



Bulldogs corral Mustangs in shootout

By Tim Roe | Vacaville Reporter | September 13, 2008

If local fans could feel their hands, they might still be applauding.

Vacaville and Rodriguez high schools met for the first time ever on the football field Friday night, and created an instant classic, albeit a chilly one. The Bulldogs escaped with a 49-42 victory only when Myles King's desperation bomb fell incomplete as time expired.

"What a great game ... what a great way to start the season," said Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopoulos, who somehow managed to wear shorts throughout.

Vacaville led by as many as 21 points, and never trailed, but scored the winning points with just 1:03 left when Jimmy Hines rambled in from six yards out.

Hines rushed for 94 yards, Spencer Lakehart ran for 139 and Markel Williams juke his way to 108 yards and five touchdowns before being ejected for throwing a punch after the first play of the fourth quarter.

The Bulldogs were able to make up for his absence on offense, thanks to the play of Hines, Lukehart and Jeff Beasley, who added a 17-yard touchdown run.

But they sure missed Williams' play at cornerback.

King torched Vacaville's defense for 319 passing yards and four touchdowns. Cameron Richmond caught three of those scores among his seven grabs for 152 yards.

"We had some breakdowns on defense, and you can't do that against an athletic team like Rodriguez," Papadopoulos said. "They did a super job."

While the Mustangs dominated through the air - Vacaville didn't even complete a pass in the game - the Bulldogs tore up the hosts on the ground.

Nine different Vacaville backs combined for 399 yards. Williams scored on runs of 1, 2, 13, 4 and 10 yards, with four of the touchdowns coming in the first half alone.

But the Mustangs bounced back from a 28-7 deficit, getting two scores in the final 2:29 of the first half, the second on an acrobatic catch by Richmond at the back of the end zone.

They added a score with the wind - er, zephyr - at their backs in the third quarter, but the Bulldogs regained the lead with a 52-yard drive on their next possession.

Vacaville opens its home season next Friday with a game against Laguna Creek.