



Vacaville High scores prime-time win in home opener

By Tim Roe | Vacaville Reporter | September 8, 2012

VACAVILLE-If these two teams could meet again in a Northern California playoff in three months, nobody who was at Tom Zunino Stadium on Friday night would mind a bit.

Division alignments prevent Vacaville High School and Marin Catholic from a postseason rematch, but don't think Comcast isn't already looking into televising next year's nonleague game.

Vacaville's first live game on cable was an instant classic, as Nic Ardave threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to David Mewborn with five seconds left to give the Bulldogs a wild, 28-24 victory.

"When you get a high-school setting like this, where the kids all performed on such a big stage, and it all kind of came together, it makes it pretty special," Vacaville coach Mike Papadopoulos said.

The clash between two of the top 10 teams in Cal-Hi Sports publication's NorCal rankings was all it was cracked up to be, with three lead changes in the final eight minutes and plenty of heroes.

Ardave was one of the biggest, completing three passes in a 44-yard drive after the Bulldogs'

Chris Irving recovered a Marin Catholic fumble with 1:22 left.

He hit a wide-open Mewborn in the right corner of the end zone on the final toss.

"We just didn't give up," said Ardave, who completed 9 of 16 passes for 159 yards and two touchdowns, both in the fourth quarter. "We kept fighting ... never, ever give up."

Marin Catholic quarterback Jared Goff had one final chance, but his desperation bomb fell out of bounds as time expired.

Goff didn't miss many receivers, completing 20 of 33 passes for 250 yards and all three Wildcat TDs.

"It's hard for me to believe we're going to see a better quarterback than the one who was across from us tonight," Papadopoulos said.

Ardave wasn't too shabby, either, leading Vacaville on consecutive scoring drives of 80 and 44 yards after Marin had taken a 17-7 lead in the third quarter.

Jacob Te'o finished the first with a 6-yard run. Ardave hit Curtis Goins with a swing pass that turned into a 27-yard TD on the second. The toss came one play after an apparent scoring pass to Jeramy Sweany was called back by a penalty.

Goins hurdled two defenders at the goal-line to give Vacaville its first lead of the night.

Goins led a balanced Vacaville rushing attack with 63 yards on 11 carries. Te'o added 50 yards, and Jared Paulin rushed for 43, including a 4-yard scoring run.

Nick Lacey and Eric Gabbard led the defensive front, and Jimmy Cheechov and Jaden Grotke helped keep Goff's receivers from running wild after the catch.

Vacaville plays at Granite Bay next week.