



Vacaville storms Vanden to capture MEL title

By Todd R Hansen | Daily Republic | April 2, 2021

FAIRFIELD - Vanden High's Jayden Robinson electrified the home crowd with an 89-yard kickoff return that immediately answered Vacaville's first touchdown in a Friday night game to decide the Monticello Empire League.

But Robinson's sprint up the left sideline with 4:09 left in the first half would be the highlight of the game for the Vikings (1-2, 1-1 MEL).

The undefeated Bulldogs (3-0, 2-0 MEL) scored 21 unanswered points after Robinson's heroics – including a 90-yard fumble recovery that Evan Adams took the distance as the first half ended – en route to a 35-13 victory.

The explosive defensive effort gave Vacaville a 21-7 lead at intermission and the Bulldogs never looked back.

Darian Leon-Guerrero opened the scoring on a 5-yard run with 4:24 to play in the second period. It was the first of three touchdowns for the junior running back, who rushed for 137 yards on 20 carries.

He added scoring runs of 16 and 61, the first coming in the third period to make it a 28-7 game, and the second capping the night's scoring with 7:01 remaining.

Junior quarterback Ryan Vaughan found senior Logan Cunningham on a 20-yard strike for Vacaville's other touchdown. That connection made it a 14-7 game with 2:39 left in the second period.

Vanden looked like it would take the early lead following an eight-play, 66-yard drive that took the ball down to the Vacaville 14 midway through the first quarter.

But the Vikings fumbled the ball away, with Kyler Abramowicz collecting the loose ball for Vacaville to end the scoring threat.

It was the second lost fumble for Vanden in the period, and one of five turnovers that also included a third fumble lost and interceptions by Cunningham and Gerimiah Brown.

Vaughan finished the contest with seven completions on 20 throws for 121 yards and the touchdown. Adams led all Vacaville receivers with three catches and 46 yards.

Vanden's other score came with 8:10 left in the contest as sophomore quarterback Tre Dimes hit junior wideout Daniel Hughes on an 18-yard touchdown pass. The two-point conversion failed, to make it 28-13.

Dimes completed 27 of his 50 throws for 246 yards and the one score to go with the two picks.

Nine of those completions went to Hughes for 118 yards, while Johnte McDowell and Jamel East each had five catches for 57 and 35 yards, respectively.