

advocatic, catch for 40 yards and their two plays later he found Kevin Post on a 20-yard touchdown pass and the Eagles were headed

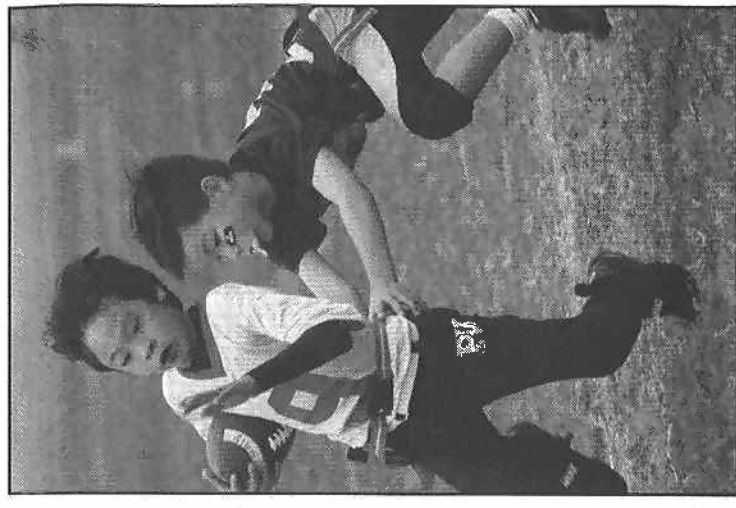
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Championship

By Gregg McMullin

If you're a football fan like most of the country has become you see these great athletes playing on Friday nights at high school games, Saturday afternoons during college games and on Sundays in the NFL. But did you ever stop to think and wonder when and where these guys start playing the game of football? I suspect that many of these players started when they were very young while playing in a youth football league like the Pop Warner Football League. On Saturday mornings a flag division for players between the ages of 5-7 gets young football hopefuls introduced to a game that has become so complex. These young participants don't see the complexity in the game but rather they see the simple fun of playing the game. In the flag division there are certain rules such as players wearing break away flags on their waist, that when pulled by the defense constitutes as a tackle. Games are played on an 80-yard field, they play 20 minute running halves and each player must play in a minimum of 12 plays during the game.

The El Segundo 'Gold' Eagles play in the Pacific Coast Conference Youth Football League or PCC (which is similar to the Pop Warner League). They completed their season with a perfect 8-0 record last Saturday against the Palos Verdes Outlaws winning 18-13. Both teams went into the game with identical 7-0 records so playing for the PCC Championship was on the line. The first half was played by both teams exploring the others' weaknesses and the game went to half-time in a scoreless tie. The Eagles have rolled through their season by beating each team by an average of two touchdowns so being in this tight game created some anxieties. The PCC is a travel league meaning that teams travel all over, including as far away as Buena Park, to play against each other



Jameson Wang stops PV's Colby Katayama.

and the Eagles were not accustomed to this tight contest against Palos Verdes. In the second half the Eagles found the end zone first when Jonah Gold made some great moves to get around the Outlaw's defense on his way to a 50-yard touchdown run. On his way towards pay dirt Jonah put on some pretty heady moves that faked out the defense as he out ran everyone by ten yards. On the Outlaws' ensuing possession they used their speedy running back, Colby Katayama, to get back into the game. The diminutive quick back routinely took misdirection handoffs and picked up yardage. Katayama found the end zone from four yards out and tied the game at 6-6.

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not only capture the league championship, but also set a record for the program's highest winning percentage. Again all varsity and junior varsity updates will appear next week as well as El Segundo's bracket and potential opponents in the C.I.F. Division VI playoffs.

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