

CIF FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS: Glendora falls victim to defending champs, 34-21

By Bruce Little, Correspondent

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GLENDORA - What does a co-Sierra League championship get you?

For the Glendora High School football team, it meant hosting Rancho Cucamonga, the No. 3 team from the Baseline League in the first round of the CIF-Southern Section Central Division playoffs.

The downside to that is, the Cougars are the defending Central Division champions, with only a pair of three-point losses blemishing their season.

Rancho Cucamonga served notice Friday night that it is not about to give up its crown without a struggle as it held off a second-half Glendora rally to win 34-21 at Citrus College.

The Cougars (9-2) will host the division's top-seeded team, Colton, Friday night in the quarterfinals.

Glendora (7-4) didn't have an answer for the Cougars offense in the first half, falling behind 27-7 at halftime.

Rancho Cucamonga amassed 334 yards in first-

half offense and quarterback Greg Watson was almost perfect, completing 13 of 16 passes for 212 yards.

The Tartans got the break they needed to start the second half, when Christian Villa recovered a Cougars fumble at the Glendora 47.

Glendora's Andre Holmes capped a 15-play drive with a 5-yard touchdown run to narrow the Cougars' lead to 27-14.

On the next series, the Tartans forced Rancho Cucamonga to punt for the only time in the game.

Glendora quarterback Chad Jeffries then marched the Tartans 90 yards in seven plays. Jeffries' 4-yard bootleg into the end zone pulled Glendora to within 27-21 with 11:54 left in the game.

Rancho Cucamonga responded by taking seven minutes off the clock, and Sateki Finau clinched the victory for the Cougars with a 13-yard touchdown run.

"We kind of made them a little nervous in the second half," Glendora coach Mark Pasquarella said.

"We needed a stop on fourth down, but didn't get it. That's a tribute to them because their team is really good."

Cougars running back Michael Boyd rushed for a game-high 148 yards on 25 carries.

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"We stumbled there in the third quarter, but overall, I thought we played a pretty solid game," Rancho Cucamonga coach Nick Baiz said.

"Our offensive line has been a strength for us all year, and they played well again tonight."

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