

Quinones and Defense are Knighted by Bishop Montgomery

By Gregg McMullin

The El Segundo High School Eagles traveled to Bishop Montgomery for a non-league football game. It marked the final game before the Eagles start their Pioneer League schedule against Torrance Friday night. In what Eagle coach Steve Shevlin said was a game in which his team seemed to be daydreaming, it turned out to be a nightmare for the host Knights during their homecoming game. Eagle quarterback Mike Bundy's consecutive 200-yard passing game streak came to a halt. But the defense, led by Jimmy Quinones' two interceptions, and one that was returned for a touchdown, were key as the Eagles dominated 27-10.

The Eagles (3-2) came into the game riding a two-game winning streak while Bishop Montgomery (1-5) was still reeling from a 51-7 loss to North Torrance. The loss to the Eagles was Bishop Montgomery's fifth consecutive defeat of the year before the latter starts a rugged Del League schedule against Serra, Cathedral and Harvard Westlake.

Bishop Montgomery scored on its second possession of the game receiving great field position near midfield. The drive stalled at the Eagle 31 yard line, and that's where Jonathan Kim connected on a 44-yard field goal to give the Knights hope. But as has been the case through the first four games of the year, the Eagles countered with a score of their own. Bundy led the Eagles on a nine-play, 79-yard drive capped by Bundy throwing to Grant Palmer on an 11-yard touchdown pass to make it 7-3.

The Eagles, who had just six possessions in the first half including four in the second quarter, had their opportunities to move the ball. But Bundy was sacked on third down on one drive and he was intercepted to start another series when the Eagles had great field position.

Still, the defense stopped the Knights in most every phase of their game. In the first half, Bishop Montgomery had only three first downs, ran just 19 plays and gained 61 yards of total offense. Though it was evident that Bishop Montgomery didn't appear to have the skill level of the Eagles, it didn't back down. The Eagles used their size advantage against the smaller Knights, too. But Bundy, who was once again sacked at least twice in a game for the fifth consecutive game this year, was harassed all night long by the speedy Knights' defense. "We're going to have to start doing a better job staying on our assignments," said line coach Jun Masuda.

The Eagles opened the second half with a five-minute, time-consuming series. During the 12-play, 69-yard drive, the Eagles ran the ball seven times while Bundy was three

of five for 32 yards. The senior quarterback ran consecutive quarterback sneaks to get it into the end zone behind Johnny Krause's blocks to give the Eagles a 14-3 lead. During the long drive, the Eagles used a methodical approach to move the ball. Nick Kessler, who led the Eagles in rushing with eight carries for 46 yards in the game, carried the ball four times for 28 yards during the drive.

El Segundo's defense continued to thwart any type of Bishop Montgomery offense, while the Eagles played keep-away from the Knights. The Eagles recovered a botched punt return at the Knights' seven yard line, and two plays later Brandon Jimenez scored the first rushing touchdown of his career on a two-yard burst for a 21-3 Eagles lead. On the very first play from scrimmage after the Eagles' kickoff, Bishop Montgomery quarterback Quinten Howard threw a pass in the right flat area where Quinones caught the ball in mid-stride and returned it 34 yards untouched for a touchdown. It was Quinones' second interception of the night and his 14th career interception. "I saw the quarterback looking that way and I had a good read on the ball, and I got a jump on the receiver," said the senior cornerback.

Leading 27-3, the Eagles cleared their bench and the Knights took advantage of the opportunity by scoring on a five-yard pass play to make it 27-10 with less than two minutes to play. Their nine-play drive, that covered 80 yards, was the Knights' best offensive series of the night. In spite of that last series, the Eagle defense once again played well. Besides Quinones' two interceptions, defensive end Michael Rae came up with his eighth sack of the year while Brandon Jimenez led the team in tackles.

On offense, Bundy's consecutive 200-yard passing game streak came to an end at six games going back to last year. He finished 14 for 26 for 159 yards, one touchdown pass and one interception. But the senior quarterback was harassed continually by a much smaller and quicker Bishop Montgomery line.

The Eagles host Torrance (2-3) Friday night at 7 p.m. in what promises to be another great game. The Tartars like to control the clock with its wing-T offense, but hasn't been able to generate many points like it once did. Torrance had a bye week to prepare for El Segundo's Homecoming game, but the Eagles have already seen a version of the Tartar offense earlier this year and were able to stop it when St. Bernards ran a similar version.

The Homecoming game festivities start on Friday at 3 p.m. with an alumnus sign-up

See Eagles, page 16

Boys Polo Starts Undefeated in Ocean League



Senior Beau Blacksten led the team in goals with nine, his personal best of the season. Photo by Shelley Kemp, www.kemp.photorelect.com

By Kelly Kemp

The El Segundo High School boys' water polo team handled Beverly Hills High in its home opener this past week and advanced in ranking to a number five ranking in CIF Division V. Up by a score of 10-3 at the half, the Eagles continually added goals at will until 16-8 was the final result.

High scorer in the match, in another stellar performance, was Beau Blacksten with nine goals, two assists and four steals. Junior Jackson Hogoboom scored three goals and also had three steals and two field blocks. Seniors Csaba Nagy and Stephen Laskey had one goal each, and senior Max Reynolds

had a great game also with two goals, four assists and two steals.

El Segundo finished the week with an 11-5 record after a tough one-goal loss to cross-town Prep League rival Chadwick, which is ranked fourth in CIF Division VI. By the time this article goes to press, the Boys in Blue will have met League opponents Torrance and Culver City. Next Monday, they face Ocean League foe Santa Monica at home, closing out the first round robin of League play on October 19 at 7 p.m. This is the first night game approved by the school and CIF-SS in the recent history of the program. Come and root for your Eagles – admission is free! •



Senior Csaba Nagy passes into center for one of his three assists. Photo by Shelley Kemp, www.kemp.photorelect.com

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