

FOOTBALL

# Anchormen Ready to Tackle Uphill Battle

By James Cameron

THE ANCHOR BEACON

The Anchormen failed to start hot this year, losing the first two games of the season.

The team struggled both on offense and defense in its first two games, leading to consecutive 30+ point loses. With only 5 games remaining in the season and conference play coming up, a quick turnaround would be needed to manage a playoff berth.

Despite these losses, the Anchormen are optimistic about their game on Saturday, Sept. 24, against Matignon.

Quarterback Jerry O'Brien, a senior, said the team will be "looking to get back on track for their first game of league play."

Matignon has had a similarly dismal start to the season, so the game will be a big opportunity to turn the season around. Due to not being league games, the first two games of the season don't spell the end to the season. With a strong showing in Saturday's game, the Saint Clement Anchormen could still end up on top of the league and make the playoffs.

In the season opener, the Anchormen played against Boston Latin Academy. The game appeared to be a defensive showdown with no scoring either way in the first quarter, but BLA quickly changed course in the second. A blinding set of defensive backs led to consecutive pick-sixes on consecutive offensive drives against the Anchormen passing game.

Beyond that point, the game was forever out of reach for the Anchormen. A touchdown off an interception gave hope to the Anchormen early in the third quarter but it wouldn't be enough to make any appreciable dent in the BLA lead. The BLA Dragons would go on to win the game 6-38.

Trying to prove their worth, the Anchormen came to play against Mystic Valley. Adjustments in the game plan were apparent from the jump, with a change at quarterback and a new intensity on defense. Thanks to the team's renewed intensity, the first half was very competitive. Despite holding an early lead, the Eagles led only by a single point going into the second half.

Second half adjustments greatly benefitted the Eagles however, forcing multiple fumbles while keeping the Anchormen out of scoring position. After plastering points on the scoreboard, the game ended on a 31-0 run for the Eagles, finishing the game 6-38 in favor of Mystic Valley.