mystique and began reading books about the Kennedy dynasty, and also about the machinations that got one elected to the highest office in our land. I immersed myself in the tomes written by Theodore White, called *The Making of the President*. Think Mr. White penned four books in the series, starting with the JFK victory over one Richard M. Nixon in 1960.

White's books were page-turning reading for a young guy interested in the presidency, who is ashamed to admit that I haven't read a book cover-to-cover for a great while until I recently finished the high school football chronicle *Friday Night Lights*, while I wasn't catching any fish on my recent Easter Sierra alleged fishing trip.

From the Kennedy win in 1960 to the smashing defeat of George McGovern, who was steamrolled by the incumbent Prez, one Richard Milhouse Nixon, who suffered some down years and down times in the political game before resurfacing and kicking the daylights out of Hubert Horacio Humphrey in 1968, when Humphrey became the lefty standard-bearer after the incumbent Lyndon B. Johnson turtled and didn't seek re-election, and charismatic candidate Bobby Kennedy was assassinated after winning the Cali primary. Boy, was that a long, run-on sentence. Intentional folks, could you keep up? Just checking.

Found the Kennedy clan and their back stories incredibly interesting. Yup, bootlegger daddy, Marilyn Monroe in the buff, all that stuff. Like any normal guy wouldn't be the least bit intrigued by Ms. Monroe, right? Back in the day, after reading the White books, thought that what I would like to do when I actually grew up, and the

time is coming, folks, would be to manage a political campaign. Didn't want to be the guy out front cuz I probably wasn't dynamic enough to be a candidate.

Quick aside to all of you oldsters. Did you ever see the movie *The Candidate*, starring the one-time starlet Robert Redford? Hit the screens in 1972 and basically was about a lib senatorial candidate in the Great Bankrupt State (not then), who got embroiled in a statewide election campaign with no chance to win. So he said whatever the hell he wanted, cuz he had no chance to win, right. And guess what? The people listened to his heartfelt musings, the polls got tighter, and lo and behold, Redford actually won! And then uttered a line that stays with me to this day. The victorious Redford asked the guys and dolls who got him elected, "What do we do now?" You gotta believe the same type of quote was bandied about by the Governor after he somehow took power.

One more aside...Did any of you watch the TV show *The West Wing*? Loved that stuff. Miss all of the ins and outs of the Bartlett White House. Guess we don't need those types of shows today, not when we have great shows like...any of the bleeping reality fare that is clogging the airwaves. Criminy, is there some garbage currently on the tube.

Back to the point...Which was...Oh, yeah, I was telling you that I yearned to be a political campaign manager when I grew up. Much like the incredibly handsome James Carville, who was one of the masterminds of the longshot Bill Clinton presidential campaign in the early '90s. Pull the strings behind the scenes. Course, like most things in life, thinking about it and doing it are two different things, right?

So I sit here in the mansion, making pithy, and according to some, off-the-mark observations about the week that was in the political game. What is that old saying? Those who can't do, teach. Maybe it should be, those who can't do, write about it? Maybe I botched the line, but you get the idea, right? What a cheap shot at teachers who are such a valuable asset to all of us.

Plank considered going the teaching route back in the day. Bout 20 years ago. Took the CBEST test, passed it, but then bombed on the next required test. Guess my heart

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