

Special teams play helps Palos Verdes beat Inglewood

Macer returns two blocked punts for TDs in second half

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Palos Verdes had a two-touchdown lead and a little momentum going into the second half, but not even the Sea Kings were ready for the manner in which they broke the game open.

Especially Jake Macer.

Macer took blocked punts in for touchdowns on the first two possessions of the second half and Palos Verdes prepared for Bay League play with a 42-14 nonleague victory over Inglewood Friday night at Coleman Stadium.

A little diligence on special teams game-planning paid off for the Sea Kings (3-2), who have won three straight games.

Macer was the main beneficiary, returning the blocked kicks from the 10-yard line each time. Needless to say, it was a new experience for the senior.

"Not in my football career. That was pretty neat," Macer said. "I work hard and sometimes you get lucky. Right to me, scooping and score it - and that was pretty much it."

The first block came from Ian Erceg, who had blocked a punt last week and returned it for a touchdown.

It added up to more praise for assistant coach Jim Hudnall, who oversees the Sea Kings' special teams.

"Coach Hudnall, he works all week, he puts in countless hours," Macer said. "We saw that there was an opening on the right side we could squeeze right through and we could put another guy right in there and block it, and things worked out."

Quarterback Zack Fixen completed seven of 12 passes for 148 yards and two touchdowns, the second a 39-yard post to Lateef Munir that completed the 22-0 third-quarter blitz.

And Palos Verdes used eight different ball carriers to compile 195 rushing yards, which included short-yardage scoring runs from Mason Manu in the first quarter and Carl Aguirre in the second.

Fixen also threw a 32-yard touchdown pass to Dean Alessi on third-and-3 in the second quarter, enabling Palos Verdes to break a 7-7 tie.

Fixen's play-fake pass for 11 yards to Donovan Ward on fourth down set up Aguirre's 2-yard touchdown run, giving Palos Verdes a 20-7 halftime lead.

"This just happened to be another night for our special teams," Palos Verdes coach Guy Gardner said. "Inglewood had some breakdowns and we took advantage of them. ... It was a good effort by our special teams.

"Inglewood was playing real tough. They just didn't get some bounces their way that didn't help them either."

The breakdowns and a 42-7 deficit didn't help morale on the sideline for Inglewood (1-4) and coach Stephen Thomas who at one point called a timeout in the fourth quarter to address his team.

"It was embarrassing. It was an embarrassing effort on our part," Thomas said. "It was probably the most embarrassing effort I've had since we've been in this program.

"We didn't have a great week of practice. We've got to correct some attitude. It showed up tonight. ... and I have to do a better job of preparing our kids. At the end of the day, it falls on me."

Quarterback Derrick Woods completed 15 of 30 passes for 141 yards and two touchdowns. His 18-yard scoring pass to Dylan Durr tied the game at 7-7 early in the second quarter.

Woods hit Devian Shelton for a 31-yard scoring pass for the Sentinels' second touchdown.

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