Bulldogs race past Sheldon with 41-6 victory

By Nick McConnell | Times Herald | August 26, 2023

When it rains for the Vacaville High School Bulldogs, it pours.

The raindrops, penalty flags and scoreboard points were everywhere Friday night at Tom Zunino Stadium, where the Bulldogs overcame themselves as much as visiting Sheldon in a 41-6 victory.

The Bulldogs (2-0) were plagued by 13 penalties for 110 yards. But two early defensive touchdowns and a complete performance on special teams led the Bulldogs to a comfortable victory.

"Our defense and special teams gave us great field position," said Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopoulos.

Vacaville never looked back after quarterback Brody Fortunati opened his 100-yard passing night by hitting on completions of 30 11 and 7 yards on a 96-yard scoring drive.

Vacaville's defense took over from there, blowing the game open with Noa Siaosi's 25-yard fumble recovery for a score and Koby Ortiz's pick-six.

"Big momentum shifters, when you get opportunities like that," Papadopoulos said.

Cristian Diosdado found a lane on the outside for a 63-yard touchdown run to open the scoring in the second half, reaching the endzone two strides ahead of the nearest green and white jersey.

The Bulldogs followed that with a series of big plays and turnovers on defense, but the penalty flags kept things from spinning too far out of control.

Not that it mattered all that much.

"Those are teachable moments," Papadopoulos said, "These are practice games."

Diasdado finished the night with 157 yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries. He said the Bulldogs were confident in the game plan and their ability to execute on offense.

"It's just the linemen," he said. "The linemen and finishing through the endzone."

After coasting to their first two victories, the Bulldogs will head to Cardinal Newman next Friday in search of stiffer competition.

"I'm really happy with how the kids have been developing and looking forward to next week," Papadopoulos said. "We'll have a really big challenge."