

Del Norte Notebook ...

October 9, 2019



Easy win -- Del Norte traveled to Weaverville on Friday and dispatched the Wolves with ease, 52-0, concluding the non-conference portion of the Warriors' schedule with a 6-1 record.

Over when ... Honestly, when Del Norte took the field. Unofficially, it was when Geo Gonzalez ran a post pattern, caught a pass from quarterback O.J. Calleja, then sprinted into the end zone toward the end of the first quarter, giving Del Norte a 21-0 lead.

Calleja's night -- The senior quarterback had the best passing night of his Warrior career against Trinity, hitting 10 of 12 passes for 173 yards and four touchdowns, both career highs. All of his throws came in the first half, when Del Norte built a 35-0 lead. Two of his TD passes went to Gonzalez, the other two to junior Kaleb Price.

Nice average -- Del Norte running back Levi Cox-Cooley carried the ball just six times against Trinity ... but he still gained 130 yards, a nifty 21.6-yards-per-carry average. It was the fifth time this season he has been over the century mark rushing.

Stepping up -- Senior Chance La Fazio stepped into the starting lineup at left tackle and equated himself well, along with the rest of the offense line, opening big holes for Del Norte running backs.

Baugh's half -- After getting his first experience in a varsity Warrior uniform last week ago against Fortuna, senior Kai Baugh was nothing short of dominant defensively in the first half against Trinity. The Wolves were determined to run to their left side, which led to tackle after tackle for the 245-pound Baugh.

Freeman's half -- When Trinity shifted its offensive focus to throwing the ball in the third and fourth quarters, it was Trevor Freeman stepping up. The sophomore snagged a pair of interceptions for Del Norte, including one at the goal line to help stop the Wolves' best bid to score. It was the Warriors' seventh and eighth interceptions of the season.

Turnover wars -- Del Norte forced three turnovers without giving the ball up, boosting its turnover margin advantage to plus seven.

Still perfect -- Kenji Adams-Lee not only nailed all seven of his extra points, the Del Norte kicker also drilled a 35-yard field goal with plenty of distance to spare, the second field goal of his career. The senior is now perfect on his 29 PAT kicks this season.

Next up -- Del Norte will rest Friday, getting its bye week at a perfect time. On Oct. 18, Del Norte will be at home against St. Bernard's for the start of the three-game Big Four Conference season. On Oct. 25, the Warriors will be in Fortuna, then will return to Mike Whalen Field Nov. 1 for Senior Night against Eureka.

Big Four -- St. Bernard's fell from the ranks of the unbeaten Friday, losing to Templeton 49-21. It's worth noting that Templeton is 5-1 this season and ranked second in Division 4 of the Central Section. The Crusaders are now 5-1. Fortuna got its second win of the year, a 38-0 thrashing of 1-6 Stellar Prep of Hayward. Eureka had the night off.

This week -- St. Bernard's will tune up for its Oct. 18 battle at Del Norte by playing Stellar Prep, while Eureka travels to Chico. Fortuna is home to face Foothill.

Other results -- In games featuring Del Norte opponents, Moreau Catholic is now 5-2 after beating American 44-0. La Salle Prep is 2-2 with a wild 54-46 win over Hood River Valley. Mazama improved to 5-0 by whipping North Valley 42-0. Petaluma fell to 1-6, losing to Vintage 40-7.

Rankings -- Del Norte moved back up to No. 2 in the Maxpreps North Coast Section Division 5 rankings, behind Encinal. Eureka remains No. 4, while Fortuna is 10th. St. Bernard's stayed at No. 2 in the Division 6 category.

JV rolls -- Despite having several players move up to varsity, the Del Norte junior varsity continues to roll. On Friday, the Warriors toppled Trinity 36-8. Freshman Giancarlo DeSolenni scored once on the ground and also through the air for the 5-1 Warriors. Hunter Giddings scored his sixth touchdown of the season.

Bonus football -- Not taking a break this week are the junior varsity Warriors, who have scheduled a special Thursday-night game at Mike Whalen Field with McKinleyville, starting at 6 p.m. Both teams come into the game with just one loss this season.

