

Bulldogs savoring victory over Miners

November 19, 2006 - Surrounded by a joyous Bulldog family, Mike Papadopoulos allowed himself to savor, ever so briefly, a moment all of Vacaville had anticipated for 16 years.

"This is a big win for our program," the second-year Vacaville High School football coach said after the Bulldogs" 28-16 win against Nevada Union of Grass Valley in the playoff opener. "This is another one of those games that"s going to be remembered, just like the Napa game."

In Week 8, Vacaville defeated the Indians 36-21, shutting out Napa for the entire second half, on the road no less and in the loudest conditions many of the Bulldogs had ever played in.

Although the offense was able to advance the ball against the swarming Miners, Vacaville"s defense set up all four touchdowns.

Josh Kaddu had a 22-yard interception return for the first strike.

Nevada Union went three-and-out at the end of the opening quarter, which set the stage for an 84-yard rushing touchdown by Terrance Dailey.

Zack Nash"s interception and 65-yard return set up another Dailey 3-yard touchdown in the second quarter.

Ahead only 21-10, Bulldog Johnny Feaster returned the first of his two picks 37 yards.

That set up yet another score, a Ricky Rodarte 3-yard bootleg to the corner of the end zone.

"The defense had the big night," Papadopoulos said.

The vaunted Vacaville defense held Nevada Union to a paltry 44 rushing yards on 39 attempts. Dailey carried most of the load with 209 yards as the other runners combined for 20 yards.

"We"ll learn from this," Dailey said. "This will only make us get better."

So can the Bulldogs win their first ever Sac-Joaquin section title?

"I think we"re as good as anybody," Papadopoulos said. "If we continue to work hard and prepare, then we"ve got a shot."