



‘Dogs make strong point(s) all night

September 30, 2006 - *The Bulldogs looked intimidating in their all-black jerseys. They played with unrelenting ferocity to back up their sleek, new look.*

The stars were aligned for the Vacaville High School football team to play a nearly flawless 48-minute game. It was homecoming and the "Dogs were determined, focused and angry after a sloppy loss last week.

There would be no letdown on Friday.

Vacaville trounced Vallejo 70-14 at Tom Zunino Stadium to set a school record for points in a game. When Nick Mitchell waltzed in for an 8-yard touchdown on a gap bigger than the Grand Canyon with 5:10 left in the fourth quarter, the Bulldogs had their record. The total broke the old mark set on Oct. 24, 1997, when Vacaville won 68-14 at Hogan.

"Everything went our way," said Peter Buck, who scored two touchdowns in a 28-point first quarter. "They made mental mistakes and we physically pushed them around."

Even if Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopoulos tried to downplay the record, his Bulldogs were more than happy to be a part of a memorable night in the program's storied history.

"That's just "Pop" being humble," said fullback Terrance Dailey, who had a relatively quiet night by his standards, rushing for 106 yards, including an 8-yard score in the third quarter. "I'm happy about the record. The whole team is happy about the record. We wanted it and we came out and got it."

Vacaville (3-1) had a 14-0 lead before the Apaches (1-3) even ran an offensive play. Buck caught a 17-yard touchdown pass from Ricky Rodarte with 10:32 remaining in the first quarter, and Vallejo's Mychael Wallace fumbled the ensuing kickoff.

Scott Mosely recovered the loose ball for Vacaville and two plays later, Kyle Caserza plowed in for a 6-yard score.

On Vacaville's next offensive series, Buck rushed 17 yards into the end zone. With 32 seconds in the quarter, Bobby Ortiz ran 25 yards for another touchdown and a 28-0 lead.

The onslaught continued in the second quarter when Apache backup quarterback Victor Tildsely threw an interception to Josh Kaddu, who ran untouched 52 yards for a Bulldog score. Ortiz added 6-yard scoring run.

Alberto Valdez had a blocked punt and Jake Kassis caught it in midair and returned it 16 yards for another touchdown and a 49-7 lead, which stood at halftime.

After Dailey's score, Ryan Naval had a 10-yard touchdown run with 3:44 left in the third quarter. After Mitchell's record-breaking score, new kicker Jeremy Hohn punctuated the victory with his third extra point of the night.

David McCready had two sacks on Vallejo's first offensive series in the second half and Caserza batted down several passes.

Brandon Lucas led the Apaches with 115 rushing yards, including touchdown runs of one and 48 yards.

"The kids did a great job all night," Papadopoulos said. "We got the momentum early and we sustained it."