



Vacaville overpowers Vallejo

September 30, 2007 - *It was a surprise. But it was also impressive. It really was.*

By halftime the Vallejo High football team averaged 5.1 yards per carry, dominated time of possession (20:33 to Vacaville's 2:48), got deep into Bulldogs territory four times, and didn't punt the ball once.

"Our plan halfway worked," Apaches coach Mike Wilson said.

Therein lied the problem.

Despite only running 11 offensive plays, Vacaville, the No. 2 ranked team in Northern California, still had a 22-0 halftime lead, which eventually turned into a 57-6 rout by the end of the game.

Vallejo (1-3) had a simple offensive game plan: Control the clock. And the Apaches did it so well, with quarterback Victor Tildsley looking to the sidelines for a coach that would give him the signal to hike the ball with three seconds remaining on the play clock each time.

Vallejo bunched all 11 players and continuously pounded the ball to the tune of 159 rushing yards (sacks not withstanding) in the first half.

"We worked all week on ball control, keeping the clock running, controlling the long drives, which I think we did that pretty well," Wilson said. "We're playing a good team. We know we're playing a good team. We wanted to try to stay in the game, not let it get out of control."

And perhaps it wouldn't have if not for the failure to score in the first half. Four of Vallejo's five first-half possessions ended as follows: Interception, interception, turnover on downs, turnover on downs.

Then Vacaville showed why its one of the best teams in the state by pulling off easy touchdowns. Running back Johnny Feaster had touchdown runs of seven and 38 yards. And running back Terrance Dailey, who has committed to the University of Washington, had a 68-yard touchdown run. Dailey finished the game with 151 yards rushing on just eight carries.

Essentially what happened was, for all the jabbing Vallejo was doing, Vacaville responded with haymakers. The Bulldogs finished with 397 yards rushing as a team.

“They”re offense just came out strong,” said Apaches defensive back Alfonso Hatten, who also rushed for 153 yards.

Vacaville’s defense came out hitting. Tildsley found that out just about every time Vallejo attempted to switch to the passing game.

“The pressure was there, and I got hit in the back a couple of times,” Tildsley said. “That’s what killed me the most.”

He was hurting all over after the game.

“Ankle, back, ribs,” Tildsley said. “Head hurts. It”s all right.”

The lopsided score may have been a result of some mistakes Vallejo’s part. The Apaches had a hard time bringing guys down defensively.

“We didn”t tackle very well tonight,” Wilson said. “We actually had them wrapped up a lot. We just didn”t bring them down.”

There were a few good reasons for that.

“They”re fast – a lot faster,” Tildsley said. “Defense had heart. They tried their best. (Vacaville) is just one step ahead of us.”

Added Hatten, who also plays defensive back: “They came at us, a lot of them were strong, a lot of them were big too. They had a lot of advantages.”

But despite the list of mismatches, Vallejo managed to hang in for a while, until Vacaville seized control in the second half.

Even Bulldogs coach Mike Papadopoulos was impressed with the Apaches on this night.

“They came in with a very good game plan for what they had and for what their personnel had,” Papadopoulos said. “They were very patient in the things they were trying to do, and I commend them for what was going on tonight. They hung with their plan, and they were doing some good things. They did a great job tonight, considering what they had to do.

“I really enjoyed their spirit and their effort. They played hard tonight the whole time – the entire game.”

