

High School Football News, Breaking High School Football News and More: The San Gabriel Valley Tribune

By Michelle Gardner, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin
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RANCHO CUCAMONGA >> The two Baseline League front-runners entered Friday's game having chalked up 6-0 records in opposite fashion. Glendora had won a lot of close games while Rancho Cucamonga had made a habit of winning blowouts despite playing a more difficult schedule.

It was the Cougars (7-0, 2-0) continuing their trend and registering a 37-9 win over the Tartans at Los Osos High School.

The top team in the CIF-SS Inland Division didn't need a lot of help but Glendora provided the Cougars just that, turning the ball over five times in the game, four times in the first half. That put the Tartans in a

hole they could not get out of.

"Obviously those helped us," Cougars coach Nick Baiz said. "We were able to take advantage of those and put a lot of points up early. Then it was a matter of just managing the game. It might have looked easy but it certainly wasn't. They're a good team."

That started literally as soon as Glendora (6-1, 1-1) got the ball. The Tartans got the kick and fumbled the first play from scrimmage, with Darrial Busby pouncing on the loose ball at the Glendora 27. Rancho capitalized on the second play with Khalil Muhammad running it in from the 10, although the PAT kick failed.

Rancho's second possession also resulted in a score, this time with Aaron Manning running it in from the 11 to make it 13-0.

Then on Glendora's first play of the ensuing drive, a Matt Fink pass was picked off by Ralston Compton and run back 40 yards for a touchdown, making it 20-0 with Glendora having four offensive plays and two turnovers,

It didn't get any better for the visitors.

Glendora, ranked sixth in the Inland Division after an upset of Upland last week, stopped the Rancho momentum, finally getting on the board on a 42-yard field goal by Caleb Watkins. But even that momentum was short-lived as the Cougars answered with a field goal of their own, a 27-yarder by Cristian Casillas, to make it 23-3, a lead the Cougars took into the locker room.

The Cougars weren't about to stop there. They struck quickly in the third quarter, with sophomore Angel Matute, subbing for injured starter Gage Pucci, connecting with Ethan Pulley on a 67-yard scoring play with Pulley sprung at the 15 by nice block by wide receiver Blake Fisher. That made it 30-3.

From there it was a matter of running out the clock.

Rancho, which has now won seven games by a total of 158 points, got 424 total yards with Matute throwing for 242. Pulley caught four passes for 100 yards. Muhammad rushed for 68 yards on four carries but left the game with a leg injury. Baiz said he wasn't sure of the severity but there was no need to try and bring the player back with the game under control.

Glendora, which had won its six games by a total of 23 points, managed 215 yards. Its biggest weapon was running back TyRell Evans who ran for 90 yards on 12 tries.

"This puts us in good position but we still have a lot of games to play," Baiz said, "We're pretty banged up. We'll see what happens this week."

Both teams continue Baseline League play next week with Glendora facing Etiwanda (4-3, 1-1) and Rancho Cucamonga squaring off against city rival Los Osos.