



Will C. Wood High School rolls to 49-25 Black & Blue Bowl victory over Vacaville

Jordan Boyd wasn't even alive the last time Will C. Wood High School had this kind of party.

Boyd led the charge as the Wildcats ended an 18-year drought with a 49-25 win over Vacaville in the Black and Blue Bowl, then stood and soaked it all in as a large portion of Wood's student body danced around on the field at Tom Zunino Stadium to the strains of Kool & the Gang's "Celebration."

"It feels great," said Boyd, who made a whopping 23 total tackles. "It's really big for us ... for the school. We just played ball, executed all the way through the whistle. Everyone on defense did a great job."

Boyd and the Wildcats held the Bulldogs to just 14 points through the final three quarters, and improved to 9-1 overall.

Wood will learn its Sac-Joaquin Section playoff fate this afternoon when pairings are released. But the Wildcats almost certainly will host a first-round playoff game for only the second time in school history.

"It's big for the school. You can't deny that," Wood head coach Carlos Meraz said of the win. "But now we have to get ready for the playoffs. The important part is what we do now. We want to go deep in the playoffs."

Vacaville fell to 5-5 overall, but still might qualify for the postseason party, based on its tough schedule.

The Bulldogs would rather have gone into the playoffs on a high note, but fell behind early and never could catch up.

Wood scored just three plays into the game, after Tayvian Cunningham set the tone by sprinting 63 yards on a double reverse on the game's first play.

Damon Lewis went the final seven yards for the score, and Marcus Howard added a 2-point conversion pass to Arthur Jackson for a quick 8-0 lead.

Damon Lewis rushed for 98 yards on 12 carries, and added a four-yard TD run to give the Wildcats a 28-11 lead going into the locker room at halftime.

Vacaville appeared to get the momentum back just after the intermission, when Chris Wood scored on a 2-yard run after a 38-yard Gabe Carvantes-to-Zach Myers pass.

Wood's second touchdown of the night cut the deficit to 28-17, but the Wildcats' Kristian Arias returned the ensuing kickoff 50 yards, and Howard scrambled in from 5 yards out six plays later to push the lead back to 18 points.

"Every time we got close, it seemed like we gave them a short field," Vacaville head coach Mike

Papadopoulos said. "We had our chances, but you have to hand it to Wood. They played a great game."

Howard finished with three touchdowns passes to go with the rushing TD. The Bulldogs held him to a season-low 156 yards passing, but he had TD tosses of 35 and 7 yards to Jackson, and a 54-yard scoring play to Damon Lewis.

Germaine Lewis added a 45-yard TD run.

"We made history," Howard said. "This is great. To do something that hasn't been done in 18 years ... it's huge."

Jackson touched the ball just four times, but scored two touchdowns and added two 2-point conversions.

Jackson missed almost all of last season recovering from a broken ankle, but has more than made up for lost time. He two TD grabs increased his school-record total of TD receptions this season to 19.

"I'm just glad I could contribute this year," he said. "Last year was heart-wrenching ... sitting on the bench while your teammates are getting whipped, and you can't do anything about it."

He did plenty on Friday.

Vacaville was led by Daniel Wright, who rushed for 148 yards. Wood added 51 yards on the ground, including a 35-yard TD to go with his 2-yard score.

Derriyon Jack added a 4-yard TD run, and Sam Patel booted a 37-yard field goal.

Caravantes finished with 98 yards passing. He also threw a 2-point conversion pass to Beau Lopez.

Vacaville was led on both sides of the ball by the play of Michael McCauley.