



Granite Bay is handed first loss by Vacaville

By Kayla Nix | Roseville Press Tribune | September 18, 2011

VACAVILLE — Vacaville High School has something to celebrate this weekend after posting a 38-27 win over previously undefeated Granite Bay on Friday night.

The Bulldogs (2-1) kept the Grizzlies (3-1) off balance on both sides of the ball and capitalized on key mistakes.

“This is our fourth trip down here. This is our eighth year playing them, and they’re always very tough at home,” Granite Bay coach Ernie Cooper said. “They played very well, and we didn’t play very well. They deserved to win, and we didn’t deserve to win.”

Granite Bay is 3-4-1 against Vacaville in the last eight years.

“When you play here, you’ve got to be about 10 points better than them because you’re fighting a lot of elements,” Cooper said.

With 4:46 remaining in the game, Vacaville’s Curtis Goins picked his way through the Grizzlies’ defense on three consecutive plays for 22 total yards, capped by a one-yard touchdown for the lead. The extra point put the Bulldogs ahead 31-27.

Granite Bay had enough time to come back, but Arik Bird fumbled on the fourth play, handing the ball back to Vacaville with 3:15 left.

“They put a lot of pressure on you. They play a tight man to man, and our guys did not handle that very well,” Cooper said. “We thought we were ready for it, and we obviously weren’t. We had way too many missed passes, dropped passes.”

Quarterback Brendan Keeney, who went into the game with a 68-percent completion percentage, was just 9 for 28.

Another touchdown by Goins, this one a 24-yard run, sealed the deal for the Bulldogs with less than two minutes to go.

“We have a bye (next) week, so it’s going hurt,” Cooper said. “We’re going to lick our wounds a little bit. This is one we’re going to have to sit on for two weeks. It’s going to be a long two weeks.”

The Grizzlies play at Pittsburg on Sept. 30 before starting Sierra Foothill League play.

“They’re a very talented football team, very much like these guys (Vacaville),” Cooper said.

Vacaville 38, Granite Bay 27

Granite Bay 17 7 0 3 — 27

Vacaville 7 14 3 14 — 38

GB — Bird blocked punt return (Bermudez kick)

Vaca — Goins 3 run (White kick)

GB — Bird 5 run (Bermudez kick)

GB — FG Bermudez 20

Vaca — Jeppson 13 run (White kick)

GB — Wagner 25 pass from Keeney (Bermudez kick)

Vaca — Goins 1 run (White kick)

Vaca — FG White 20

GB — FG Bermudez 27

Vaca — Goins 1 run (White kick)

Vaca — Goins 24 run (White kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — Granite Bay, Bird 13-127, Mook 4-17, Bertolino 4-13, Keeney 3-21, Partridge 2-24, Cooley 1-9, Ellison 1-6, Briare 1-2. Vacaville, Goins 14-116, Mason 11-38, Te’o 7-30, Paulin 2-26, Trueblood 1-25, Jeppson 1-13, Weiss 1-10.

PASSING — Granite Bay, Keeney 9-28-0, 134. Vacaville, Christensen 1-7-1, 5.

RECEIVING — Granite Bay, Ellison 4-48, Wagner 2-40, Briare 2-32, Mook 1-14. Vacaville, Te’o 1-5.