



Vacaville High's football team wins MEL showdown against Napa

By Matt Miller | Vacaville Reporter | October 8, 2011

Those tough preseason games paid off for Vacaville High School's football team in the Monticello Empire League opener.

Vacaville bent but didn't break Friday night and fought off a physical test from Napa for a 35-21 victory at Tom Zunino Stadium. The breakaway plays on offense were limited, but the Bulldogs put up long, time-consuming drives that routinely moved the chains.

"They had two weeks to prepare for us and we had to fight through them to keep it going," Vacaville wingback Terrance Trueblood said.

Vacaville was up 28-21 with 11:30 remaining in the fourth quarter. The Bulldogs quickly answered with an 11-play, 69-yard drive that resulted in a 1-yard touchdown run by Curtis Goins with 6:42 to play.

Jacob Te'o added a key fumble recovery on Napa's next series before Vacaville was able to keep Napa in check the rest of the game.

Vacaville improved to 5-1 overall and came in with victories over Granite Bay, Valley Christian and Deer Valley the last three weeks. The Bulldogs head to Fairfield next Friday. The Falcons lost to Will C. Wood 32-14.

The Bulldogs produced 408 yards of offense against Napa, with 335 coming on the ground from seven different ball carriers. Melvin Mason led Vacaville with 115 yards on 23 carries and also had a pair of 2-yard touchdown runs.

Goins again showed his versatility with 86 yards on the ground and 43 in the air. He had an acrobatic catch in the first quarter on a 31-yard pass from quarterback Coleman Christensen that he turned into a touchdown.

Trueblood added 78 yards on four carries, which included a nice 31-yard sweep around the left side in the third quarter. Christensen found Trueblood for one two-point conversion and kicker Reed White booted three extra-points.

"It's always a physical game when we play them and that's what we expected it to be," Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopoulos said. "We stayed in control and the defense made some stops when we needed them. This is a great rivalry and the kids played very well."

Napa finished with 248 yards of offense, 187 of it coming on the ground. Speedy Zack Scheinholz was tough to stop on the sweeps and finished with 110 yards on 18 carries. Scheinholz had touchdown runs of 1 and 21 yards. David Hunt added a 16-yard scoring run for the Indians.

Defensive tackle Chris Taylor helped lead Vacaville's defense, along with safety Te'o, strong safety Jesse Kassis and inside linebackers Tim Scott and Jaden Grotke.