

Mustangs Have Nunn of West

By Gregg McMullin

The Bay League showdown between two of the South Bay’s top football teams became more of an uncharacteristic way of playing a football game. There were ill-timed penalties, miscues and a missed field goal but it didn’t seem to matter in this game. Mira Costa’s Kyle Nunn had a key punt return for a touchdown in the first half to put his team on top 14-3 as the Mustangs went on to defeat West Torrance 28-3. It certainly wasn’t either team’s best performance of the year, but the win was a lesson in perseverance for the Mustangs who played a solid game defensively.

West Torrance (4-2, 0-1), working with a makeshift offensive line and running back still injured, scored their only points of the game midway through the first quarter on a 23-yard field goal by Michael Laporte. The Warriors drive stalled inside the Mustang’s 10 yard line and opted for the easy chip shot field goal attempt; it would be the only points the Warriors would see on the night.

The Mustangs (4-2, 1-0) countered with a score of their own early in the second quarter. On third and nine at the Warrior’s 42 yard line, Morgan Reece broke off a 41-yard run that set up Kyle Demarco’s one-yard sneak to make it 7-3. After the Mustangs’ defense forced another West Torrance punt, Nunn received the ball near his own 45 yard line. He looked one way, and then made two moves the other way to get out in the open, running 53 yards untouched for the score and a 14-3 Mustangs’ lead.

The Mustangs’ defense was stout the entire night, limiting West Torrance to just four first half first downs. “We’re a little banged up, but give them the credit—they played a heck of a game,” said West coach Greg Holt.

As good as Mira Costa was on defense, the Warriors’ defense held its own against the Mustangs too. The Mustangs did have some drives fizzle out, but credit the Warriors for staying in the game at least in the first half.

In the second half, Mira Costa tried getting the ball into their top receiver’s hands. Nunn was the leading Mustang receiver going into the game with 16 receptions for 365 yards, but West neutralized him and he caught just two passes for eight yards on the night. “Kyle is a big-time play guy and we tried finding ways to get the ball into his hands,” Mustang coach Don Morrow said. “We just couldn’t get him in the open field the way we wanted to.”

In the third quarter, Jackson Morrow recovered a fumble at the West Torrance

17 yard line and that led to a three-yard touchdown run by Morgan Reece to put the Mustangs on top 21-3. Midway through the fourth quarter, the Mustangs used Reece to prolong and sustain their final drive of the night. Carrying five times for 42 yards, the senior scored on a four-yard burst with 3:49 left to play in the game.

The Mustangs were limited with what they could do offensively on the night, but give credit to West for its schemes. The Mustang passing attack was held in check, but the ground game came alive as Mira Costa ran for a season-high 222 yards. Reece rushed for 131 yards and 90 of those yards came in the second half on 14 carries. Quarterback Kyle Demarco picked up 46 yards running the option, while Rico Wright carried the ball just six times but picked up 42 yards.

Defensively speaking, the Mustangs held a once-proud West Torrance ground game to just 51 rushing yards and 136 yards of total offense on the night. “We played a complete game tonight and we put pressure on every phase of their running and passing game,” said defensive coordinator Ray Lee.

The Mustangs will need another complete game Friday (October 23) night when they host Palos Verdes at 7 p.m. The Sea Kings (4-2, 0-1) boast another strong ground game behind Victor Mancusi. The senior tailback has run for 796 yards and scored 12 times so far, and is the heart and soul of the Sea Kings offense.

Mustang News and Notes

The Mira Costa boys’ water polo team faced Palos Verdes in a game pitting two of the South Bay’s best teams against each other. The Mustangs (12-3, 2-1) have been on a tear lately, but facing the Sea Kings proved to be a bit more of a challenge. Palos Verdes came away with a big first quarter and the Mustangs never recovered, dropping a 10-5 score to the defending Bay League champions.

Down 5-1 in the second quarter, the Mustangs netted three straight goals. Bryce Miller scored twice and Britton Miller had one goal to close the gap, but a late goal in the second quarter gave the Sea Kings a 6-4 lead and the momentum that carried them to victory in the second half.

“They took control of the first quarter and that set the tone for the rest of the game,” said Mustang coach Jon Reichardt.

“We’ll regroup and get ready for our next game and then be ready for P.V. when we face them again at their pool (October 29).” •



Junior Jake Miller tries to get off the shot through Palos Verdes defense. Photo by Shelley Kemp. www.kemp.photorelect.com

City Council

from front page

costlier to maintain. Mayor Portia Cohen said because the region is experiencing a Stage 2 drought, residents would have to sacrifice “beautiful foliage” even though it is aesthetically unpleasant. “We do favor potable water for drinking and health,” Cohen said. “We do penalize it for recreation; we’re not going to hide behind that. I won’t.”

Resident Yury Gurvich spoke about the issue and alluded to several others. “I am one of those seniors, flock of sheep who are supposed to eat whatever they are given,” Gurvich said. “Like for instance under-grounding, which ropes us from hard-earned money...or Obama healthcare, which ropes us from hard-earned benefits and also freedom.”

“Nice tie-in,” Councilmember Richard Montgomery joked.

“Now water and sewer rates increase...I’m against it, my wife is against it and so our whole block is against it,” Gurvich continued.

“Are they here?” Councilmember Mitch Ward asked.

“By the way it is your duty to maintain [the] water system—you repair streets every three or five years and you didn’t repair any water system. I’m just surprised,” Gurvich said.

Cohen said the Council was willing to do what was politically unsafe and make up for prior management mistakes, but said it was the right thing to do in order to tackle the

infrastructure’s conservation, capital and operating costs. The Mayor also defended what she called the rate structure’s bias. “That bias is toward the average user, the small home and the small pipe, which probably protects the elderly,” Cohen said. “That bias is against a larger, newer home, but I’m willing to make that preference there.”

Asbestos Resolution

The Council voted unanimously to adopt a resolution urging the State Legislature to change the state rock, which is currently serpentine and which contains chrysotile asbestos, a human carcinogen. Linda Reinstein, founder and executive director of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO), lost her husband to mesothelioma as a result of Asbestos exposure. “Serpentine is a toxic rock and doesn’t represent our state well at all,” Reinstein said. “It really takes a village—not to sound corny, but it does. Manhattan Beach has been here for my family and also for ADAO...people are really watching and they’re proud of Manhattan Beach and I am too.”

E-mail Format

The Council also approved an update to the City’s standardized e-mail format, which will include a graphic of the pier and a request that receivers “please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.”

Guide Dogs

from front page

States are designated as blind, though only 10 percent of those are totally blind. Yet many are sufficiently visually impaired from glaucoma, retinitis pigmentosa, detached retina, cataracts, and macular degeneration to need assistance in moving about. Their response may be to remain at home, to walk with a trained sighted person, to carry a white cane, or, if qualified, to be given a guide dog. To qualify, the recipient must be over 16 years of age (there is no upper age limit), demonstrate responsibility and have a certain amount of mobility and orientation skills. The idea being that if their lifestyle is strictly sedentary, mostly at home, they do not need a guide dog.

These puppy raisers come from a variety of backgrounds. Pat Whitehead, a long-time Manhattan Beach resident, taught school here and has been active in the community. She is a graduate of Leadership Manhattan, a past president of the Coordinating Council and a 1736 board member. It was back when her children wanted yet another dog that she capitulated by agreeing to train a guide dog puppy for a year. She has had one off and on ever since.

Karen Hirsch was vice principal of Grandview Elementary and a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing. It was her daughter who took on the puppy raising as a Bat Mitzvah project. Joan Chlebowsky is a doctor of internal medicine. She just came back from two years with the Peace Corps in Namibia where she treated and educated HIV patients. She said returning home was brightened by knowing she could raise another puppy.

Before receiving a puppy to raise, these families receive training themselves. They are to use a kind, gentle approach with lots of praise. Bill Parker, a retired engineer, and his wife Pat, a former Palos Verdes librarian, are both are long-time puppy raisers and sitters. Bill demonstrated the correct way to approach any strange dog. He advised to first greet the owner, ask if you may pet the dog, and then go to the side of the dog and pet the side of his neck or shoulder. “Do not reach over from the front,” he said.

By the end of the dog’s stay with the puppy raiser, it is expected to maintain a reliable relieving schedule, walk calmly on a leash, obey basic commands, acclimate to crate training, lie quietly at the handler’s side, and demonstrate confidence in a variety of

situations with different people.

Guidework trainers, who take over from there when the dogs are transported back up to the training centers in San Rafael or Oregon, are licensed after a three-year apprenticeship and passing a test. They work in groups, even wearing blindfolds so they will better understand the situation of the blind. After four or five months of rigorous training, the dogs have learned to turn left or right, start and halt at a command, stop for changes in elevation such as steps, stop at street crossings, walk a straight path, steer the handler safely around obstacles, slow for uneven pavements, ride confidently on escalators, ignore distractions such as other dogs, and refuse to proceed when a situation is unsafe, otherwise known as “intelligent disobedience.”

Most endearing was to hear the plucky Melissa Hudson tell her story. An attractive, high achiever, she was diagnosed in junior high school with rheumatoid arthritis, which can and did lead gradually to extreme sight impairment. She has no peripheral vision. She sees only through a small area in the center of each eye, and that is fuzzy. She is unable to recognize anyone. She had managed to teach school for a few years. “But when it became so bad,” she said, “I just became depressed. Though I could maneuver with the white cane, the slow cautious tap, tap, tap made me want to just stay home and sit.”

But life turned around when she applied for a guide dog. After qualifying, she flew up to San Rafael and spent the first three days being evaluated herself for such things as height, walking speed and personality. Then she was assigned to a black Lab, Anya, a sweet, gentle spitfire just like she is known to be. “I had to learn to trust him even when he disobeyed my commands,” she said. “He actually saved me from being hit by a car that I did not hear.” With a big grin on her face, she said, “The day I went flying down the street with him, instead of just slowly plodding along, tap, tap, tap was the happiest day of my life. I had not felt so fast and free in years.”

For more information regarding obtaining a guide dog or becoming a trainer or puppy raiser, look up www.guidedogs.com or www.guidedogpups.com.

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