



Vacaville loses Homecoming thriller to Oak Ridge

By Matt Miller | Vacaville Reporter | September 22, 2012

VACAVILLE - A classic game came up just inches short for Vacaville High School's football team on homecoming night. The Bulldogs lined up for a 42-yard field with five seconds left to try and send everyone home with a tie. Alberto Escobedo's kick was strong and straight but just short. Oak Ridge held on for a 24-21 victory on Friday night at Tom Zunino Stadium.

Oak Ridge had driven 95 yards on the previous series in just under five minutes to take the lead after a Vacaville turnover. Jason Samuels' 11-yard touchdown pass was caught by Byron Spain with a minute to play. Samuels then hit Justin Priest with a 2-point conversion pass to put the Trojans up three.

Vacaville drove 40 yards in the final minute to set up Escobedo's tying attempt. Bulldog alum Eric Cavaliere, class of 1987, walked away with a win as head coach at Oak Ridge in the first meeting between the two schools.

It's the first time since 2008 that the Bulldogs have lost back-to-back games, and only the third time since 1998. Vacaville fell to 2-2 overall heading into next Friday night's final non-league game at Deer Valley of Antioch.

"That was the best football we've played this year," said an upbeat Vacaville coach Mike Papadopoulos. "We played a tough, physical game and just came up a little short. There were a couple of little things that we can fix and make us a better football team."

Vacaville rushed for a whopping 383 yards. Curtis Goins led the way with 194 yards on 22 carries, scoring a touchdown on the ground and in the air. David Mewborn had 114 yards and a touchdown. An additional 81 passing yards gave Vacaville 464 yards of offense.

Oak Ridge did most of its work in the air. Samuels completed 18 of 34 passes for 226 yards, with two touchdown passes and an interception. The Trojans rushed for 119 yards for a total of 445 yards of offense.

"We played great. We just gave up some little things and couldn't pull it together," Bulldog quarterback Nic Ardave said. "We'll work really hard this week and be ready to play."

Vacaville scored in the first quarter on a 58-yard touchdown run by Mewborn. Goins rushed one yard for a score in the second quarter. Goins had a 9-yard touchdown reception from Ardave in the fourth quarter that put Vacaville up 21-16 with 9:43 left in the game.

Spain caught touchdown passes of 24 and 11 yards from Samuels for Oak Ridge. Josh Wellman raced 29 yards for another score, and Ryan Lamb had a 22-yard field goal.

Oak Ridge improved to 5-0.