



Vacaville High School's football team beaten by Oak Ridge 43-14 in season opener

The short drives set the stage. The long one was the back-breaker.

Vacaville High School's football team was up against a powerhouse in its season opener on Friday night. And that was the long and the short of it.

The visiting Trojans scored three times in the first half on drives that began in Vacaville territory, then added an 80-yard scoring march that turned a close game into a rout in a 43-14 win at Tom Zunino Stadium.

"This is why we sign up guys like this ... to make us better," Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopoulos said. "They have the whole package, and we gave them too many short fields. I actually thought our defense did pretty well, considering where they got the football."

Both offenses struggling early, but the Trojans finally scored with seven seconds left in the first period when quarterback Ian Book rolled in from one yard out.

Book, a fourth-year starter headed for Notre Dame, threw just two passes in the first period.

But he heated up as the game went on, and showed why he will play four more years after high school.

Book completed 15 of 21 passes for 216 yards, including three touchdown passes.

The first scoring toss was a 15-yard bullet to Tommy Dunningan with just one minute left in the half. It capped the 12-play, 80-yard drive after Vacaville had scored to pull within 14-7 with 5:12 left.

Place kicker Nick Hulsing caught the Bulldogs napping and added a 2-point conversion run for a 22-7 advantage.

Vacaville muffed the ensuing, wind-blown kickoff, and Book put the Trojans back in the end zone two plays later. This time he threw a 27-yard laser to a wide open Kevin Kassis with 32 seconds left.

Suddenly, a close game was a 29-7 margin at the half.

Oak Ridge received the second-half kickoff, and Book promptly marched the Trojans another 80 yards in 10 plays. He finished the drive with a 25-yard scoring toss to Dunningan, and the rout was on.

Gage Webb added a 6-yard scoring run for Oak Ridge's final TD of the night. Webb finished with 104 hard-earned yards on 21 carries.

Daniel Wright scored both Bulldog touchdowns, on runs of 13 and two yards. Sam Patel added a pair of extra-point kicks.

Wright led the offense with 71 yards on the ground. Jacob Abramowicz rushed for 39, and Chris Wood gained 34.

Both Gabe Caravantes and Troy Claunch played at quarterback for Vacaville, and combined for 61 yards passing.

Vacaville finished with 197 yards off offense, compared to 475 for Oak Ridge.