



## **Bulldogs roll past Indians 51-6 in MEL opener**

The Vacaville High football team passed, pounded and pirouetted to seven touchdowns at Brownlee Field, Friday night.

The Bulldogs may have made a bigger statement by passing up an eighth TD in their 51-6 victory to open Monticello Empire League play.

With a first-and-goal at the Armijo 3-yard line, Vacaville twice took a knee to preserve the same score as at the end of the third quarter.

"It's a class act," Indians coach Anthony Gonzalez said. "It meant a lot. Coach (Mike) Papadopoulos and the whole organization is class. They displayed it from the first kickoff to the end of the game."

Despite the lopsided score, Papadopoulos, an Armijo High grad, said he was impressed with the Indians and feel they're headed in the right direction.

"I like the spirit of what Armijo did tonight. Their coach is onto the right track. They did a good job. They lined up the right way and played real hard."

Vacaville (3-3) played better, scoring on its first three possessions and five of its first six in racing to a 37-0 halftime lead.

It took the Bulldogs just four plays to go 90 yards after taking the opening kickoff, a 38-yard run by Timothy Jackson setting up a 34-yard touchdown pass from Cameron Mitchell to Jordan Murga with Tre'vonne Hunt running in the 2-point conversion.

Vacaville needed just two plays to go 34 yards for its next score, a 24-yard pass from Mitchell to Toven Steele, with Jackson going the final 10 and then tacking on the 2-point conversion.

There was a little more drama on the Bulldogs' third TD, Hunt sweeping right on fourth-and-1, cutting back against the grain and romping 47 yards for a touchdown with 4:28 to go in the first quarter. Brandon Talton kicked the first of his five extra points to up the lead to 23-0.

The defense for Armijo (3-3) forced Vacaville to turn it over on downs at the Bulldogs' 29, but the Indians fumbled it back to Vacaville two plays later, CJ Toler making the recovery.

Three plays later, Toler was rewarded with a 51-yard scoring catch and run, breaking a tackle shortly after making the catch and racing for the end zone. Mitchell made the throw, finishing the night completing 5 of 6 passes for 115 yards and two TDs.

Backup QB Hunter Dorraugh hit Nick Smith with a 6-yard swing pass for a touchdown with 90 seconds to go in the half, upping the lead to 37-0.

Vacaville had another chance to score when Hunter Adame recovered a fumble at the 11, but a big hit Armijo's Jesse Mercado forced a fumble that was recovered by Emmett Espino right before the half.

The Bulldogs, who used 15 different ball carriers during the game, scored on their first second-half possession, Ethan Houdyshell capping a 33-yard, three-play drive with a 2-yard sweep to the left.

Talon Abramowicz later had an 8-yard run with 2:49 to go in the third quarter to round out Vacaville's scoring.

Armijo finally got on the board when Douglas Edwards got a step on a Vacaville defender and hauled in a bomb down the right sideline from backup QB Juan Regalado for a 60-yard touchdown with 15.4 seconds left in the third quarter.

Regalado nearly connected twice more on deep passes with open receivers in the fourth quarter.

Demetrius Perry had a hard-earned 103 yards on 22 carries for the Indians.

"We didn't quit, we didn't quit," Gonzalez said when asked what pleased him most about his team's effort. "We had a sluggish first half, for sure, and we could've folded. I'm happy with the guys. They didn't quit. They kept fighting individual battles and working hard."