



## **‘Dogs display home magic**

**September 16, 2006** - *Mike Papadopoulos learns something about his Bulldogs every game.*

*On Friday, the Vacaville High School football head coach learned they can do whatever it takes to win.*

*Vacaville pulled out so many big-play rabbits out of its hat that it would be hard to know where to start. The biggest play came when Peter Buck stopped Bryan Hilliard inches away from the end zone on fourth down in overtime to preserve a dramatic 21-20 victory in the home opener at Tom Zunino Stadium.*

*“We learned a lot about ourselves tonight,” Papadopoulos said before kissing his wife and sleepy daughter goodnight. “I learned that we can hang in there and play and play like we’re supposed to.”*

*Because of state playoffs, the CIF implemented overtime for tie games where each team starts a regular offensive series from the 10-yard line. Laguna Creek won the coin flip and deferred to Vacaville.*

*Ricky Rodarte, who went 1-for-3 with 6 yards and an interception in the first half, zipped a 10-yard touchdown pass to Bobby Ortiz on the very first play of overtime. Garrett Valenzuela drilled the important extra point kick.*

*The Bulldogs shined on defense. Cardinals quarterback Brandon Summers’ first pass was incomplete. Running back Terrance Dailey, who is almost exclusively an offensive player, rushed Summers and sacked him for a 3-yard loss on the second play. Dailey finished with 119 rushing yards and caught a 28-yard touchdown in the fourth from Rodarte.*

*After Summers had a 6-yard completion, Bryson Littlejohn converted a 7-yard touchdown.*

*But Vacaville wasn’t deflated yet.*

*When Laguna Creek elected to go for two points, Summers pitched the ball to Hilliard, a workhorse runner who gained 161 yards. Buck, who also had a 26-yard touchdown run in the first quarter and a shoestring tackle of Hilliard at the end of regulation with Laguna Creek threatening to score, came up with the tackle of the game, or of the season so far.*

*“It feels awesome,” Buck said. “My heart is still pounding. I’ve never been in an overtime like that before. We worked on that in summer camp, not at our practices.*

*“This was unbelievable.”*

*Vacaville improved to 2-0.*