

Bulldogs take a bite out of Mustangs in home MEL grid contest

By Todd R Hansen | Daily Republic | April 9, 2021

VACAVILLE — Darian Leon-Guerrero rushed for 298 yards and five touchdowns Friday night as the Vacaville High varsity football team rolled over Rodriguez, 63-8, at Tom Zunino Stadium.

Leon-Guerrero, who had scoring runs of 33, 49, 33, 1 and 74, mustered up more offense than the Mustangs, who finished with 224 yards.

Vacaville finished with 366 yards of total offense.

But it was Rodriguez that got on the board first.

A deflected pass off a receiver's hands went right to the Mustangs' Marcell Struggs-Anderson, who raced 65 yards down the left sideline for the touchdown. Miles Meadows hit Anthony Home on the 2-point conversion and an 8-0 lead with 10:59 left in the opening frame.

But the rest of the night belonged to Leon-Guerrero and the Bulldogs' offense, as well as a motivated defensive squad that harassed Rodriguez all night.

Vacaville pulled to within one, 8-7, on Leon-Guerrero's first scoring run of 33 yards, and the first of nine extra points off the boot of Ariel Till, who also showed off his leg strength with several kickoffs into the end zone.

The Bulldogs went up 14-8 with 4:56 left in the first period on a 10-yard pass from Ryan Vaughan to Anthony Wiley.

Then came Leon-Guerrero's 49-yard touchdown with 51 seconds left in the first to make it 21-8. Lucca Sartorio added a 3-yard scoring run to make it 28-8, followed by Leon-Guerrero's second 33-yard scoring jaunt at 4:08 of the second to extend the lead to 35-8.

That's when the defense joined the scoring party as Timothy Plowman intercepted a pass and returned it 25 yards for the score, putting the Bulldogs up 42-8 with 3:58 left in the half.

Leon-Guerrero found the end zone from 1 yard out to cap the first-half scoring, 49-8.

Leon-Guerrero's 74-yard touchdown came with 7:31 left in the third period, and Blake Espino finished off the scoring at the 4:01 mark of the fourth with a 3-yard touchdown.