



Vacaville Bulldogs gash Yuba City on way to dominating 49-0 win

On a night where “Big Black” returned to the field on the shoulders of the 2016-2017 Vacaville High School captains, the Bulldogs lived up their name as they ran wild all over Yuba City in a 49-0 throttling at Tom Zunino Stadium.

Playing in front of the home crowd seemed to energize Vacaville (2-1) after beginning the 2016 campaign with two tough road games against non-league opponents, including a 41-15 loss to Oak Ridge last week.

Unlike last Friday night, the Bulldogs were the ones dishing the punishment, and the points, tonight. Vacaville scored touchdowns on six of its first seven possessions to put the game to bed before halftime.

The majority of the damage was done on the ground as Vacaville piled up an insane 438 yards rushing and seven touchdowns with the ground attack. Running back Daniel Wright led the way with 118 yards on just nine carries. His services, like many of the Bulldog starters, were not needed after halftime.

After the Honkers kicked the ball off to begin the game, senior Gunner Bagos took the first offensive play of the game up the middle 50 yards to the house to give Vacaville the early lead. Wright punched it in on the two point conversion attempt to make it 8-0 right away.

As prolific as Vacaville’s running game was, the defense was equally impressive. Yuba City managed only 129 yards for the game as the Bulldogs stuffed the run time and time again. Toven Steele, Brandon Mingus and Jacob Abramowicz led the team in tackles.

Yuba City ran the ball three straight times to in its first possession, but couldn’t get more than two yards. They punted and had their first big break of the game when Vacaville fumbled the punt away. The Bulldog defense stuffed four more run attempts inside their own 20 yard line to get the ball right back.

“The defense had a really big night tonight,” said head coach Mike Papadopoulos. “Any time you can hold a team to zero points, that’s a great outing. We put them in a bad spot early with the fumbled punt, but they were really resilient all game. I thought they played really well.”

The botched punt was the only turnover for Vacaville after turning it over five times in last week’s loss to Oak Ridge.

The second offensive drive started inside the Bulldogs' own 20, but it didn't seem to matter where the ball was placed on this night. After a couple of short runs up the middle, Wright ripped off a huge run down inside Yuba City's 10 yard line. Two plays later, Cassius Reynolds blasted through the middle for a 3-yard touchdown run.

Reynolds made it 21-0 on the next possession as he took a handoff around the right edge and used his speed to break away for a 61 yard touchdown run. Yuba City's gameplan was to blitz the backfield in an effort to stop the run, but it backfired all night. Wright, Reynolds and company routinely got by the first wave of blitzers and gashed the Honkers for huge run plays.

"We did a nice job of picking up our assignments and identifying how they were playing defensively," Papadopoulos said. "We picked up a lot of heavy blitzing early and it really helped us out. We emphasized that a lot this week and the kids did nice job with it tonight."

Wright then scored his first of three touchdowns as he wiggled up the middle and found pay dirt from 5-yards on the next drive. A huge run from Austin Green helped set up that touchdown run to make it 28-0.

The highlight of the night came on the next drive. Wright took a stretch handoff to the right, patiently waited for his blocks and then busted the ball up the hole where he met two Honker defenders. They dragged him to the turf, but Wright's knee never touched the ground. He regained his footing and galloped home 27 yards for his second touchdown.

Wright scored his hat trick a minute before halftime on a six yard carry to push the lead to 42-0.

The scoring finally ended when Shane Garner blasted up the middle for a 72 yard touchdown run to begin the third quarter. After that, the rest of the second half featured a running clock as both teams traded punts.

Reynolds finished with 68 yards on five carries, Abramowicz had 56 yards on four attempts and Green had 35 yards rushing.

The Honkers were without their head coach Aaron Gingery and nearly his entire coaching staff due to the Yuba City Teacher's Association strike. The school prohibited any teachers who were apart of the strike from coaching. River Valley High School, a neighboring school, was also on strike. They were without their coaching staff and lost 34-6 to Roseville High.

The Bulldogs are on the road again next week to play Granite Bay (1-2).

