



Vacaville scores early, often in 41-14 win over Armijo

Myron Amey took the opening kickoff past midfield. He took it the rest of the way on the first play of the game.

The Vacaville High football team scored six touchdowns in the first half en route to a 41-14 Monticello Empire League victory over Armijo at the latter's Brownlee Field, Friday night.

"I thought our kids executed really well, they came out and had good timing," said Bulldogs coach Mike Papadopoulos, an Armijo High grad. "We just executed the way we'd hoped to. We just spent a lot of time just working our execution this week. I thought the kids did a good job with that."

It was Vacaville's 15th straight win over Armijo, the longest winning streak in a series that dates back to 1901 – a pair of scoreless ties – and has been contested continuously since 1926 – a 25-0 Armijo victory.

A silver lining for the Royals/Ravens/Knights – the three finalists to replace Indians as Armijo mascot – is that that 14 points were the most they scored against Vacaville in the last 10 years.

"The boys didn't quit," Armijo coach Anthony Gonzalez said. "That's a big, physical squad over there and, boy, we kept battling; they kept coming, our coaches kept coaching and the kids kept trying to adjust. Like I told the kids, I'm not big on moral victories, but we'll grab one."

It was evident early that a victory on the scoreboard would be an uphill climb.

After returning the opening kickoff 53 yards to the Armijo 42, Amey took a fly sweep around the left side 42 yards for the first score of the game.

The first of Chris Sacca's five conversion kicks on the night made it 7-0 after just 28 seconds.

The Bulldogs (6-2, 3-0 MEL) got the ball back after a three-and-out and needed just four plays to go 80 yards. Kyler Abramowicz broke off a 21-yard run before a 42-yard pass

from Jeremy Villalobos to Amey set up the former's 16-yard TD toss to Cody Hume that made it 13-0.

Hume later capped the scoring in the first quarter by intercepting a Justin Duff pass and returning it 32 yards for a touchdown to up the lead to 20-0 with 12 seconds remaining.

"We weren't ready," Gonzalez said of Armijo's early woes. "They just flat out came and stuck it to us. We were a little shell-shocked, the execution wasn't there. You face a giant, you're not sure what's coming, right. So we talked to the kids – at halftime, the second quarter, right away – that we need to drive. We can't play reaction, this isn't a read-and-react offense in basketball. You've got to try to impose what you're doing."

It took awhile for the Royals/Ravens/Knights (1-7, 0-3) to get there.

Abramowicz capped a three-play, 38-yard drive with a 6-yard scoring run up middle.

With 5 minutes left in the half, Brandon Holmes recovered a fumble on a punt attempt in the end zone.

Derrick Johnson Jr. wrapped up the first half scoring with a 5-yard run over the right side with 7 seconds to go.

Armijo's first second-half possession went no where, but the home team got the ball back by forcing the Bulldogs to turn it over on downs.

Two runs by Blake Espino gained 11 yards and a 29-yard fly sweep by Dominic Singleton gave Armijo a first-and-goal at the Vacaville 6. Espino then took it over right side for the touchdown, though the extra point attempt was wide right keeping it 41-6.

Armijo's defense got into the act when Marcel McCarther batted a pitch by Vacaville backup QB Kyle Bender into the end zone where it was recovered by Isaac Powell 33 seconds into the fourth quarter.

Espino then ran in the 2-point conversion to make the final score 41-14.

The only downer was several players needing to be helped off the field, including Amey, who was shaken up after making leaping catch for an apparent touchdown, bobbling the ball before grabbing it as he hit the ground. The play was wiped out by a holding penalty.

Amey was Vacaville's leading rusher and receiver with 42 yards each – on one carry and one catch. Espino led the Royals/Ravens/Knights with 35 yards on 13 carries.