

NAMES  
AND NEWS

# New coach leads CBS football in comeback

By Jason Jones  
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Andre Johansen knew he was walking into a tough situation, and it had nothing to do with Christian Brothers High School's 1-9 football record in 2004.

Former Los Angeles Raider Vance Mueller was supposed to be the Falcons' coach this season, but he resigned during the spring to take a front-office job with the Oakland Raiders.

Johansen, who was brought in to be Mueller's defensive coordinator, replaced Mueller as head coach.

"I was really worried about how that was going to go, because they were so excited to be getting Vance as a coach," Johansen said.

Now the Falcons can just be excited.

After winning six games in the previous three seasons, Christian Brothers has won two games this season and tied Jesuit in the Holy Bowl.

Even after a 42-7 loss to three-time defending Sac-Joaquin Section champion Oak Ridge, there is still reason for optimism for the Falcons (2-1-1).

The prospect for more victories is good as confidence builds in what Johansen and the coaching staff are doing.

And though the Falcons failed to earn a victory against Jesuit, the resolve CBS showed could be a turning point for a program that has been down in recent years.

Jesuit had beaten the Falcons 55-7 in 2004 and 42-7 in 2003. And the Marauders appeared headed for another romp Sept. 24 by scoring the first 13 points and taking a 19-6 lead. But the Falcons didn't hang their heads and accept another blowout. They showed grit and rallied to tie the score in the fourth quarter.

"Our kids have shown tremendous heart and no quit," Johansen said.

The offense has been led by senior Curtis Raulinaitis, who switched from wide receiver to quarterback to direct the team's spread-option attack. He passed for 384 yards and four touchdowns and rushed for 209 yards through three games.

On the ground, senior running back Andrew Molina led CBS with 332 yards and four touchdowns.

Defensively, senior linebacker David Bonomi had 38 tackles in three games.

Now the Falcons are in Sierra Valley Conference play with the belief they can have an impact rather than be the doormat.

"I tell them every day we can go as far as we want to," Johansen said.

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