



Vacaville High School football falls to Napa

The 28-game winning streak in the Monticello Empire League came to an end, and possibly, the run of five straight league titles as well.

Napa High School bottled up Vacaville's offensive attack and used a powerful ball-control running game to hand the Bulldogs a 26-14 loss on Friday night at Napa Memorial Stadium. Penalties and turnovers were a big factor, but the Indians earned the big win to put themselves in the driver's seat to their first MEL title since 2008.

"We gave up the ball way too much, but Napa is a great team," Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopoulos said. "They played a near-perfect football game and did a tremendous job. They gave us just what we expected."

Kane Cunningham scored a touchdown for Vacaville with 11:10 left in game. Sam Patel's extra point helped the Bulldogs cut their deficit to 19-14.

But Napa drove right back down the field with a nine-play, 65-yard drive that used up five-and-a-half minutes. Quarterback Cal Bard had a 9-yard TD run for the final margin of victory.

Four plays later, the Indians' Colton Forster intercepted a Chad Hekking pass. The Indians were then able to close out the final 4:46 of the game for the win.

"They had a good scheme and moved the ball on us," Papadopoulos said. "We tried to clean some things up at halftime, but they were able to keep the ball away from us."

Vacaville opened the scoring in the first quarter when Mykal Walker raced eight yards for a TD. Napa came back with 19 points in the second quarter off of three touchdowns for a 19-7 lead at halftime.

Mac Neilson went eight yards for Napa's first score. Kiel Brown had a 39-yard touchdown run in the period, and added a 1-yard dive for a score with only 1.1 seconds remaining in the half.

Vacaville finished with 247 yards on the ground. Walker was the leading rusher with 74 yards on seven carries. Hekking was 7-for-13 passing for 103 yards, but had two interceptions. Dulon Stevens caught three passes for 49 yards.

Napa outrushed Vacaville with 301 yards. Brown was the leader with 119 yards on 12 carries. Brown and Bard combined to complete six of 10 passes for 74 yards.

Vacaville fell to 2-1 in the MEL and 6-2 overall. The Bulldogs will return to Napa next Friday to take on Vintage before closing out the league season with the Black and Blue Bowl against Will C. Wood.

Napa improved to 3-0 in MEL and 6-2 overall. The Indians play at Rodriguez next Friday