

Vacaville High football team overwhelms Fairfield

By Matt Sieger | Vacaville Reporter | October 26, 2019

To say Vacaville High dominated Fairfield on Friday night at Will C. Wood's Wildcat Stadium would be an understatement.

The first two times the Bulldogs got the ball, they scored on the first play from scrimmage. On the next drive they scored in four plays. Then they scored on the first play of their next three possessions, jumping to a 42-0 lead after one quarter and coasting to a 56-0 win.

The Bulldogs are now 4-0 in the Monticello Empire League with one league game remaining — the "Black and Blue Bowl" against Wood at Wildcat Stadium on Friday. Vacaville improved to 7-2 overall, while Fairfield fell to 0-4 in league and 0-9 on the season.

Fairfield head coach Matsu Matsukado and Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopolous were football teammates at Armijo High. Papadopolous has the utmost respect for what his friend is doing with Falcon football.

"He's resurrecting a program right now and he has done a really good job of getting his kids to compete hard," Papadopolous said.

It was Senior Night for the Bulldogs. In addition, during halftime, a ceremony was held to honor seven new inductees to the Vacaville High Hall of Fame.

With Vacaville jumping out to the early lead, a number of players saw more playing time than usual and did a fine job.

One was placekicker Tabitha Bagos, the only girl in the history of Vacaville High varsity football to score points. She added to her legacy on Friday night, drilling all eight extrapoint attempts through the uprights.

"She's been a great teammate all year long and very deservingly got a nice opportunity on Senior Night to get some work in," said Papadopoulos. "She came in very solid in the component that we asked of her. She was great."

Chris Sacca, who normally kicks the points-after-touchdown, handled the kickoffs, booting all of them into the end zone.

"Our kicking game and in all facets the kids played really well and executed the way we expected them to and hoped that they would come out," Papadopolous said.

After they received the kickoff, on the first play, quarterback Jeremy Villalobos handed the ball to Chris Island, who rumbled up the middle into the end zone for a 60-yard touchdown.

After Vacaville forced Fairfield to punt after a three-and-out, Darien Leon-guerrero ran down the sideline for a 40-yard TD on the first play for a 14-0 lead with 10:28 remaining in the quarter.

After another Fairfield three-and-out, Villalobos hooked up with Michael Briscoe on a 38-yard pass to the Falcon 24. Three plays later on play-action, Villalobos connected with Michael Otterstedt, who caught the ball on the 3-yard line and ran into the end zone to make it 21-0 with 7:34 remaining in the quarter.

Fairfield again went three-and-out and had to punt, Vacaville starting from the Fairfield 45. On the first play, Villalobos hit Island coming out of the backfield with a short pass. He broke a tackle on the 35 and ran unimpeded into the end zone with 6:31 left in the period for a 28-0 Bulldog advantage.

Again, the Falcons were unable to get a first down and had to punt, the Bulldogs taking over on the Fairfield 42. Junior quarterback Kyle Bender, replacing Villalobos, handed off on the first play to Kyler Abramowicz, who sprinted down the left sideline for the TD and a 35-0 edge with 5:16 remaining in the stanza.

Fairfield advanced the ball to its own 38 on its next possession, then decided to go for it on fourth-and-four. But Jeremy Oran's pass fell incomplete and the Bulldogs took over.

Once again Vacaville scored on the very first play from scrimmage, this time on a nice 38-yard run by junior Kadin Hernandez. He weaved up the middle and avoided several tacklers on his way to the end zone and a 42-0 lead with 25 seconds left in the quarter.

Hernandez scored another TD in the second quarter on a 24-yard run to make it 49-0.

The Bulldogs' final score came on a six-yard TD run by Julian Somarriba.

Papadopolous commended junior linebacker/running back Jordyn Hardeman for "a really nice game all around" and was pleased with how Bender managed the game after he took over for Villalobos.