

Del Norte Notebook ...

September 10, 2019



Warriors win going away -- In a game most observers predicted would be close, Del Norte High School's varsity football team hammered La Salle Prep of Milwaukie, Oregon on Friday night, 42-7, at Mike Whalen Field. The win puts the Warriors at 3-0.

It was over when ... -- With less than a minute left in the first half, Chase Blackburn scampered 41 yards to give Del Norte a 35-7 halftime lead, the culmination of a 28-point second-quarter explosion that left the Falcons stunned.

Career night for Blackburn -- The senior rushed for 117 yards and a pair of touchdowns against La Salle. Also gaining better than 100 yards was Kobe Mitchell, adding a pair of scores as well. It was the second time in three games Del Norte has had two running backs break the century mark rushing. As a team, Del Norte rushed for 328 yards on 43 carries, an average of 7.6 yards per carry.

Rushing to victory -- Under new coach Nick White's offensive system, the Warriors' rushing attack has been more than just effective. Del Norte's big three -- Blackburn, Mitchell and Levi Cox-Cooley -- have combined to rush for 722 yards in three games, along with 11 TDs. Of course, it helps to have a veteran, big line up front, which Del Norte has.

Defensive dominance -- La Salle thought it would be able to run against Del Norte, considering the Falcons had two standout returning running backs. La Salle was wrong. The Warrior defense gave up just 54 yards

rushing on 23 carries, a mere 2.3 yards per. The Falcons found a little success passing the ball, but in the end, they were able to complete just 10 of 24 passes, a 41% rate good for 117 yards.

Just say no ... to turnovers -- Del Norte's offense has now gone 12 quarters without giving up a turnover. Meanwhile, the Warriors' defense picked off a Falcon pass, giving the team a plus-six turnover margin this season.

Getting a kick out of you -- Del Norte was six of six on extra points, keeping kicker Kenji Adams-Lee perfect this season at 11 for 11. Geo Gonzalez is 5 of 6.

Penalties problems -- The Warriors continue to have issues when it comes to penalties, though, picking up 12 accepted ones for 115 yards, the third game in a row Del Norte has been at or over 100 yards in penalty yardage.

Next on the agenda -- It's a road trip next for Del Norte, which will head south to take on the Petaluma Trojans at 7 p.m. Listen to the Warrior Pregame Show on KPOD 97.9 starting at 6:30 p.m.

Still No. 2 -- MaxPreps ranks Del Norte as the No. 2 team in North Coast Section Division 5. Fortuna, which got its first win of the season Friday, is now ranked fourth, while winless Eureka is eighth. St. Bernard's, the other undefeated team in the Big Four Conference, is No. 2 in Division 6.

Big Four results -- Along with Del Norte's win, St. Bernard's knocked off Arcata (on Saturday) 49-8, Fortuna bested Kelseyville 29-12, and Eureka fell to 0-3 after a 14-10 loss to Foothill of Redding.

Other scores of note -- Del Norte's next opponent, Petaluma, was pounded by Foothill High of Pleasanton 59-7. Moreau Catholic fell to 1-2 after falling to perennial power Salesian Prep 35-19. Yreka dropped to 0-2 after losing to South Umpqua of Oregon 45-21. Trinity Valley, where Del Norte plays Oct. 4, lost to Colusa 40-6. Del Norte's opponent Sept. 20, Mazama of Klamath Falls, opened its season with a 40-0 handling of Ontario.

JVs back in action -- After having last week off, Del Norte's junior varsity squad will make the trip to Petaluma for a 4:30 p.m. battle. The Warriors are 2-0, having bested Moreau Catholic 37-28, and Yreka 34-0.