

Vacaville High football team takes down Granite Bay

By Matt Miller | Vacaville Reporter | September 18, 2011

Coleman Christensen gave credit to some strenuous practice workouts after Vacaville High School's huge 38-27 win over Granite Bay on Friday night at Tom Zunino Stadium.

"Coach Pop's tires," Christensen said of one of head coach Mike Papadopoulos' workouts. "Pulling tires. That really paid off for us in the fourth quarter. Everything just started to click and the offensive line was amazing."

Vacaville showed an extra gear in the final period and got two of Curtis Goins' four touchdowns for the victory. After a slow start, the Bulldogs played step-for-step with Granite Bay in the second and third quarter before taking over in the final period.

Vacaville went on a 15-play, 76-yard drive in the fourth quarter that was capped by Goins' 1-yard touchdown run. Granite Bay took the next possession and ran 35 yards before turning the ball over to the Bulldogs when Johnny Schupp dove on a fumble.

Goins ended a five-play drive after the fumble with a 24-yard touchdown run. An even better run came two plays earlier, when he went for 23 yards and was nearly running backwards at one point before righting his direction.

"We finally were able to establish something in the second half and were able to exploit some things," Papadopoulos said. "The kids really had to be patient because it was a really tough game. They really responded."

Goins finished with 138 yards on 19 carries and his first-half touchdowns went for 3 and 2 yards. Melvin Mason had 88 yards on 22 tough carries as the Bulldogs finished with 310 yards on the ground.

Carson Jeppson had a 13-yard touchdown run in the second quarter. Reed White kicked a 27-yard field goal in the third quarter that tied the score 24-24. White also converted five extra points.

Vacaville's defense stood tall against Granite Bay's vaunted offense. One of the defense's biggest plays came in the third quarter, when Justin Garner put a big hit on

Granite Bay quarterback Brendan Keeney and teammate Curtis Bleasdale was able to fall on the fumble.

Granite Bay was able to run for 291 yards. Arik Bird ran for 216 yards on 20 carries and had a 4-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. He also blocked a punt from seven yards out in the first quarter and carried it in for a touchdown.

Keeney had a 25-yard touchdown pass to Adam Wagner for the Grizziles. Nick Bermudez had a 33-yard field goal.

Vacaville improved to 2-1 and will head to San Jose next Friday to take on Valley Christian.