

TRI-COUNTY ATHLETIC LEAGUE

# Hollister: Haybalers are out there and feeling no fear

To learn the depth of football at Hollister High all you have to do is make a phone call to coach Chris Cameron. If you're lucky you'll get the recording he leaves for players detailing camps, clinics, conditioning, practice, drills and various other off-season activities. The recording goes on for several minutes detailing exactly what he expects from freshmen, junior varsity and varsity players. And that's the short version.

"Some of our Sunday coaches' meeting will go on for eight or nine hours," Cameron said. "We count on the guys we work with to give it their all. We're always looking to get things done. We talk about ideas. We talk about what kind of kids we have this year. We talk about how to get better."

Then they go into terminator mode. Here's a stat you won't find at any school — private or public — in the CCS: The Balers have been in a section championship game six times in the last seven years.

They're also one of the few schools to handle Palma. In the last nine meetings between the two CCS powers, Hollister holds a 5-4 advantage over the Chieftains.

"We push our guys real hard," Cameron said.

In the 12 years Cameron has been coach, Hollister has reached the playoffs 11 times. Their only slip was 2002. Since then they've reached a CCS title game every year.

This year promises to be as much of a challenge as any.

The Balers have thrived on top-notch

A HAYBALERS PRODUCTION

**WATKINS WRAP:** Hard work makes Hollister tough to beat again. ★★★★★

**Selected showtimes**

■ Sept. 1: At Aptos, 7:30	■ Oct. 13: North Salinas (at Salinas Sports Complex), 7:30
■ Sept. 8: San Lorenzo Valley, 7:30	■ Oct. 20: Palma (at Complex), 7:30
■ Sept. 15: Wilcox, 7:30	■ Oct. 27: Alisal, 7:30
■ Sept. 22: Bellarmine, 7:30	■ Nov. 3: Salinas, 7:30
■ Sept. 29: Alvarez, 7:30	■ Nov. 9: At Gilroy, 7:30

quarterbacks the last six years. They had Nick Buzzetta for three and more recently, Karson Klauer for three.

Hollister will start a junior this year in Ronnie Fhurong. The quarterback is usually the most critical position at every school, but perhaps more so at Hollister because of the leadership qualities Cameron demands.

"I want to know what he's doing on the first Monday of January," Cameron said. "Is he in the weight room? What kind of leadership skills does he have? Is he going to get in guy's ears?"

Fhurong, who played sparingly last year, seems to have accepted the challenge.

He'll have a couple of able-bodied running backs to help with the dirty work.

Tim Lango, a 5-5, 175-pound portable cement truck, rushed for more than 500 yards last year. He'll be teamed with Abel Jacquez, who averaged five yards per carry last season.

"Our offensive and defensive line are major concerns," Cameron said.

The returners are 165-pound Josh Huaracha and 180-pound Danny Gallant.

The only all-leaguer returning is first-team linebacker Johnny Sanchez.

Sanchez is one of three Hollister linebacksers coming back.

Hollister graduated all four of its top receivers.

"Hopefully, guys will emerge," Cameron said. "We want the end of the season to be important. I can look into our stands on Friday night, and it's a full house with people rimming the track."

"When we're in San Jose playing in CCS games, there's no space in the stands, and people are sitting in the aisles."

Expect more of the same this year.

"Winning is in their blood!"

## TERMINATOR

League play opens Sept. 29!

HOLLISTER HIGH SCHOOL FILM GROUP PRESENTS  
A HAYBALERS PRODUCTIONS FILM  
STARRING TIM LANGO WITH JOHNNY SANCHEZ  
DIRECTED BY CHRIS CAMERON

# North Salinas: Vikings hope to be more than a smear

NORTH SALINAS HIGH SCHOOL FILM GROUP PRESENTS  
AN VIKINGS PRODUCTIONS FILM  
STARRING ROBERT SANCHEZ WITH ADRIAN ESTRADA  
DIRECTED BY STEVE ZENK

League play begins Sept. 29!

"Playing with a purpose!"

## MIB

Steve Zenk went through something of a rookie initiation last year. That should make him an even better coach this season.

"I'm not going to get punished every time I turn around this year," he said. "Last year everything was a surprise. It's hard to even think about it."

Zenk can't say he wasn't warned. "When I was talking to Chris Cameron (Hollister coach) he told me there would probably be about 400 things happen that I wouldn't expect," Zenk said.

But if there's one thing Zenk knows it's how to create a winning program.

It doesn't hurt to look good either. This year North Salinas will break out shiny, new black pants. The Vikings literally will be men in black.

Zenk, meanwhile, played on three CCS championship teams for Palma and was part of a coaching staff at Hollister that won three more CCS crowns.

North Salinas, meanwhile, has reached the CCS playoffs only twice in the last nine years and is a combined 3-17 in the last two seasons.

A new foundation might have been laid last year when North High lost only two players to poor grades.

"One of the biggest hurdles is getting kids out to play football," Zenk said. Keeping them eligible also can be a

A VIKINGS PRODUCTION

**WATKINS WRAP:** Wins will be precious for improving North High. ★★

**Selected showtimes**

■ Sept. 2: Branham at Salinas High, 2:30	■ Oct. 6: At Alisal, 7:30
■ Sept. 8: At Soquel, 7:30	■ Oct. 13: Hollister at Complex, 7:30
■ Sept. 15: At Greenfield, 7:30	■ Oct. 21: At Alvarez, 2
■ Sept. 22: Seaside at Sports Complex, 7:30	■ Oct. 27: At Salinas, 7:30
■ Sept. 29: Palma at Complex, 7:30	■ Nov. 3: Gilroy at Sports Complex, 7:30

challenge, but Zenk was up to the task last year.

"We had the best eligibility rate of any team in the district," Zenk said. "We're constantly emphasizing school."

North High's roster this year should hover around 45, said Zenk.

A strong mind helps, but a strong body also comes in handy when you're talking T-CAL football.

"What I learned last year is that we were undersized and physically weak when you play the type of teams we do in the T-CAL," Zenk said.

So off they went from the classroom to the weight room.

"We were in the weight room for 21 weeks," Zenk said.

The conditioning could do wonders for a team that ended last year with six lopsided defeats and an 11-game T-CAL losing streak that dates back to 2002.

"We have the talent," Zenk said. "We have to get over the hump of knowing how to win."

That may not be as much of a problem

this year considering the Viking JV team went 6-4 and the freshman went 10-0 last season.

In addition, the Viking varsity returns 16 players, many of whom were full-time starters.

Included is senior Devon Camel, a transfer from Alvarez, who rushed for 331 yards.

The rest of North High's backfield is mostly underclassmen with junior running backs Victor Sapp and Excaliber Holder and sophomore Mark Ramos.

Two first-year varsity players will compete for the quarterback spot — junior Francisco Alarcon from the JV's and sophomore Michael Ramos from the freshman team.

Overall, North High returns eight players on offense and six on defense — including 5-8, 220-pound Robert Sanchez — with extensive playing time.

"Just to be in every game isn't going to be good enough," Zenk said. "There were a couple of times last year we hung around but then fell apart. "We need to seek consistency,"

# Palma: Hopes and dreams again on its shoulders

No where in Monterey County do the stadium lights burn brighter or longer than during a Friday night Palma High football game.

The Chieftains have won 21 league titles in the past 22 years, have the longest consecutive streak of winning seasons of any team in the Central Coast Section at 23, have reached the playoffs 22 years straight years, won nine section titles and have demolished just about everything in their path when it comes to playing teams from Monterey County (114-1-1 since 1988).

Yet another challenge awaits the Palma High football team.

This year, for the first time, a state title game in three divisions based on enrollment will be held Dec. 16 at the Home Depot Center near Los Angeles.

"Everyone knows about it — it's something to shoot for," Palma coach Jeff Carnazzo, who's seventh year, said.

Only section champions will be eligible to be considered for one of the three Northern California berths.

But there is much work to be done before then.

Palma's last CCS championship was two years ago. The last time the Chieftains went three years between titles was 1994-1996.

In other words, they're due.

"This year will depend on two things — how well our offensive line plays together and how our defense reacts," Carnazzo said. "We haven't played that good on defense the last two years."

But for a team that has produced 20 first-team all-leaguers the last three years, including a league MVP all three times, finding quality replace-

A CHIEFTAINS PRODUCTION

**WATKINS WRAP:** The names change, but the results won't. ★★★★★

**Selected showtimes**

■ Sept. 9: At St. Ignatius (S.Francisco), 1	■ Oct. 13: At Alisal, 7:30
■ Sept. 15: Santa Cruz (Salinas Sports Complex), 7:30	■ Oct. 20: Hollister (Complex), 7:30
■ Sept. 23: De La Salle (Complex), 7	■ Oct. 27: Gilroy (Complex), 7:30
■ Sept. 29: N. Salinas (Complex), 7:30	■ Nov. 4: At Turlock, 7:30
■ Oct. 6: Salinas (Complex), 7:30	■ Nov. 10: At Alvarez, 2

ments doesn't seem to be a problem. That includes the consideration that Palma won't have the services of a receiver with the dominating potential of Orlando Johnson.

The 6-5 Johnson, who averaged more than 20 yards per catch last year, has decided to stick with basketball where he is considered one of the elite players in Northern California.

But that won't keep Palma from perhaps throwing the ball this year more than ever before.

Brian Reader may not have the quickness of traditional Palma quarterbacks, but his arm strength is unmatched.

"He can make any throw you want," Carnazzo said. "I think he'll be able to play at any level."

Reader has been tutored extensively in the off-season by Peter Goodson, who helped turn Hartnell College into a passing machine last year.

"We're going to be throwing the ball more," Carnazzo said.

Palma also has a strong backup to Reader in Connor Ferotte, a junior who has received rave reviews since his freshman year.

Key receivers for Palma could be 6-1 Kyle Herrigan and Chris Lauritzen, a transfer

from Salinas High. He quarterbacked the JV team last year.

Palma also can unleash a small army of running backs, with this year's group having a strong blend of speed and power.

Chad Davis (6-0, 190) and Andrew Reyes (6-0, 170) could be the best of the bunch. Reyes rushed for seven touchdowns last year and may be even more valuable as a receiver this year.

Running back Brett Taylor, a 100-meter champion, is as fast as any running back in the county.

Palma returns three second-team all-leaguers in linebacker Jeff Davis, lineman Mike Renn (6-0, 255) and linebacker Blake Pacheco (6-3, 220).

Also at linebacker is 5-10, 210-pound Hunter Baird, one of the strongest players on the team.

"We're not big enough to roll over everybody," Carnazzo said. "But we always like to make changes and this year we've put our research and development into the defense."

League play opens Sept. 29!

## FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

"Chieftains are team to beat again!"

PALMA HIGH SCHOOL FILM GROUP PRESENTS  
A CHIEFTAINS PRODUCTIONS FILM  
STARRING BLAKE PACHECO WITH JEFF DAVIS  
DIRECTED BY JEFF CARNAZZO