

Aquinas Falcons upend Saints of Crean Lutheran

By Paul Prado Photography | Posted: Thursday, September 15, 2016 10:37 am

Friday night, Sept. 9, the Falcons of Aquinas hosted the Saints of Crean Lutheran. What would the Inland Empire team show their visitors from Orange County?

Within the first three minutes of the game, the Saints scored the first touchdown of the game. The pressure was now on the Falcons to change the momentum.

With less than eight minutes left in the first quarter, Aquinas put their first seven points on the board. They did not look back after that. The Falcons logged two more touchdowns by the end of the first quarter. The last touchdown, with 38 seconds left in the period, was a 74-yard pass to tight end Joshka Gustav.

The score was 28-7, near the end of the third quarter, with the Falcons flying high in the air and running swiftly on the field. Falcon running back Branden Rankins made the third touchdown with a 54-yard run. Before the third quarter came to a close, Gustav received a 30-yard touchdown pass for Aquinas.

Before the beginning of the fourth quarter, a recording of God Bless America was played in commemoration of the September 11th tragedy.

Starting the game with high hopes, the Saints had many opportunities to put additional points on the scoreboard. But the Falcons forced fumbles and provided good coverage against their opponents. As the time ticked away middle linebacker Branden Rankins intercepted a Saint's pass, closing the door for any more chances for Crean Lutheran; capping off a 35-7 victory over the Orange County visitors.

After the teams shook hands, the game ended with a prayer that included the teams and coaching staff of both schools.



Whoa!

Branden Rankins, of Aquinas, evades a tackle by Saints defender Robert Briones. Rankins would post a stellar game for the Falcons on Friday.