



Bulldogs open MEL by thumping Mustangs

Winning Monticello Empire League openers is nothing new to the Vacaville High football team and the trend continued on Friday night.

Derriyon Jack ran for three touchdowns and Chris Wood scored two to power the Bulldogs to a 55-8 victory over Rodriguez in the MEL opener for both teams at Coach Ed Hopkins Memorial Stadium.

Vacaville, which has won 12 straight and 17 of its last 19 to begin league play, scored on all of seven of its first-half possessions and its first to start the second half.

Mike Papadopoulos, who improved to 99-29 in 10-plus seasons as Bulldogs coach, said he was most pleased with "the tempo, the way the kids played tonight. We were concentrating on trying things, competing and executing."

Rodriguez coach Greg Sutter, whose team scored on a 5-yard quarterback draw by T.J. McCormick, praised the play of the Bulldogs.

"They've got a great team," the coach said. "Unfortunately, we were emotionally ready the first half. I guess it kind of snow-balled."

Vacaville, which is 8-0 all-time against Rodriguez, didn't give up a first down until the fourth quarter and first got on the board on a 6-yard run by Daniel Wright with 7:45 to go in the first.

The Bulldogs (3-3) tacked on runs of 2 and 1 yards in by Jack and Wood before the end of the first quarter.

They then scored on the first play of the second quarter on a 1-yard run by Jack, adding a 7-yard run by Wood, a 34-yard run by Jacob Abramowicz and a 6-yard run by Jack to make it 48-0 at the half.

Willie Haynes scored Vacaville's final touchdown on a 14-yard burst up the middle midway through the third quarter with Jon Donaldson booting the last of his seven conversion kicks.

Rodriguez (1-5) went 67 yards for its lone score in a drive that featured numerous penalties against both teams and solid running by McCormick, Quentin McNeely, Michael Winston and Rontavist Williams.

McCormick set up the touchdown with an 11-yard keeper around the left side that gave the Mustangs a first-and-goal at the Vacaville 3. After a 2-yard loss, McCormick took the snap and ran nearly untouched into the end zone.

The Bulldogs used 13 different rushers to gain 303 yards on the ground and added 41 yards through the air.

The Mustangs rushed for 81 yards and passed for another 4.

Vacaville won the JV game 35-14 with Jake McNeil scoring on runs of 5 and 49 yards to account for the touchdowns for the Mustangs (4-2).

In next week's games, Rodriguez plays Vintage at Memorial Stadium, while Papadopoulos goes for his 100th career victory when the Bulldogs play at Armijo, his alma mater