

In victory over Los Altos High School, Glendora High School football flexes its Central Division muscle

By Fred Robledo , San Gabriel Valley Tribune

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Glendora's Noah Holmes (22) runs for a first down against Los Altos in the first half of a prep football game at Los Altos High School in Hacienda Heights, Calif., on Friday, Sept. 19, 2014. (Photo by Keith Birmingham/ Pasadena Star-News)

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Glendora got its first taste of what the CIF Southern Section Central Division feels like after years of struggle in the Baseline League and Inland Division.

And it tasted good.

Glendora, ranked seventh in the Central, wore down sixth-ranked Los Altos and took advantage of big Conquerors penalties that led to momentum-changing points on its way to a 34-14 victory.

Glendora is now 2-1, and Los Altos fell to 2-2.

After years of facing the likes of Rancho Cucamonga and Upland in the Baseline, Glendora will likely be among the favorites in the new Palomares League that includes Ayala, South Hills, Claremont, Diamond Bar and Bonita that starts in a couple weeks.

"Anytime you can come into an environment like this against an outstanding football team and walk away with a win, you have to congratulate your kids. They played well tonight," Glendora coach Jerry Llewallen said.

Glendora running back Andrew Montano finished with 129 yards and though Tartans quarterback Matt Fink didn't pile up a bunch of big numbers, finishing with 86 yards passing, he scored on a 63-yard run with 2:39 left in the third that pushed the Tartans' lead to 20-7.

"They're a good team, they have big physical guys, but our offensive line kept pounding away, pounding away," Fink said. "Our guys did what they had to do to win."

Caleb Watkins' 31-yard field goal on Glendora's opening drive staked it to a 3-0 lead, then the Conquerors paid the price for untimely penalties.

After Los Altos forced Glendora to a long 41-yard field-goal attempt by that Watkins sailed wide, a personal foul kept the drive alive, giving the Tartans a first down at the 12.

A couple plays later, Fink dove in from a yard out to extend the Tartans' lead to 10-0 midway through the second quarter.

Los Altos quarterback Lorenzo Silva, who finished with 173 yards passing, got the Conquerors going,

hooking up on a 60-yard pass to Art Vargas followed later by an 8-yard TD pass to Amir Avery to cut the Tartans' lead to 10-7 with 3:37 left until half.

Los Altos had a chance to take the lead in the final minute of the half, but Silva was picked off by Collin Grady, and when the Conquerors appeared to stop the Tartans on a fourth down at the 50, a roughing penalty gave the Tartans a first down at the 35 with 33 seconds left.

That eventually set up Watkins' 39-yard field goal as time expired to extend the Tartans' lead to 13-7 at the break.

"The little things killed us," Silva said. "If we would have taken advantage of the little things, we could have won this game. We've got to learn from our mistakes, fix it and hopefully meet them in the playoffs and get another chance at them."

After Noah Holmes runs of 30, 14 and 11 yards, Zach Llewallen did the rest, scoring from a yard out to push Glendora's lead to 27-7 to start the fourth quarter.

Los Altos' Joey Toribio scored on a 2-yard run to make it 27-14 with 5:29 left, but Holmes answered with a 20-yard TD run with just over a minute left to put it away.

For the most part, the Tartan's defense won the battle up front.

"Our defensive line stepped up big time tonight," Llewallen said. "We kept those big guys off us and ran around and make some plays."



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