



Turnovers costly in Tracy's 49-35 loss to Vacaville

The Tracy High Bulldog football team proved that it has the fight to make an impressive comeback, with Tracy erasing a three-touchdown deficit from the first quarter to tie the Vacaville Bulldogs late in the second quarter.

While the Tracy team compiled more than twice the offensive production as Vacaville on Friday at Wayne Schneider Stadium, Tracy also committed repeated turnovers that gave the Vacaville Bulldogs opportunities to score on the way to Vacaville's 49-35 win.

Tracy (1-4) totaled 543 yards, including 326 yards on 16 of 33 passes for senior quarterback Logan Fife, but Fife also threw two interceptions.

While the Vacaville Bulldogs (3-2) totaled 243 yards of offense, they also came through on special teams and defense, including a touchdown on a punt return and another on an interception return.

After Tracy went three-and-out on its first possession, Vacaville senior Myron Amey ran the punt back 46 yards to get on the Tracy 9-yard line. From there Vacaville senior Chris Island ran the ball in for the score.

Tracy again went three-and-out and gave the Vacaville offense short field for their next series, taking just three plays, including senior quarterback Jeremy Villalobos' 18-yard touchdown pass to senior Michael Briscoe, to score again.

Tracy responded with an 11-play, 85-yard drive, including an 11-yard touchdown run for senior Trevor Pope.

Vacaville's next possession included a 6-yard touchdown run for Amey, and after the Tracy Bulldogs went three-and-out on their next series, Vacaville's Amey collected the punt and ran it back 60 yards to the end zone to put Vacaville up 28-7 at the end of the first quarter.

Tracy quarterback Fife said that his team knew there was plenty of time to turn the game around.

“We just had to keep doing what we know we can do. We’ve been behind by multiple touchdowns already so we know what it’s like to be behind,” Fife said. “We just knew we had to execute, make our plays and make our blocks.”

On the third play after the kickoff Fife found junior Tommy Chavez wide open on the right side, connected on the pass, and Chavez ran it in for a 59-yard touchdown.

Vacaville marched up the field on its next possession, and Tracy senior Zach Pedigo intercepted a Villalobos pass on the Vacaville 2-yard line.

Tracy had 98 yards to cover in order to score again, but it took only six plays, including another touchdown pass from Fife to Chavez, this one for 60 yards, to cut Vacaville’s lead to 28-21.

“It was hard being down three touchdowns. I was thinking, we need to score, we need to get stops and we’ll be good,” Chavez said. “We’re playing with a lot of heart. We’re not digging ourselves into a hole. We’re coming back.”

Tracy held Vacaville to three-and-out on the next series, and it took Tracy just three plays to tie it up. Fife connected with Pope on the left side, Pope stiff-armed a Vacaville defender on his way down the sideline to make it a 28-28 game.

“Usually every game we come in with a slow start, and then coach gives us a little speech that turns us up,” Pope said.

The Vacaville Bulldogs then covered 65 yards in six plays, including a 30-yard touchdown pass from Villalobos to Briscoe to put Vacaville up 35-28 at the half.

Tracy fumbled the ball away on its first two possessions of the third quarter, and the second time Vacaville marched for 55 yards on 12 plays, with Villalobos making the 1-yard touchdown run.

Tracy then covered 71 yards in eight plays, with Fife making the 2-yard touchdown run. Tracy junior Dominic Suniga recovered the following onside kick, but two plays later Vacaville’s Villalobos picked off a Fife pass and ran it back 59 yards for a touchdown, putting Vacaville up 49-35 at the end of the third quarter.

Neither team scored in the fourth quarter. Tracy had one extended drive that started on the 5-yard line and ended 16 plays and 77 yards later on the Vacaville 28-yard line. After that the Vacaville Bulldogs were able to run out the clock to end the game.

Tracy will take the next week off and begin Tri-City Athletic League play at home against Tokay on Oct. 4. Tracy coach Matt Shrout sees plenty to like in the way the Bulldogs are playing, including the potential to beat a team like Vacaville, the defending champion of the Monticello Empire League, if not for the turnovers.

“If we get 500 yards of offense and hold on to the ball we should do really well,” he said.
“I felt our defense did OK tonight. We got big-played again, but what are you going to do?
We’re not very tall out there, but you can’t turn the ball over. That’s plain and simple.”

Vacaville won the junior varsity game 49-14 on Friday, and on Thursday Vacaville’s
freshmen beat Tracy 28-6.