



## Sea Kings start league play with shutout

By Nick Ingram Special to the News  
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Knowing they could not take a team lightly during league play, the Palos Verdes High School football team came out last Friday afternoon firing on all cylinders.

"We try as best we can \[as a coaching staff\] to have the players focus the same way each week," coach Guy Gardner said. "We try and treat everyone the same, no matter the opponent. That's the challenge."

And on its Homecoming Day, PV High was up to the challenge, led by senior quarterback Zack Fixen, a consistent running attack behind a determined offensive line and a stout defense, the Sea Kings blanked visiting Leuzinger High School 62-0 in the Bay League opener.

Senior running back Zach Henkaus got PV High (4-2, 1-0) started, scoring the games first touchdown on a 48-yard run to put the Sea Kings up 7-0 after just 2:12 had ticked off the game clock.

"Our offensive line works their tails off," Henkaus said. "The holes \[last Friday\] were three-people wide."

After the Sea King defense forced the Olympians (0-6, 0-1) into one of its seven punts on the afternoon, Fixen gave the ball right back to the Leuzinger High offense, throwing an interception over the middle of the field.

"A couple of my passes I forced the ball and it didn't turn out great," Fixen said. "I just have to keep working on that, be smart and keep getting better every week."

But that possession did not last long, as senior linebacker Chad Mensinger stripped the ball out of Devin Christy's hands on the drives second-play, setting the PV High offense up at the 8-yard line.

This time, Sea King senior Salvatore Vitale punching the ball in two plays later from the 3-yard line, making it a 14-0 game.

PV High did not look back after that, building a 34-0 halftime lead as Fixen found three different receivers for touchdowns in the second quarter — junior Dean Alessi (30 yards), senior Donovan Ward (54 yards) and senior Robby Kolanz (15 yards).

As the clock wound down before halftime, Fixen tried to find senior Lateef Munir down the sideline, but was unable to thread the needle, resulting in his second interception of the game.

"We tried to get \[Munir\] something there at the end of the first half. It just didn't work out," Gardner said. "Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. \[Fixen\] may have forced the issue there, but he had a good game."

Fixen finished with 95 yards and 3 touchdowns on 4-of-9 passing, including the two interceptions.

With the game in hand after halftime, the Sea Kings continued to overpower the Olympians, but were slowed at times by penalties.

"We have been shooting ourselves in the foot by being a little sloppy," Fixen said. "I think we were a little excited for the first game of league. We just had to buckle down, focus, and stop being lazy."

PV High was penalized eight times for a total of 65 yards.

Senior Carl Aguirre scored on a 6-yard run to make it a 41-0 game with 7:33 left in the third quarter, and junior Matt Lopes interception set up senior Ryan Ramos' 3-yard score, giving the Sea Kings a 48-0 advantage.

Aguirre finished with 48 yards on six carries, while Lopes finished with 42 yards on four carries. Ramos' touchdown run was his lone carry of the game.

In the fourth quarter, senior Roman Smith scored on a 6-yard run to make it a 56-0 contest before junior Jackson Hollis intercepted Olympian quarterback Chris Delgado's pass at the Leuzinger High 45-yard line, racing up the sideline for the touchdown and a 62-0 lead. Smith had three carries for 28 yards.

Senior Patrick Scoggins and junior Matt Tomich each added quarterback sacks. Ramos and fellow senior Jake Macer each earned half of a sack, combining to bring down the Leuzinger High play-caller late in the second quarter.

The Sea King defense limited Leuzinger High to just 111 yards of offense, half of those coming on a 55-yard pass play with the clock winding down in the fourth quarter. The Olympians were held to negative 13 yards of offense in the first half.

With the first league win behind them, the Sea Kings now shift their focus to three-time defending league champion Mira Costa High School (2-4, 1-0).

"It's a huge game," Fixen said. "We have never beaten them \[since I've been at PV High\]. It's a big rivalry, and they are a really good team. We have to bring it all to win that one."

While it may just be another game to some, PV High knows the intensity they have brought to the field so far through the season needs to continue.

"It starts with \[practice\] Monday," said Henkaus, who gained 73 yards on three carries. "We need to play like we practice on Monday. Hopefully we come out and hit each other hard and work hard and hopefully it will transition into Friday, because we have been looking forward to this game for a long time."

"We are bringing it Monday \[in practice\]," Mensinger said. "The whole week should be like game day."

During last Friday's game, each of the Sea Kings wore pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, as well as someone they knew who had been diagnosed with cancer.

"Everyone was playing for someone \[last Friday\]," Fixen said. "It was more special than just wearing pink."

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