

# Names and news At CBS, football looks to rebound

By Jason Jones  
BEE STAFF WRITER

Christian Brothers High School isn't a football powerhouse, but coach **Bobby Fresques** says the Falcons are improving, despite their 1-7 record.

One of the team's more inspiring performances came Oct. 23 against Galt in a Sierra Valley Conference game that the Falcons played with heavy hearts.

Principal **Rudolf Schulze** died in a single-car accident early that morning.

"We're a small school, small community," Fresques said. "We try to practice our faith, and our principal was a shining example of that. And I got a bunch of calls about whether we were even going to play the game."

Fresques decided playing is "what Rudy would have wanted." The inspired Falcons gave playoff-contending Galt a battle before falling 15-8.

The school held a prayer service the Monday after Schulze's death. Fresques said the chance to mourn and pay tribute to the energetic and popular principal, who died on his 51st birthday, has helped the players and coaching staff deal with the loss.

Schulze's death was the latest in a series of tragedies to hit the school. In December 2003, **Sharmelia Jeffries**, a 17-year-old Christian Brothers student, was killed in a hit-and-run accident involving a drunken driver. Less than a month later, another student, 17-year-old **Matthew Prentice**, died in a single-car accident on Interstate 80.

In January, former athletic director and baseball coach **Ron Limeberger** died of a heart attack at age 69.

"It makes you think," Fresques said. "It makes you want to go and tell your parents you love them, and it makes you second-guess some of the things you're doing. It makes you make sure you have things in perspective."

The Galt game was the Falcons' second straight solid performance against a playoff-caliber team. CBS led Placer 14-13 in the fourth quarter before losing 21-14 in a nonleague game Oct. 15. Last Friday, the Falcons lost another tight battle, falling to El Dorado 18-13.

"I think they're understanding the game and what the coaches expect of them," Fresques said of his players. "Bottom line is they have to go out and execute their assignments. I don't know if they were trusting that process."

Fresques met with some key players after a 43-14 loss to Ponderosa on Oct. 8 to make sure communication was open. That also coincided with junior **Andrew Bettencourt** earning back the starting quarterback job he won as a sophomore.

Senior **Gilberto Tovar** beat out Bettencourt before the season after Fresques said Bettencourt didn't make adequate improvement.

Lately, Bettencourt has begun to show signs of the maturity needed to play the position.

"The quarterback, whether you like it or not, you're a leader," Fresques said. "He's just young, and he needs to start showing more of a leadership role if he's going to assume that position."

The 6-foot-1, 180-pound Bettencourt bounced back from a 2-for-16 performance against Placer to complete 18 of

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23 passes for 113 yards against Galt.

Seniors **Rashad Dupaty** and **Christopher Vassell** have combined for more than 1,000 rushing yards, and the defense has shown marked improvement after giving up at least 40 points in four of the first five games.

Moral victories don't count in the standings, but Fresques is taking them for now.

"What's good is we've been playing our best football of the season," Fresques said. "And I think it's important for the program to see success. But where we are and where we've come from, you've got to measure success in small steps. ... Even though we didn't win (against Placer and Galt), our kids definitely felt they were winners as far as their output."

Just as important to Fresques is that CBS keeps playing hard. That's one point he made when he met with some of the players a few weeks back. The players also made it clear they didn't want the coaching staff giving up on them and still expected them to succeed.

"It's just unfortunate we're in a tough league (Sierra Valley Conference)," Fresques said. "At the same time, I'll say this: A lot of teams at this point of the season, if they aren't winning, they're quitting."

The Falcons certainly haven't quit.

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