

## Old Warrior still battling and inspiring : Football teams aren't backing away from big challenges

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It's not how you dance in the end zone that's most important, but how you carry yourself in your attempt to get there.

That point was made clear by several coaches during Monday's Santa Barbara Athletic Round Table Press Luncheon at Harry's Plaza Cafe.

Jeff Moorhouse, an assistant football coach at Carpinteria High, pounded it home to the Warriors before Friday's game against Grace Brethren when he told them about his former classmate, Tom Whitaker from the Class of 1980, who is a life-and-death struggle with cancer.

"I talked to the team about courage and what it meant, and about life, and it was something that our team really took to heart," he said. "We responded."

The Warriors (2-2) lost their star quarterback to an injury, and then lost the game, but they gained the respect "of the coaches and the community" with how they persevered in the 34-23 defeat. Moorhouse introduced two players -- Justin Alvarado and Cody Wilson -- who "responded to that call of courage."

Alvarado, Carpinteria's top receiver, passed for 117 yards and rushed for another 78 in place of quarterback R.J. Rosborough. Wilson, meanwhile, made several big catches after coming off the bench to take Alvarado's spot.

"For a guy who doesn't practice the quarterback position, he did an unbelievable job," Moorhouse said of Alvarado, while adding that Wilson made, "three incredible, game-changing catches . . . and also filled in some shoes on defense."

• SANTA BARBARA (0-3) -- Assistant coach Jaime Melgoza noted that defensive stalwart Spencer Kelly proved his mettle by playing with a broken hand for two weeks before seeking medical attention. He then took the field against Righetti on Friday with a pair of swollen thumbs.

"He can't even get his helmet on now," he said, "but he's one of those kids who still just goes out there and plays with a lot of heart, and that's what we have at Santa Barbara High School."

Melgoza also sang the praises of two-way lineman Stephen Pe0x96a, noting that his attitude has helped the Dons' coaching staff deal with a winless start against three powerhouse opponents.

"Are we an 0-3 team? No," Melgoza said. "Are we a pretty good team? Yes. Are we going to win games. I think so. These kids have a lot of heart, and when they go out there they play hard."

They'll go for their first win at home on Friday against San Luis Obispo.

• SAN MARCOS (2-1) -- The Royals are off to a big start even though their players aren't the largest.

"The story of our team this year is just a bunch of hungry guys who want to hit people and want to play football," said coach Dare Holdren. "We love to have fun out there and just get after it."

He introduced two examples in Cody Clark, who rushed for 150 yards and three touchdowns in Friday's win at Hueneme, and strong safety Kirk Renga.

"(Clark) isn't the biggest kid, but he's very quick and he has a ton of heart," Holdren said. "And the great thing is that his teammates love the way he works, and therefore cheered him on to the very end."

"It's a good thing that (Renga) is small because if he were 50 pounds heavier, I'd be fielding a bunch of lawsuits from people whose sons he'd just . . . flattened, because this guy is just a pure hitter. We put him in some situations on Friday where he made some big plays, and he's just a real emotional leader on our defense."

He's scheduled a tough challenge for them this week at Oxnard.

• DOS PUEBLOS (1-2) -- The Chargers had to deal with the enormity of the moment as well as a powerful Lompoc team in Friday's debut of Scott O'Leary Stadium.

"We did a real good job (the previous week) against Cabrillo, reading our keys, but against Lompoc our guys' eyes were huge," said coach Jeff Uyesaka. "The hills were painted because of our grand opening, we had F-16 fly-bys -- those were just a coincidence, but we told them it was because of the game."

"It was pretty cool -- they came at the right time. The color guard's out there, they turn their wings and everything. They flew by and they thought it came out of our athletic budget."

He introduced a pair of Chargers who've scored big this season: Quarterback Zach Boytis, whose 15-yard run was the first varsity touchdown ever scored at O'Leary Stadium, and Branden Tangel, who doubles as a receiver and kicker.

DP will play its only other game at O'Leary Stadium this Friday against Righetti.

"We didn't have a great defensive stand this last Friday, so we have to clean a lot of things up to be able to hang," Uyesaka said.

• BISHOP DIEGO (0-3) -- Athletic director Dan Peters said the Cardinals will use a bye week to recover from their 14-13 loss to Santa Paula.

"It was a difficult pill to swallow because we were so close," he said, noting Bishop's 13-0 halftime lead. "We had some execution errors in the second half."

"According to (coach Tom Crawford), we've had our best 10 days of practice and with some renewed health, we look forward to playing better week-to-week."

Peters introduced senior quarterback Anthony Martinez, who completed 9-of-10 passes against Santa Paula in the first half, and sophomore Vince Figueroa, last year's JV quarterback who is filling in at other spots this season.

"Despite his size, (Martinez) demonstrates incredible heart and courage and durability," Peters said. "Coach Crawford is really pleased with his coachability and his work ethic. Anthony showed intelligence, athleticism and leadership in every game and is simply a gutsy man."

"(Figueroa) stepped in on Friday with no experience and played middle linebacker, had several tackles, played very physical and brought a lift to the team. He also played center for us. He was giving up 90 pounds to each tackle and he did an excellent job."

• SBCC (0-4) -- The Vaqueros are holding their heads high despite some size differential and a winless record.

"I'm very committed to getting our team through this," said coach Craig Moropoulos, who introduced freshmen Ozvaldo Donato and Gary Braun as two reasons "why I'm optimistic that we will get through this."

"(Donato) is one of the feistiest, hardest-playing defensive linemen that I've been around," he said. "He has his hands full this week against L.A. Southwest because they have one of the biggest humans I've ever seen playing offensive line. He's 6-11, 340 pounds, but I guarantee Ozzie will be chopping at his kneecaps the whole game."

He added that Braun, a safety from Dos Pueblos, is "the epitome of what I want at Santa Barbara City College."

"This young man is a 4.0 student, he's as classy a young man as we have, and every time I'm using an example when I'm talking to a player, I always think of him," Moropoulos said. "He's learning every day, never gives us a problem and he's a leader."

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

• SAN MARCOS -- Coach Roger Kuntz is enjoying a 7-3 pre-season, but looming ahead are cross-town matches on Thursday against Dos Pueblos and next Tuesday against Santa Barbara.

"DP is nationally ranked, as is Santa Barbara," he said. "We have a lot of quality players in Santa Barbara."

He said the Royals are on a roll thanks to returning starters Flo Chardon, Kristin Schroeder, Jennifer Waddill and Kristen Kuntz.

"(Chardon), our junior 5-11 outside, was an all-tournament selection on Saturday," Kuntz said. "(Schroeder) is one of our senior captains and plays a lot bigger than her 5-7 stature -- her left hand is wicked."

"(Waddill) is a three-year starter in our middle at 6-foot . . . She had an incredible week and led us against Buena with 15 kills."

But Kuntz also has a four-year starter at setter.

"She's been on the varsity for every match of her career, and she runs our show," he said. "She is, I'm proud to say, my daughter, senior captain Kristen Kuntz."

• DOS PUEBLOS -- The Chargers had their best showing ever in the Dave Mohs Orange County Championships, advancing to the final against Orange Lutheran -- the same school that beat Santa Barbara in the semifinals.

"Had Santa Barbara beaten them, we would've had the Orange County Tournament right here in Santa Barbara, which would've been real exciting," said DP assistant coach Tina Brown. "Our girls have just been playing phenomenal (volleyball) and are really taking volleyball to another whole level."

She introduced the "hub" of the Chargers' team, setters Sami Brown and Paige Craine.

"We really are lucky at DP to have these two girls," Brown said. "They're phenomenal athletes. We never want them off the court because they don't make any errors and they make everyone else around them look really good."

Versatile senior Hannah Powers also took a luncheon bow:

"She's our libero, DS (defensive specialist), server specialist -- whatever we need Hannah to do, she does it," Brown said. "She came into Thousand Oaks and brought us some incredible stability at a time when we really needed it."

• SANTA BARBARA -- The Dons followed up their third-place finish at the Dave Mohs Tournament by finishing second in the prestigious Archbishop Mitty Invitational in San Jose.

"The level of volleyball in this town has never been higher," said coach John Gannon. "It's really fun to see the girls play it well and perform well at these tournaments."

He presented two players -- Emily Rottman and Eve Ettinger -- who represent all that Santa Barbara High volleyball stands for: "They play great defense, pass the ball, do a lot of great things on the court."

Gannon said Rottman is the best jumper that he's seen in his decade at Santa Barbara High.

• CARPINTERIA -- The Warriors had a good showing at their own tournament, placing fifth out of 13 teams while winning eight of 12 matches. They had toughened up with Tri-Valley League matches against highly ranked Oaks Christian and La Reina.

"We lost 3-0 to each team, but every game my got better and better," said coach Katie Dolge.

She introduced a pair of key players: Opposite hitter Megan McMahon and defensive specialist Monique Alvarado.

"Megan does great things: She's big, puts up a block, swings hard, is getting better every time and is a real fun player to watch," Dolge said. "She's only a junior, so I'm looking for great things from her next year."

"Monique came over from Bishop. She's a strong player and really helps us stay as a team and keeps the game going."

• SBCC -- The Vaqueros have tapped into the deep local talent pool with sophomore Vanessa Shaw.

"We've moved her around," said athletic director Mike Warren. "She's played three different positions for us. She's played as our libero and she's played setter."

"This week, coach moved her to the outside and she had 25 kills and made the all-tournament team in San Diego, and some of the finest women's volleyball players in Southern California are at that tournament. We took fifth out of 12 teams."

### GIRLS TENNIS

• BISHOP DIEGO -- The Cardinals, 3-1 overall, are off to a 2-0 start in the Tri-Valley League thanks to four-year player and captain Brooke Czuleger and No. 2 player Emily Harrington.

"(Brooke) is a very dedicated, enthusiastic and eager player," Peters said. "She's played the first doubles the last three years but is also a good singles player."

"Emily is in her second year on the team. She is a very competitive player. She's a hard-working student of the game and has a lot of fun with it and making her teammates feel special."

### SOCCER

• SBCC -- Warren noted that both the Vaquero men and women's teams are ranked nationally.

"Our women haven't been defeated in nine games," Warren said. "We have a local player, Ricky Fien from Santa Barbara High School, who's playing midfield for us and doing a great job."

"(The men) have the leading scorer in the state last year in Mark Field. Mark is back with us and is amongst the leaders in the state again."

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**Cody Clark**

Sport: Football  
School: San Marcos High  
Year: Junior  
Achievement: Rushed for 150 yards and three touchdowns in a 27-9 victory at Hueneme.  
Honorable mention: Brandon Cowan, Santa Barbara High water polo; Christopher Braden, Dos Pueblos cross country; Christopher Minton, UCSB soccer.



**Rachel Decker-Sadowski**

Sport: Girls Tennis  
School: Santa Barbara High  
Year: Senior  
Achievement: Won all three of her singles matches, in a 10-8 win over top-ranked CIF power Beverly Hills.  
Honorable mention: Genelle Ives, UCSB soccer; Lauren McLaughlin, UCSB volleyball; April Ludwick and Zoe Miller, Santa Barbara High girls tennis.