

## 80-1-5

*(Abington, September 30, 2009)* It was an exciting Wednesday Night Football game between the Marsh Creek Eagles and the Raiders at Abington. A tense battle between these two undefeated teams would allow only one of the two teams to rise to a 4-0 record.

The Eagles warm-up was characterized by a remarkable intensity and loudness that clearly underlined their strong will to take victory home regardless of the hour or the day of the week. Team Captains Garrett Gripton, Mark Jiannino, and Patrick Fowler led the Eagles for a kick-off start, which gave the Raiders the ball at their 40-yard line. Then, the Raiders offense started their futile attempts to succeed against an absolutely resilient Eagles defense consisting of Garvey Jonassaint, Drew Gunther, Garrett Gripton, Anthony Long, Stuart Regitz, Josh Burgess, Nolan Hale, Patrick Fowler, Tim Aivado, Cullen Breen, Jack O'Reilly, and Grant Burgess. After a wonderful tackle by Stuart Regitz, Eagles offense took over. Great blocking performance by Anthony Long, Braden Reed, Nolan Hale, and Kyle Egan allowed Tim Aivado multiple carries and 2 first downs, bringing the ball close to the Raiders' red zone at the end of the first quarter. The second quarter started with a continued demonstration of the Eagles' outstanding talent and skills. Again the Eagles defensive pressure was enormous as illustrated by vigorous tackles by Garvey Jonassaint and Drew Gunther. This pressure ultimately led the Raiders to fumble the ball, which was recovered by Patrick Fowler at the Raiders' 20-yard line.

An excellent performance of the Eagles offense followed, with several runs by Josh Burgess and an irresistible touchdown run by Grant Burgess! A notable extra-point play followed with a perfect pass from Drew Gunther to Tim Aivado who caught the ball despite being surrounded by four Raiders. The remaining 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter showed several great tackles by Stuart Regitz, and Cullen Breen, who also later sacked the Raiders' QB! Several great runs by Josh Burgess, and a 25-yard carry by Jack O'Reilly ended an impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter kickoff by the Raiders forced the Eagles to start at their 35-yard line.

Smart Eagle offensive linemen enabled a total of 3 offside penalties on the Raiders, and these together with several successful carries by Nolan Hale, Tim Aivado, Jack O'Reilly, and Bryan Rafferty finally brought the Eagles deep into Raiders territory. A great QB sneak by Bryan Rafferty, and Tim Aivado's successfully kicked 2-point conversion gave Eagles a 15-0 lead, such that now Raiders would have needed 3 touchdowns to still win the game. However, the Eagles defense would not allow this to happen! The defensive line with Garvey Jonassaint, Garrett Gripton, Nolan Hale, Patrick Fowler, Daniel King, and Owen Landis held the Raiders offense resiliently. Two minutes before the end of the game, the Raiders carried the ball into Eagles end zone after what many players and spectators felt to be 3 fouls committed by Raiders offense. Accordingly, 2 yellow flags were thrown on this play, but surprisingly the referees called this a touchdown, which left even some of the Raiders spectators a little puzzled. A self-confident Eagles team returned to the field and ended the game demonstrating their strength by another series of 3 first downs by Stuart Regitz, and Josh Burgess - thanks once more to great blocking by their offensive line. Final score: 15-6 win by Eagles!