



Vacaville High School's football team outlasts Fairfield in shootout

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Plenty of highlights, and even more to work on ... in a way, this game was perfect for Vacaville High School's football team.

The Bulldogs won their Monticello Empire League showdown — er, shootout — with visiting Fairfield Friday night. But the 70-48 scoreboard workout at Tom Zunino Stadium left fans from both teams shaking their heads, and Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopoulos scratching his.

"Obviously, the defense was bad in spots, but we had good control on offense," Papadopoulos said. "They have some great athletes, and we have to use that as a chance to continue to learn."

The up side is Vacaville (6-1 overall) gets to learn with a 2-0 MEL record, alone atop the MEL standings. Fairfield fell to 1-1, 3-4 overall.

The Falcons may have lost even more when quarterback Tra'mayne Bondurant suffered a severe ankle sprain after making an interception late in the game.

Bondurant did all he could to keep the Falcons in the contest ... and then some. He accounted for six of Fairfield's seven touchdowns, passing for 219 yards and three TDs and rushing for 156 yards and three more scores.

Vacaville countered with more balance, led by 186 rushing yards and two touchdowns from Quincy Forte.

Melvin Mason added 129 yards and three scores, and allowed Vacaville to breathe a sigh of relief, sort of, when he bolted for 52 yards and a TD to put the Bulldogs up 70-41 with 8:26 left.

Bondurant added a 63-yard run a little more than a minute later to keep the reserves on the sideline, but the Falcons could not move once Bondurant went down.

The two teams traded scores for most of the night, but Justin Garner gave Vacaville a cushion it would keep throughout when he picked off a Bondurant pass and returned it 55 yards for a score for a 22-6 lead just four minutes into the game.

“I just read it and cut underneath,” Garner said. “That ended up being a big momentum shift, because they didn’t want to throw as much after that.”

Tyler Irwin added TD passes of 10 yards to Sean Carrington and 38 to Curtis Goins for Vacaville.

Ross Lopez chipped in a 1-yard scoring run, and Hudson Buck scored from three yards out. Reed White added eight extra-point kicks.