

Sports

Seasoned Spartans rout inexperienced Eagles 42-7

By Pete Borello
Staff Writer/peteb@latc.com

Mountain View High entered Friday's contest at Los Altos with two games and a scrimmage under its belt, while the Eagles had only played 18 minutes of football due to circumstances beyond their control. It showed.

The more polished Spartans subdued the inexperienced Eagles 42-7 in front of a lively, near-capacity crowd reminiscent of the one at Mountain View two years ago – the last time these rivals met. The Spartans, who handily won that game as well, retained the district's Pride Bowl trophy with Friday's non-league victory.

Mountain View played without lead running back Leo Navarro (contusion), but that didn't stop the squad from surpassing 30 points for the third straight week.

"We miss him," Spartans coach Shelley Smith said of the senior, "but our young guys came through. Dillon Daniels, our sophomore, came up and had a good game for us."

Daniels scored four touchdowns – two in each half – and surpassed 150 yards rushing.

Los Altos gained just under 150 yards of total offense in its first complete game of what's been an unusual season. The

Eagles' opener at Independence was called midway through the second quarter due to poor air quality (Los Altos led at the time and won by forfeit), and their next game was postponed until October because foe San Lorenzo Valley was in COVID protocol.

"I was telling the guys that all the stuff that we did tonight is kind of an indication of where we are in terms of the first game versus a team playing their third game, plus a scrimmage," said Eagles coach Dave DeGeromino, whose squad had its preseason scrimmage canceled. "And they're a very good team at that."

Mountain View, which routed King's Academy 31-0 to kick off the season, played toe-to-toe with Mitty before falling 35-34 a week later. Smith said the road loss remained on the Spartans' minds Friday, motivating them even more to beat their rival.

"It did," he said. "Unfortunately, we missed some great opportunities against (Mitty), and that's something we've got to live with. We did a great job on offense controlling the ball; it's just that we gave up too many big plays."

The Spartans allowed just one big play Friday – an 80-yard touchdown run by Zach Fagin, who took a delayed handoff and raced down the right sideline. The extra point cut Mountain View's



R. ALAN HWANG/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Mountain View High's Dillon Daniels slips past Los Altos High defender Channing Hautop to score his second touchdown Friday.

lead to 21-7 with 7:36 remaining in the third quarter.

"I thought he was going to get tackled around the 50 or the 40, but after he broke a tackle, I knew he was gone," DeGeronimo said. "He's got speed and is tough to bring down, too."

Mountain View answered with a touchdown of its own after taking possession near midfield by recovering an onside kick. Quarterback Jackson Steffen capped the six-play drive with a 2-yard keeper across the goal line.

The Spartans added to their lead before the quarter ended, thanks to even better field position. The Eagles lost a fumble attempting a double reverse, and

Mountain View recovered at their 10. Three plays later, Daniels ran up the middle for a 2-yard score. The extra point extended the lead to 35-7 with 1:34 left in the third.

Daniels scored another 2-yard TD in the fourth. His first two scores came on longer runs – a 16-yarder on the Spartans' initial drive (set up by Kaleb Ecklund's interception) and a 9-yarder midway through the second quarter.

Later that quarter, Steffens threw a 9-yard touchdown pass to receiver Joe Brown, and Mountain View led 21-0 at halftime.

Los Altos is slated to visit Santa Clara 7 p.m. Friday, while Mountain View hosts Sacred Heart Prep at the same time.



R. ALAN HWANG/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

St. Francis High's Uluakinofa Taliauli celebrates Friday's win.

Lancers stun De La Salle

By Pete Borello
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In what will surely go down as one of the greatest upsets of the high school football season – if not the millennium – St. Francis stunned De La Salle 31-28 Friday night in front of a full house in Mountain View.

The Lancers snapped the Spartans' 318-game unbeaten streak against Northern California teams and defeated them for the first time in 32 years.

"It's one of the best victories
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Friends of Stevens Creek Trail's Trailblazer Race remains virtual this year

By Karuna Chandran
Town Crier Editorial Intern

As summer comes to a close, the annual Trailblazer Race gets going – and like last year, it's virtual.

In its 27th year, the Trailblazer – a fundraiser for the Mountain View nonprofit Friends of Stevens Creek Trail – got underway Saturday and runs through Sept. 26.

Moved to a virtual event because of the pandemic, participants can register to run a 5K or 10K – or do a 3-mile walk – at any time or place (even on a treadmill), according to Andrea Stawitcke, a Friends executive committee board member.

Stawitcke, board secretary, encouraged people to get out and support the cause.

"From the very beginning – it was, as we call it – not only a fundraiser, but a 'friendraiser,'" she said. "We really like to involve people that live around the community and (encourage) anybody that lives adjacent to the trail or embraces wild parts of nature that can still be contained within an urban area to come out and support us."

Stawitcke added that the charm of the

event is that it allows families to share the experience and is designed to suit all ages.

Active participant Rohit Sawhney began running the race years ago as a stepping stone to his goal of completing a half marathon, but currently, he said he enjoys being able to run the race with his children.

"For one of the last ones we did, which I think was 2019, my kids came as well, and they did the mile run," Sawhney said. "That's something that's always special, because they've seen me at the finish line at a lot of these events, but then they also got to participate themselves."

The Mountain View resident also took part in last year's virtual run, which he said didn't entirely compare in terms of the atmosphere to the in-person races.

Stawitcke noted that there are advantages to being virtual, though.

"Because it's a virtual race, there is not as much involved and we don't need as much hands-on (help)," she said. "Because the entire series itself requires a huge team of volunteers, we would get local high school groups that would come and volunteer. In the years when we had it in person,

it required a huge, huge amount of man power. This year, I would say there's probably a core group of maybe five or six of us that are working on it."

After last year's virtual event, Stawitcke said organizers realized they would need a much bigger social media presence to get the word out about the next one.

"We have revamped and improved our website, so it's more attractive and there's much more ease to register," she said. "We have a great webmaster who's also on our board and who handles most of that. I think we realized that we could have gotten more people if we had been really out there with the social media posts, so we made a real concerted effort to contact all four of the cities that are all specifically part of the trail, which are Mountain View, Los Altos, Sunnyvale and Cupertino."

Race proceeds cover Friends' operating costs and trail expansion, Stawitcke added. Friends is setting its sights on funding the next portion of the trail. The trail begins at Shoreline Park, with the newest segment going from Dale Avenue in Mountain View to Heatherstone Way in Sunnyvale. The



COURTESY OF MARIANNE BAKER

Participants run in the 2019 Trailblazer Race at Shoreline Park, the last time it was an in-person event.

next stretch would expand it to Fremont Avenue in Sunnyvale, close to Los Altos.

"It was all the city of Mountain View at the beginning – they funded and filled everything," Stawitcke said. "They really had the foresight to see that we needed alternatives to people just driving in their cars."

As Sawhney noted, the race is a way for participants to appreciate nature and form bonds with others in the community.

"Finding opportunities to bring the community together is always so hard," he

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Sports

LA volleyball sweeps; MV falls in five

Town Crier Staff Report

Carolyn Dormady notched a match-high 13 kills in Los Altos High's straight-set win over Leigh in girls volleyball Thursday night.

Kaitlyn Cuppett and Megan Wong recorded 13 and 12 assists, respectively, for the host Eagles (6-4). Kaitlyn Wong served five

aces in the non-league victory.

That same night, Mountain View suffered its first loss of the season – a five-set defeat at Los Gatos in the SCVAL De Anza Division opener for both teams.

Tessa Hunter tallied 11 kills for the Spartans (4-1); Millie Kopp and Fiona Huang contributed 10 each. Andisheh Turner had nine kills and a team-high 20 assists.

UPSET

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we've ever had as a program," St. Francis coach Greg Calcagno said. "We've had some good ones, including a state championship, but this ranks pretty damn high."

After leading most of the way – 14-0 in the first quarter, 21-7 at halftime and 24-7 early in the third – the Lancers fell behind 28-24 with 1:38 to play. Armed with two timeouts, they drove 76 yards in eight plays for the winning touchdown – a 16-yard pass from Matt Dougherty to Nico Andrighetto with 16.7 seconds left.

Andrighetto outran a linebacker from the line of scrimmage to the middle of the end zone, and Dougherty found his receiver open amid several defensive backs.

"Matt read the safety, saw what he liked and made the throw," Calcagno said. "Matt really did a great job (Friday), especially being a junior in that environment."

The play prior, Dougherty connected with Andrew Adkison

for a 33-yard completion. The receiver's over-the-shoulder-catch put St. Francis at the 1, but an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on the Lancers' sideline moved the ball back to the 16.

"It makes the story better," Calcagno said with a chuckle. "That was tough, but we didn't get rattled."

The St. Francis offense may have stolen the show – Dougherty also tossed TD passes of 16 and 30 yards to receiver Tim Natane, and halfback Viliami Teu rushed for a 10-yard score and nearly 190 yards – but the defense was equally impressive. The Lancers (2-0) forced three turnovers, including a fumble recovered by defensive back Ryan Lee at the St. Francis 4 midway through the fourth.

"We hang our hat on our defense," Calcagno said. "We're very confident in it."

The coach just doesn't want his team, which has a bye this week, to get overly confident.

"We have a lot of games ahead of us," he said. "That happened Friday – Monday, nobody cares."

Mountain View at Palo Alto, 6:45 p.m.
Tuesday
St. Ignatius at Los Altos, 3:30 p.m.
Homestead at Mountain View, 3:30 p.m.

Girls water polo
Thursday
Los Altos at Homestead, 3:30 p.m.
Mountain View at Palo Alto, 3:30 p.m.

Friday
Mountain View at Prospect, 4 p.m.
Tuesday
Woodside Priory at Pinewood, 4 p.m.
Castilleja at Los Altos, 6:45 p.m.
Homestead at Mountain View, 6:45 p.m.

Girls tennis
Thursday
Mountain View at Los Altos, 4 p.m.
Monday
Mountain View at Monta Vista, 4 p.m.
Tuesday
Pinewood at Sacred Heart Prep, 4 p.m.

Field hockey
Thursday
Los Altos at Lynbrook, 4 p.m.
St. Francis at Monta Vista, 4 p.m.

Prep sports schedule

Football
Friday
Los Altos at Santa Clara, 7 p.m.
Sacred Heart Prep at Mountain View, 7 p.m.
Pinewood at Upper Lake, 7 p.m.

Girls volleyball
Today
Sacred Heart Cathedral at St. Francis, 6 p.m.

Thursday
Gunn at Los Altos, 6:45 p.m.
Mountain View at Monta Vista, 6:45 p.m.

Saturday
MVLA Tournament at Los Altos and Mountain View, 8 a.m.

Tuesday
St. Francis at St. Ignatius, 6 p.m.
Los Altos at Mountain View, 6:45 p.m.

Boys water polo
Today
St. Francis at Serra, 6 p.m.
Thursday
Los Altos at Homestead, 6:45 p.m.

RACE

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said. "Having an event like this, you can lock in and say, 'Yes, it's a traditional thing and I'm going to do it every year and I'm going

to see the people that I see at these events and support the causes that I like to support."

Race registration is \$43.90.
To register and for more information, visit tinyurl.com/k7vek2w4.

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