

FOOTBALL: Glendora can't finish the job in 39-27 loss to Etiwanda

By Pete Marshall, Staff Writer

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Glendora quarterback Chad Jeffries attempts to break his way through Etiwanda defense before a sack in the first quarter of Thursday's, Oct. 14, 2010 game in Ontario. (Khai Le/Correspondent)

ONTARIO - When Etiwanda football coach Stephen Bryce was asked about his team's slow start on Thursday night, he disagreed.

"No," he said. "It was a scary start."

That scary start almost was a distant memory by game's end as Etiwanda used four turnovers to

rally from a 14-point, first-half deficit and defeat Glendora, 39-27, in the Baseline League opener for both schools at Colony High.

It was the first Baseline League contest for Glendora (4-2 overall, 0-1 league) since its return to the league after spending the previous eight years in the Sierra League. Etiwanda improved to 3-3, 1-0.

It looked like Glendora would get off to a smashing start in its return to the league as the Tartans jumped out

to 14-0 and 21-7 leads in the first half.

"They run the wing-T and they run it very well," Bryce said. "Their offensive line is a strength of the team. Once we started making our keys, we started making some plays. And then our offense got it going, and they kind of fed off each other."

"We got off to a good start, but then they started to figure some things out," Glendora coach Mark Pasquarella said.

Glendora scored touchdowns on each of its first three drives, and then not again until the final drive of the game when the outcome was decided.

After Glendora went up 21-7 on a Corey Victoria 12-yard touchdown run with 7:30 to play before halftime, the Eagles rallied.

It took them just two plays, a



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31-yard pass from Larry Cutbirth to Edward Torruella and a 34-yard touchdown run by Marcus Mason, to bring the Eagles within 21-13.

That's when the Eagles' defense came alive. Glendora quarterback Chad Jeffries was intercepted by Salih Johnwell, leading to a 5-yard touchdown pass from Cutbirth to Justin Broussard that made it 21-20.

After completing each of his first six passes, Jeffries completed just 4 of his next 14 passes, with two interceptions.

On Glendora's next play, Jeffries was intercepted again by Dishawn Sanders. That led to another touchdown on a 3-yard pass from Cutbirth to Raphael Barr in the final minute of the first half to give the Eagles a 27-21 lead.

Glendora took the opening drive of the second half and in four plays had first-and-goal at the Eagles' 4. But as Victoria appeared to be going in for a go-ahead touchdown, he fumbled and Johnwell recovered in the end zone.

"That was the key turnover, because if they score there they take the lead," Bryce said.

The Eagles then went 80 yards in the ensuing drive and Mason (26 carries, 151 yards) scored on a 25-yard run that put Etiwanda up 33-21.

The fourth turnover, another Victoria fumble, was returned by Cortland Fort 85 yards for a clinching touchdown with 1:15 to play in the game.

Cutbirth, a junior, was an impressive 23-of-32 passing for 254 yards and three touchdowns. He also rushed seven times for 41 yards.

"He's a quarterback who's one of the best students of the game," Bryce said of the first-year starter. "He's watching film all of the time."

Glendora's Jeffries finished 17-of-28 passing for 262 yards.

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