

## Glendora High has inside track to Palomares League football title

By Clay Fowler , Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

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Two games into its Palmoares League tenure, the Glendora High School football team couldn't be happier.

Ayala, conversely, wasn't thrilled to reunite with its former Sierra League nemesis Friday night.

Glendora held the Bulldogs to 208 total yards in a 27-7 win to remain undefeated in league play and hand a crucial loss to arguably their toughest competition for the Palomares League title.

The Tartans (6-1, 2-0) will almost assuredly hold on to the No. 1 ranking in the CIF Central Division while No. 6 Ayala (5-2, 1-1) can only be reminded of the three consecutive Sierra League titles won by Glendora the last time these teams occupied the same league.

"I'm hoping we turn this around and we get in the playoffs," Ayala coach Randy Reams said. "I'm hoping we see them again."

In the meantime, Reams may be seeing Glendora quarterback Matt Fink in his nightmares. The junior ran for 160 yards and three touchdowns on just 18 carries.

Outside of a 48-yard touchdown run by Noah Holmes that gave Glendora a 20-0 lead on the first play of the fourth quarter, Fink carried a Glendora offense that totaled 312 yards. The Tartans gained 168 of their yards on just three plays, two of which were long runs by Fink.

The deceptively fast 6-foot-3 quarterback scored the game's first touchdown on a 69-yard run, but his most important play may have been a 51-yard scamper on third-and-14 to set up Glendora's final touchdown of the game.

"Our defense kept stopping them to get us the ball," Fink said. "And our o-line did a good job making those big holes and I could run through them easily."

Employing its third quarterback of the game, Ayala scored its lone touchdown on a 44-yard pass from Isiah Flowers to Jaime Valle to pull within 20-7 at the 8:37 mark of the fourth quarter. The 85-yard drive accounted for 40 percent of Ayala's offense.

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But the Bulldogs squandered their most realistic opportunity to climb back into the game after forcing a fumble at the Glendora 15-yard line while trailing 13-0 in the third quarter. Despite a pass interference penalty awarding them a first-and-goal at the 6-yard line, the Bulldogs came away with no points, missing their second field goal of the night.

"In that situation when we get a turnover deep in their territory, we really need to find a way to put points on the board," Reams said. "They were just more aggressive than we were. They got off the ball. They were just more physical."

Following a season-opening loss to 2013 semifinalist Burbank, Ayala won five consecutive entering Friday night, including a [dramatic win over Damien](#) and a league victory against a one-loss Claremont team.

Glendora's lone loss entering Friday night was a 42-17 blowout at the hands of San Gorgonio, the No. 5 team in the Inland Division, but the Tartans countered that with a league-opening [49-13 win over a](#)

[one-loss Bonita team](#) last week. Glendora, however, had already earned its No. 1 ranking in the Central Division with impressive victories over [Covina Charter Oak](#) and [Kaiser](#) during nonleague play.

The last time Glendora and Ayala shared the same league, beginning in 2007 the Tartans won at least a share of three consecutive Sierra League championships. Ayala needed only a win over Glendora in the 2008 regular season finale to secure an outright league title, but a 21-14 Glendora win dropped the Bulldogs into a shared league championship with the Tartans and city rival Chino Hills.



*Clay Fowler*

Reach the author at [clay.fowler@inlandnewspapers.com](mailto:clay.fowler@inlandnewspapers.com) or follow Clay on Twitter: [@Clay\\_Fowler](#).

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