



Rodriguez High's football team enjoys first win ever against Vacaville

Marsi Syess intercepted a pass near the goal line with 13 seconds remaining and sealed the deal for the Rodriguez High School football team in a 22-16 win over Vacaville Friday night at Tom Zunino Stadium.

The Mustangs needed to defend every inch and every second to beat the Bulldogs for the first time ever in 17 attempts. The offense was able to take a knee in the final seconds before a big celebration erupted on the Rodriguez sideline.

"This feels great," Syess said. "It was wonderful getting that pick. We played disciplined and locked down on defense."

Rodriguez upped its record to 6-0 overall and 2-0 in the Monticello Empire League. Last week, the Mustangs defeated Vanden for the first time in 14 years. This week, they picked up their first win over Vacaville on its home turf during the Bulldogs' homecoming festivities.

"It took ever bit of four quarters," Rodriguez head coach Myles King said. "Our guys were very resilient. They played smart and disciplined. That's an excellent program and you don't beat a team like that without all three phases of the game in offense, defense and special teams."

Rodriguez looked in control with 2:47 to play in the game when Trey Syess intercepted a Vacaville pass with a 22-14 lead. But the Bulldogs were able to block a punt in the end zone for a safety and then got as deep as the 8-yard line on its next offensive series.

The Mustangs eventually were able to shut down the Bulldogs' final drive. There was also a key personal foul penalty that pushed Vacaville back from the 8-yard line to the 23.

"We had every opportunity to be on the other side of this game," Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopoulos said. "We just didn't execute well enough to put the game away. They did a tremendous job."

Vacaville fell to 3-3 overall and 1-1 in the MEL.

Rodriguez quarterback Dylan Burke threw three touchdown passes. He completed a 15-yard scoring strike to Jermaine Missouri in the second quarter, a 5-yard TD pass to Trey Syess, and another to Missouri for 17 yards in the fourth quarter.

Burke now has an incredible 27 touchdown passes for the season, though he did throw his first interception to end that streak. He finished with 165 yards passing.

Jermaine Missouri had five catches for 117 yards. Keylen Highbaugh was the top rusher with 59 yards on 26 carries. Trey Syess had two point-after kicks. Malachi Wroten also scored on a 2-point conversion.

Vacaville took advantage of a bad snap on a punt before Tanner Boyd went over from the 1-yard line for a touchdown in the second quarter. Quarterback Brendan Jackson also had a 51-yard touchdown pass to Jovias Reinaldo. Rome Griego converted two point-after kicks.

After a scoreless first quarter, Rodriguez led 15-14 at the half. There was a scoreless third quarter before the Mustangs had a 7-2 edge in the final period.

Rodriguez will try and keep its unbeaten streak alive next Friday when they will host Sacramento. Vacaville, meanwhile, will try and rebound with a game at Vanden.