



Vacaville grinds out 29-20 road win over Vintage

After dismantling Armijo in Week 1 of Monticello Empire League action last Friday, the Bulldogs made their way up to Napa for what was the first of two straight games at Napa's Memorial Stadium.

Fueled by a good balance of passing and running, the Bulldogs (5-2, 2-0 MEL) picked up their second league win with a 29-20 victory over the Crushers (3-4, 1-1 MEL). Next week, Vacaville will play Napa High at Memorial Stadium in a game that could decide who wins the MEL title.

The score line was a bit closer than what some may have thought it would be coming into the game, but the bottom line is that the Bulldogs added yet another tough road victory to their 2016 resume.

Vacaville scored twice in the first half and twice in the second half to pull out the win. The first touchdown came on a Troy Claunch 43-yard pass to Jordan Murga. Jacob Abramowicz converted the two-point conversion with a strong short yardage run.

Following a Vintage score, Cassius Reynolds scored on a 13-yard touchdown run. The point after from Brandon Talton was good to make it 15-7 Vacaville at the half.

The Crushers scored on their first possession of the second half to cut the lead to 15-13, but Timothy Jackson scored from 4-yards out to stretch the lead to 22-13. The Crushers were able to hang in there, though. They scored yet again early in the fourth quarter to cut the lead to 22-20. Vacaville then executed a nice drive capped by a 1-yard touchdown run from Claunch to put the game away at 29-20.

Claunch had a nice night throwing the ball. He was 5-for-9 with 116 yards and a touchdown pass. Jon Donaldson was the leading receiver, He caught three balls for 66 yards on the night. Gunner Bagos led the rushing category with 13 carries for 93 yards as lead running back Daniel Wright was out with an injury. Jackson had 43 yards rushing to go with his touchdown.

Brandon Mingus led the defensive effort. He had nine tackles to lead the way. Reynolds had eight tackles, including a sack and three tackles for loss, Abramowicz had five tackles and Jackson had four.

Napa High beat Rodriguez 48-0 to improve to 4-3 (2-0 MEL) with next week's Vacaville vs. Napa duel looming just seven days away.

