



Bulldogs Dominate Casa Grande, 45-0, Behind Powerful Ground Attack

Vacaville piles up 415 yards of offense and scores six touchdowns while the defense pitches a shutout

VACAVILLE — Vacaville High put together its most complete performance of the young season Friday night, combining an explosive rushing attack with a suffocating defensive effort to roll past Casa Grande, 45-0, on Sept. 11.

The victory improved the Bulldogs to 2-1 and featured contributions throughout the lineup. Vacaville amassed 415 yards of total offense, including an imposing 317 yards on the ground, while six different Bulldogs reached the end zone.

Senior Gabriel Ingraham led the rushing attack, carrying 10 times for 114 yards and a touchdown, an average of 11.4 yards per attempt. His longest run went for 30 yards, and he became Vacaville's first 100-yard rusher of the night.

But Ingraham was only part of a ground game Casa Grande struggled to contain.

Senior Zaylon Aldarondo needed just four carries to collect 64 yards, averaging 16 yards per attempt with a long of 35. Junior Malakai Richard provided the night's biggest rushing play, breaking loose for a 52-yard touchdown on his only carry.

Seniors Chase Smith, Aidan Gillard and Gabriel Slade also rushed for touchdowns. Smith finished with 25 yards on five attempts, Slade added 23 on three carries and Gillard had nine yards on two attempts.

Altogether, the Bulldogs ran the ball 35 times for 317 yards and five touchdowns, averaging an impressive 9.1 yards per carry.

Couther and Holbein connect through the air

Vacaville didn't need to throw often, but the Bulldogs produced one of the game's biggest plays when they did.

Senior quarterback Malakai Couther completed 4 of 11 passes for 98 yards and a touchdown, including a 54-yard completion.

Senior Jackson Holbein was his primary target, catching two passes for 68 yards and a touchdown, averaging 34 yards per reception. Junior Cameron Von Muhlfeld added a 17-yard reception, while Richard caught one pass for 13 yards.

Combined with his 52-yard touchdown run, Richard finished with 65 yards from scrimmage on only two offensive touches.

The Bulldogs averaged 9.0 yards per offensive play on their 46 recorded rushing and passing attempts, demonstrating just how frequently Vacaville was able to generate chunk yardage.

Bulldogs' defense makes sure 45 points are more than enough

As impressive as the offense was, Vacaville's defense supplied the other half of Friday night's story.

The Bulldogs didn't allow a single point.

Junior Preston Ivanich led the recorded defensive statistics with five tackles, including three solo stops. Senior Brody Rogers recorded four tackles and was particularly disruptive behind the line of scrimmage with two tackles for loss.

Junior Ryker Waldon also registered two tackles for loss, while Julian Garcia, Colby Shafer, Cameron Von Muhlfeld and R. Whittaker each were credited with a tackle for loss.

That gave Vacaville at least eight tackles behind the line of scrimmage among the statistics shown, a reflection of a Bulldog defense that repeatedly disrupted Casa Grande before plays could develop.

The shutout was especially significant for a Vacaville team looking to respond following its Week 2 loss to West Park. Instead of simply bouncing back with a victory, the Bulldogs controlled the game on both sides of the football.

Watkins adds nine points

Special teams also played a major role in turning the victory into a 45-point rout.

Senior kicker Braden Watkins was perfect, converting all six extra-point attempts and adding a 36-yard field goal. He accounted for nine points and also handled seven kickoffs for 405 yards, an average of 57.9 yards, with two touchbacks.

Junior Zach Wheat punted three times for 113 yards, averaging 37.7 yards per punt, with a long of 50 and one kick placed inside the 20.

The scoring was spread throughout the Bulldog roster. Ingraham, Smith, Gillard, Slade and Richard each scored rushing touchdowns, while Holbein caught the lone

touchdown pass from Couter. Watkins' six PATs and field goal completed the 45-point night.

A complete Bulldog victory

Vacaville's offensive balance wasn't necessarily reflected in the run-pass ratio — the Bulldogs clearly preferred to establish the run — but it was evident in how many players contributed.

Five different players scored rushing touchdowns. Three players caught passes. Eleven Bulldogs recorded rushing attempts. And the defense received contributions from players throughout the lineup.

The result was 317 rushing yards, 98 passing yards, 415 total yards, six touchdowns, a field goal and a shutout.

For a Vacaville team coming off a difficult Week 2 defeat, the response could hardly have been stronger.

Vacaville 45, Casa Grande 0.

The Bulldogs now turn their attention to their next challenge, a road matchup against El Cerrito on Friday, Sept. 18.