



Marin Catholic stunned by Vacaville

By Cameron Schott | Nor Cal Preps | September 8, 2012

VACAVILLE — The Marin Catholic High football team had victory within its grasp on Friday night. But the Wildcats were unable to hold on.

A fumble near midfield in the final minutes allowed Vacaville to take control of the football, and the Bulldogs wound up scoring the clinching touchdown with 5 seconds remaining to steal a 28-24 victory.

"Any loss is disappointing," Marin Catholic coach Mazi Moayed said. "At the end you lose. If it wasn't the fumble, it could have been something else."

The game itself was something else.

With two teams ranked among the elite in Northern California squaring off in a rematch of a close game the Wildcats won a year earlier, this figured to be close again. And it was.

Marin Catholic scored the first touchdown of the night, and a field goal later in the first half allowed the Wildcats (2-1) to carry a 10-7 lead into the break.

Marin Catholic then went ahead 17-7 in the third quarter only to see Vacaville respond with a touchdown to close to within 17-14. The Bulldogs then scored again to take a lead, putting the pressure on the Marin Catholic.

Marin Catholic, to its credit, answered with a touchdown drive capped by a 10-yard pass from Jared Goff to Colton Hanley for a 24-21 lead.

When the Wildcats then got the ball back at midfield after a Vacaville fumble, they appeared poised to snare a victory. But back-to-back fumbles — the second was recovered by Vacaville — allowed the victory to get away.

"The first one I just muffed it, it was a little low on the snap, but I just muffed it," Goff said. "The second one we just didn't mesh. It was neither me nor Akili (Terry) who were at fault, it happens. At this point, this loss sucks, it sucks really bad right now feeling this loss. But in the long run it's going to make us that much better. This is going to be one of the best teams we'll play this year and we'll try to win out from here."