

LAS VEGAS @ BERLIN

(Berlin leads the all-time series between these two franchises 2-0-0)

Why?

Both teams start the back-nine of the CFA season in the playoff hunt. Las Vegas is in a mix of nine teams in the CFA United within two games of one another for a postseason invitation. Las Vegas is coming off a tough last-minute loss to division-leading San Francisco 31-28.

Berlin is tied with Sicily atop the CFA Continental with identical 4-4 records, but to have the advantage for the moment due to a 27-10 victory over the Legionnaires in week one. The Eagles are also coming into Week-9 after letting victory slip away on a 40-yard touchdown pass by Zurich with 00:10-seconds left.

What to watch for?

Las Vegas has a game plan that tilts towards throwing the ball, which happens to be the glaring weakness of Berlin's defense...the pass defense. The Eagles have a fairly stout run defense, so Berlin defensive coordinator **Christian Mohr** will need to devise a game plan to support the secondary.

LAS VEGAS:

Las Vegas **QB Theo McCarter** took over the reins from incumbent **Wilbert Granados** in week two. McCarter ranks 4th in passing touchdowns with fifteen and has a slash line of (1,1618/15/104.9).

McCarter will rely on **WR Walter Kenyon** to move the Scorpions offense. Kenyon is a 2-time Pro Bowler and has been named the player of the game fifteen times. The eight-year pro has a career average of 17.2 ypr and is a certainty to crack the 1,500-yard barrier if he stays healthy.

McCarter's blind side will be protected by rangy **LG Logan Sage**, and the stout protection up the middle will be tasked a couple of thirty-year-olds; C **Roberto Heckman** and **OG Hiram Derrick**.

Defensively the Scorpions are about the middle of the pack; defense is tied for third in the CFA with 30-TFL, and for 4th in sacks with fifty-two. Las Vegas sports an 18.6-PPA which ranks 8th, but that may be attributed to the fact that only 2-of-their-six opponents have winning records.

The core of the Scorpion defense is the interior defensive line. Defensive tackles **Willard Bennet**, **Isidro Loomis**, and **Melvin Nelson** are all powerful cogs in the middle. **LB Aaron Harris** and **LB/ROV Winston Carlson** lead the second tier of the defense; Carlson is tied for sixth in league with 10-sacks. The secret weapon that Las Vegas unleashes from time-to-time is **FS Ahmed Garrett** who has recorded seven sacks on the season.

BERLIN:

Quarterbacks **Gerry Flanigan** has been slowed by a meniscus problem as of late, so journeyman **Derrick Jones** has been filling in. The real problem here, as it would be for any team is the offensive line. The Eagles will need to address this situation in the near future and make upgrades to return to the ranks of that of elite contenders.

The running game relies on the efforts of **RB Edward Robinette** whose 581-yards rushing at 3.6-ypc clip isn't anything to get excited about.

The size of **WR Robert Miner** belies the size of his heart. Miner (41,613,4) along with **Robert Moore** (26,42,4) and **Robert Lutz** (25,484,3) provides numerous options for the passing game to contribute.

As a team, Berlins defense is 7th in the CFA with forty-four sacks and defensive end **Brian Freeman** leads the Eagle defense with 5-TFL and 5-Sacks on the season.

Twelve-year vet and former Oregon Duck, **LB Andrew Simson** leads the second wave of the Berlin defense, along with **Solomon Matthew** and **Brian Banks**. These three possess the speed and sure-fire tackling to shut down opposing run games with tenacious efficiency.

Free safety Sheldon Haskell leads a speedy and acrobatic secondary. Though this group is fleet-of-foot, they do not boast great hands, nor are they helped by a complimentary pass rush, hence their 28th place rank against the pass.

TALE OF THE TAPE:

LAS VEGAS:

Opponents combined record (28-36 • .438) [Scorpion's' Run/Pass ratio 40%/60%]

Offense:

Points Scored – 21.3 (17th)
Total Yards – 341.4 (19th)
Rush Yards – 80.9 (26th)
Pass Yards – 260.5 (11th)

Defense:

Points Allowed – 18.6 (8th)

Total Yards Allowed – 359.4 (18th)
Rush Yards Allowed – 102.5 (14th)
Pass Yards Allowed – 256.9 (21st)

° Injuries of Note:

No injuries of consequence to report.



BERLIN:

Opponents combined record (35-29 • .547) [Eagle's' Run/Pass ratio 49%/51%]

Offense:

Points Scored – 22.1 (15th)
Total Yards – 364.5 (14th)
Rush Yards – 104.3 (15th)
Pass Yards – 260.3 (12th)

Defense:

Points Allowed – 24.6 (23rd)
Total Yards Allowed – 382.4 (25th)
Rush Yards Allowed – 95.3 (9th)
Pass Yards Allowed – 287.1 (28th)

° Injuries of Note:

+ QB Gerry Flanigan – Questionable (Torn Meniscus)
+ G Jeffrey Wallace – Out 1-2 weeks (Torn MCL)

My Pick:

Berlin made it through a gauntlet of solid teams in Chicago, St. Louis, and Ohio last season to reach

CBXV before falling to San Francisco 26-17. They have made the playoffs four of the last five years; the exception coming in 2021, and the Eagles are battle tested.

Las Vegas finds itself in the same position as Portland and San Diego in the United Pacific, playing second, third, or fourth fiddle to the San Francisco Hammerheads. The Scorpions have yet to make a playoff appearance in the CFA. This is a watershed moment in the season, to prove that they belong in the ranks of a contender.

Eagles – 24
Scorpions - 21

The Line:

Line: Ber (-1.5)

O/U: 43.5

~ Warren Pease – OSN Contributing Writer