

Coaches Corner
Northwood Timberwolves vs. Corona del Mar Sea Kings

Welcome to tonight's Pacific Coast League opener between your Northwood Timberwolves and the visiting Corona del Mar Sea Kings.

The Timberwolves come into tonight's game after a solid 31 – 14 victory over a talented Valley Christian squad in last Thursday's final tune up for Pacific Coast League play. The special teams led the way last week with a blocked punt by Kyle Wakayama that led to a touchdown near the end of the first half. Matt Blackburn picked up the recovery from the blocked punt and ran it in for the score putting the T-Wolves up by a commanding 28 – 7 margin. Nathan Nellesen had a solid game as he converted on each of his four extra point tries along with adding a field goal in the fourth quarter for the T-Wolves' final score.

JJ Albright led the defense with two sacks as he harassed the Crusader quarterback throughout the evening. Kevin Norman also had a solid game from his safety position with several knocked down passes and some key tackles throughout the contest. Offensively, Ricky Bautista continued his pinpoint passing as he threw three touchdown passes on 20 of 33 attempts and 295 yards as the offensive line provided excellent protection throughout the evening. Norman was on the other end of two of Bautista's touchdown passes, one totaling 72 yards in all. Alex King hauled in the other touchdown pass as the T-Wolves extended the score to 21 – 7 after a fumble recovery by Joe Dunleavy gave the T-Wolves a short field to work with. Tyler Zorn who is leading the county in receptions with 49, hauled in 8 more for 87 yards against Valley Christian.

The Sea Kings under the direction of first year coach, Scott Meyer, come into the game as the #1 team in the Southern Division by virtue of their 4 – 1 record in non-league action. The Sea Kings are led by quarterback Brett Lawson (#12), as he has completed 52% of his passes for 934 yards and 13 touchdowns. Erik Fisher (#4) leads the rushing attack as he has gained 488 yards and 5 touchdowns in the first five games. The Sea Kings have several key receivers in Troy Reese (17 receptions, 259 yards, 5 td's), Josh Giger (16 receptions, 242 yards, 5 td's) and two-way player, Cole Cottrell (7 receptions, 164 yards and 2 td's). Corona del Mar is led on defense by a host of linebackers in Grant Garrett (#33), David Moore (#55), Frasier Anderson (#2), and Aaron White (#13) along with Cottrell in the secondary.

Look for a spirited game in this first Pacific Coast League encounter as each team looks to get a leg up on the rest of the league in this Thursday night match-up!

Northwood leads the series at 5 – 1 – 1.

Next game: Thursday, October 20 vs. Beckman
Irvine Stadium – 7 pm