



Vacaville wins big MEL clash

October 28, 2006 - Terrance Dailey had a scowl on his face.

"We didn't come here to lose," the Vacaville High School running back said to his teammates at the start of the second half of the Bulldogs' battle against Napa for first place in the Monticello Empire League.

They sure didn't.

Vacaville didn't allow the Indians to score after 5:03 in the second quarter and Dailey rushed for 222 yards and three touchdowns in a 36-21 victory against Napa at Memorial Stadium on Friday night.

So, is it safe to give the Bulldogs the MEL championship with two games left?

"We have it wrapped up," Dailey said. "The envelope's closed. It's superglued."

Though Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopoulos wouldn't make the same declaration, the second-year coach couldn't help but gush about how his "Dogs played.

"This was one of those great games," Papadopoulos said. "Some big plays happened from some big players. This game was a big deal. This will go down as one of the great games Vacaville's ever played."

The Bulldogs trailed 21-7 after Napa final touchdown, Ted LeMasters' 1-yard quarterback sneak. After that, an inspired Vacaville team took control with stellar defense – propelled in large part by Zack Nash's three sacks and Johnny Feaster's fourth-quarter interception in the end zone – and success running the ball.

Vacaville made pivotal plays with its back against the wall, scoring its first two touchdowns on fourth-down plays. Marcus McMillan caught a 14-yard scoring strike from Ricky Rodarte on a fourth-and-5 play with 11:19 left in the first quarter. On fourth-and-one, Dailey rushed for a 35-yard score to cut Napa's lead 21-13 with 2:20 remaining in the second quarter.

After the Indians went three-and-out, Vacaville got the ball back with 58.8 seconds left in the half. Aided in large part by Dailey's 29-yard run, Jeremy Hohn connected on a 32-yard field with 2.9 seconds left to cut the deficit 21-16 at the break.

Dailey scored on a 71-yard run to give Vacaville its first lead, 22-21, with 9:26 left in the third quarter. The Bulldogs

(7-1, 3-0 in the MEL) never looked back. Napa fell to 6-2, 2-1 in the MEL.

Dailey added a 1-yard rushing touchdown, and Bobby Ortiz made up for a fumble on one drive by scampering 88 yards on a misdirection run for Vacaville's final touchdown with 4:02 left in the game.