



Vaca keeps Granite at bay

September 22, 2007 - Eric Core will stay on defense ... for now.

The Vacaville High School defensive lineman didn't look too shabby carrying the football after he stripped Granite Bay quarterback Teddy Bryant late in the showdown between the two powerhouses Friday night.

Core's 64-yard fumble return clinched Vacaville's 40-21 victory at Tom Zunino Stadium and gave the host Bulldogs a deceptively lopsided final count.

"I think the defense can be as good as the offense," Core said emphatically. "We've got some great players. We gave up some yards early, but we came back."

Core's score was one of two for Vacaville's defense, which gave up a whopping 377 yards but also forced four turnovers. Marcus McMillan added a 102-yard interception return to give Vacaville an early 14-0 lead.

The other three turnovers came on the Grizzlies' last three possessions, after Granite Bay had pulled within six points on a 2-yard run by Clark Partridge on the final play of the third quarter.

Vacaville also committed three turnovers, and running backs Terrance Dailey, Johnny Feaster and Markel Williams all suffered minor injuries.

But the opportunistic Bulldog defense made the difference at the end, and Dailey added a 2-yard scoring run to Core's big play in the fourth quarter as the Bulldogs pulled away late.

"Of course it's worth the pain," said Dailey, who ran for 146 yards and two scores despite twisting his right knee in the second quarter. "The coaches asked me if I wanted to sit out, but this is my family. I had to come back and play through it."

Johnny Feaster added 149 yards rushing and a score as the Bulldogs (3-0) won their 14th game in a row and avenged their only loss from last year. Vacaville finished with 320 of its 390 yards on the ground.

Bryant and starting quarterback Thomas Moss combined to throw for 216 yards for Granite Bay, but McMillan, Feaster and Josh Kaddu all had interceptions for the Bulldogs.

Moss added a 36-yard touchdown pass to A.J. Herlitz to make the score 14-8 in the second quarter.

Vacaville countered with a 40-yard scoring pass from Robert Bensing to Kyle Martin, and Dailey's 10-yard scoring run made the count 27-8 at the half.

Peyton Thompson and Partridge both scored on short runs for the Grizzlies in the third quarter. Ronnie Thomas led Granite Bay with 89 rushing yards on 16 carries.

Vacaville plays at Vallejo on Sept. 29.

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