



## **Vacaville weathers the storm in Black and Blue Bowl**

The Vacaville High School football team was ready for the elements — and crosstown rival Will C. Wood — in a dominating 35-7 victory in Friday night's Black and Blue Bowl.

The Bulldogs were unfazed by the downpour at Tom Zunino stadium, marching up and down the field for 381 yards of offense to claim bragging rights.

"I thought the kids did a really nice job of managing a lot of different things we're not used to," Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopoulos said. "We haven't had a rain game in a minute and we were still able to execute things that we hoped for tonight."

Tanner Boyd set the tempo for Vacaville's big night, barreling through defenders for 15 yards on the Bulldogs' opening drive.

While rain games typically lead to sub-par quarterback production, that was far from the case for Vacaville's Brendan Jackson, who capped off the Bulldogs' opening drive with a screen pass to Jake Williams, who scored from 22 yards out.

Vacaville's next two touchdowns came on a four-yard plunge from Joshua Sanfilippo, and a 57-yard strike to Williams on a play-action pass.

The Wildcats struggled to find any sort of offensive rhythm in the first half, punting on all four of their drives due to costly penalties and the Bulldogs' stifling run defense.

"They had a really great plan," Papadopoulos said about his defense. "I thought they made some great adjustments."

Vacaville went into halftime with a 21-0 lead and while the rain started to slow down, the Bulldogs didn't.

Vacaville opened the second half with an onside kick that bounced around on the wet turf and was recovered by the Bulldogs. On the ensuing play, Jackson found Jelani Wiggins wide open down the sideline for a 41-yard touchdown.

After both sides traded punts, the Bulldogs continued to pour it on as Boyd took a screen pass and turned on the jets for a 61-yard score.

"That was supposed to be my last drive to get pulled and coach called that screen pass," Boyd said. "I got good blocks from Jaden and Jelani, hit the outside, and I was gone."

The Wildcats were running their offense through Kimani Dokes who, after being shut down for most of the game, finally got Wood into scoring position with a 65-yard catch and run.

Wood's Tanner Mccottrell went back to Dokes two plays later and he was tackled into the end zone to put the Wildcats on the board midway through the third quarter.

From there, the Bulldogs leaned on running back Trevor Abramowicz to close it out. The rain was music to the ears of Boyd and Abramowicz who combined for 214 all-purpose yards on 26 touches.

"This team has been playing at a high level for a long time and they showed that," Wood head coach Cha'pelle Brown said. "They're physical, they're big and you're going to have to stop them from running the football."

Though Brown's first-year as a head coach ended with a disappointing 1-9 record, he said he's excited to see his team improve during the offseason.

"It's trying to get consistency but it's trying to change the mindset that's hard," Brown said. "The guys showed up, they got better, and we're just going to continue to change it one day at a time."