



Vacaville dominates Vintage in MEL opener

By Andy Wilcox | Napa Valley Register | October 12, 2013

VACAVILLE - A magnificent Homecoming halftime fireworks show seemed redundant after the fireworks displayed by the Vacaville High School football team's wing-T offense in the first half of Friday night's 49-13 victory over Vintage.

Though stymied by the Crushers' talented and fired-up defense on their first three drives of the Monticello Empire League opener at Tom Zunino Stadium, the Bulldogs scored on six of their next seven possessions to grab a 42-7 halftime lead.

Vintage (2-4 overall), missing top-scoring running back Joe Cavagnaro on offense because he was ill most of the week, managed only 99 total yards in the first half. Sophomore quarterback Jared Horn had a tipped pass intercepted and also lost a fumbled snap.

But Vacaville (3-3), trying to end a three-game skid, also struggled out of the gates, punting on its first two possessions — the first time when a 41-yard gain by senior speedster David Mewborn was followed by a fumble and 4-yard loss, the second thanks to a first-down sack by Anthony Hernandez.

Dylan Ray forced a fumble that Vintage recovered during the Bulldogs' third drive at the Vacaville 43. But Horn was intercepted two plays later. Three plays after that, Mewborn swept untouched behind a pulling guard for a 44-yard touchdown run.

Vintage gave the ball back on a fumbled snap, and junior Damonte Moore scored on a 40-yard scamper for a 14-0 lead in the final seconds of the first quarter.

The Crushers weren't out of it yet, though.

After a 31-yard pass from Horn to Eric Lum to the 25, Victor Montanez broke a tackle on a 25-yard touchdown run to cap a 65-yard, five-play drive. Jesus Rios-Vargas added the PAT to make it 14-7 with 10:35 left in the half.

But Vacaville junior Kane Cunningham snatched the momentum right back by returning the ensuing kickoff 80 yards for a score.

A 27-yard catch by Caleb Tremblay on the first play of Vintage's ensuing drive put it in Bulldogs territory. The Crushers had to punt again, but Trenton Bresee's kick pinned Vacaville at its own 5. A tackle for a loss by Ray Arredondo helped force a three-and-out, and Montanez took off on the next play for 19 yards to the Bulldogs' 34.

But again Vintage was forced to punt. Two plays later, an 81-yard touchdown from junior quarterback Chad Hekking to Moore made it 28-7.

While Vintage was unable to get another first down in the half, Vacaville's Daniel Mewborn broke off a 27-yard TD run and twin David Mewborn added a 40-yard scoring catch from Hekking, who was 4 of 9 for 135 yards in the first half. David Mewborn had six carries for 97 yards before halftime.

Senior Tanner Donaldson caught a 29-yard TD pass early in the third quarter, and Alberto Escobedo capped his 7-for-7 PAT night for a 49-7 lead.

With a running clock in the fourth quarter due to the 35-points-or-more margin, Nick LoCicero caught a 13-yard TD pass from Horn with four minutes left to ice the scoring.