



Vacaville opens playoffs with statement win over Roseville

The Vacaville High football team had a few things to prove in its return to the postseason after its 2015 hiatus.

Not only did the Bulldogs prove that they deserved a higher seed, or that they were the better team to wear the orange and black colors.

But they proved the most important thing – they're back.

The No. 10 seed Bulldogs opened the Sac-Joaquin Section II playoffs by routing seventh-seeded Roseville with an efficient execution of offense – both on the ground and through the air – leaving Hanson Field with a 52-14 win, Friday.

Vacaville will travel to No. 2 Del Oro on Nov. 18. The Golden Eagles thrashed Laguna Creek 79-0 in their playoff opener.

The Bulldogs scored on eight of their 11 drives in the game, opening the first half with a 36-12 lead over the home team.

Vacaville opened the game with a nine-play, 67-yard drive which was capped off by a 29-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Troy Claunch to Zach Meyers, who was wide open and walked into the end-zone. That was pretty much the space Claunch was given all game with the way Vacaville was able to move the ball efficiently on the ground.

The Bulldogs' quarterback was 9 for 11 with 124 yards and four touchdowns, while running back Timothy Jackson rushed for 172 yards on 17 carries with three touchdowns.

Coach Mike Papadopoulos was happy with how his team played, especially how well his quarterback managed the game.

"He managed the game just as we had hoped," the Vacaville coach said. "... Couple of things we were able to do was put their position into a little bit of conflict and it helped that we completed good passes that really stressed (Roseville). Some of those passes we were able to execute really helped us out quite a bit."

Not to be overlooked, Vacaville's defense also came to play. The Tigers' Nick Martig started the game 4 for 6 with a touchdown, but finished 4 for 15 with three interceptions.

Things weren't as easy as they seemed for Vacaville, having four touchdowns called back due to penalties, though only one ended up with anything but a touchdown – a 37-yard field goal from sophomore kicker Brandon Talton.

On the sidelines some players were mentioning how they came out here knowing they were better than the 10th seed that they were given, but Papadopoulos said the seeding didn't really matter to them.

"It's interesting, we just wanted one of those 16 spots," the coach said. "The number part kind of works itself out. We have history with Del Oro. . . At the end, there's only one happy team. We're really happy we got this one past us and really happy with how the guys played."

The Tigers' final score of the game was a 54-yard pass as time expired, and as the Bulldogs went to go out on the field, they were stopped because the extra-point had to be completed first.

Vacaville ended up blocking the attempt to truly wrap up the game.