

## PREP BOYS SOCCER: Fast start propels La Costa Canyon past Torrey Pines

By TERRY MONAHAN - Staff Writer | Thursday, January 29, 2009 8:48 PM PST [□](#)



Costa Canyon's **Clayton Samuels**, third from left, is congratulated after scoring the team's second goal against Torrey Pines. Photo by Bill Wechter - Staff photographer. **SURF PLAYERS: Joseph Santos, Taylor Wirth, Jonny Espinoza, John Fitzpatrick, Zach Anderson all shown in picture**

LA COSTA ---- It's odd to say an unbeaten team has difficulty scoring early in a game.

But that failure to take advantage early has plagued the La Costa Canyon High boys soccer team this season.

"We tend to leave teams in games a lot longer than we should," Mavericks coach Dave Cohen said.

Not on Thursday, and not against La Costa Canyon's rival.

**The top-ranked Mavericks scored a goal in the first minute, a second goal just 2 1/2 minutes later and a final tally five minutes into the second half for a 3-0 thumping of second-ranked Torrey Pines.**



The victory keeps the Mavs (15-0-2), who are ranked No. 2 in the country by ESPN Rise, in first place in the Avocado League at 3-0-1.

**"This is a great way to end the week," La Costa Canyon senior goalie Matt Gillen said. "This time, against this team, we prepared all week for our first full game of the season.**

**"From the first second, we kept the game at our pace."**

That pace handed the Falcons (11-4-1, 2-2) a second consecutive loss.

"We didn't come to play," Torrey Pines coach Andy Hargreaves said. "They were sharper and applied themselves to the game better than we did."

It started very quickly as senior **Clayton Samuels** scored an unassisted goal just 31 seconds into the game.

With 36 minutes, 30 seconds left in the first half, the Mavericks were back at the Falcons' net again. This time, senior **Bobby Albert** flipped a shot into the net off an assist from **John Fitzpatrick** for a 2-0 lead.

**"They never knew what hit them," Gillen said. "Those two goals forced us to step up. No matter what the score, I have to be perfect.**

**"This was a very rough game, a typical LCC-Torrey game. I know I got some black-and-blue marks from this game. Hopefully, they got some, too."**

La Costa Canyon swarmed the Falcons' net one more time, opening the second half with a goal with 35 minutes to play.

**Fitzpatrick** capped off the scoring with a header that found the twine. **Johnny Espinoza** was credited with the assist.

"Most games we have dominated like this for the first 15 minutes, but haven't scored," Cohen said. "There are some good soccer players on this team. It's very hard to keep up with us when we play as fast as we did in this game.

"It looked like we just wanted it more than they did."

**Gillen** kept the Falcons from scoring with eight saves, and his defense kept Torrey Pines from mounting any serious threat or pounding any tough shots on him.

"It all started from the defense," **Gillen** said. "The whole midfield played well. We just played a full game as a team for the first time."

Despite that characteristic of not scoring early, the Mavericks remain unbeaten heading into the final game of the first round of league play Tuesday against San Pasqual.

"My dad always says you know you have a good team when you don't always play your best but still haven't lost," **Gillen** said.



"My defense put it all together, and we'll need that the next time we see them over at their place in a few weeks."

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