



# Vacaville High School falls to Marin Catholic

By Tim Roe | Vacaville Reporter | September 11, 2011

The numbers were too big to ignore ... the good ones and the bad ones.

Vacaville High School's football team ran up and down the field against Marin Catholic on Saturday in Kentfield.

But the Bulldogs also were victimized by four turnovers, 11 penalties ... and the Wildcat passing combination of Jared Goff to Ryan Farney.

Farney caught six passes for 215 yards and three touchdowns as the Wildcats rallied for a 33-29 victory over the Bulldogs.

"Obviously, you cannot make the mistakes we made against a great team like that and expect to win," Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopoulos said. "It was a really hard-fought game against two good teams, but we saw some things that we very definitely need to work on."

Despite all the miscues, the Bulldogs (1-1) could have used one more fumble.

Trailing 33-27, Vacaville drove 76 yards in the final six minutes and had a fourth-and-2 play at the Wildcats' 4-yard line with 1:15 left.

The Bulldogs faked a handoff to fullback Melvin Mason, who blasted into the end zone.

Halfback Jacob Te'o took the handoff off tackle to the right and was met by several Marin Catholic defenders, and appeared to fumble as he was falling. Quarterback Coleman Christensen scooped up the ball and scored easily, but the play was blown dead at the 3-yard line.

Unable to run out the clock, the Wildcats took a safety on fourth down with five seconds left.

They kicked off to Te'o who threw a long lateral to Mason at the Bulldog 40. Mason reached the Wildcats 37 before he was tackled.

Mason finished with 223 yard rushing and two touchdowns on a whopping 31 carries for the Bulldogs, who piled up a gaudy 566 yards on the ground.

Curtis Goins added 186 yards, including a 30-yard jaunt, and Te'o finished with 91 yards. David Mewborn had a 4-yard scoring run.

Mewborn's TD capped an 11-play, 80-yard drive that put the Bulldogs up 27-13.

Mason appeared to all but give the Bulldogs the game when he scored on a 66-yard run on Vacaville's next drive, but that run was called back because of a block in the back -- the most crushing of 11 penalties for 78 yards.

Three plays later, Goff hit Farney with an 80-yard scoring pass, and the Wildcats were back in the game.

The two hooked up from 34 yards out less than two minutes later to tie the game.

Vacaville fumbled on its next play from scrimmage, and the Wildcats drove 25 yards in five plays to take the lead for good.

"We had them, and we let them off the hook," Papadopoulos said. "But this is why we play good teams. It's right there in front of us. We know exactly what we have to do to get better."

Another Bulldog fumble led directly to a Marin Catholic score when Mike Nichols scooped it up and rumbled 53 yards in the first quarter.

Farney also scored on a 32-yard pass play from Goff in the second period.

Vacaville hosts Granite Bay on Friday night.