



Vacaville wins 100th edition of game against Armijo

For the 100th edition of the game between the Armijo and Vacaville High football teams, it was a familiar result as the Bulldogs walked out with as 45-6 winners at Zunino Field Friday, but the purple and gold gave a fight.

Vacaville (4-4, 3-0 MEL) has won the last 14 meetings between the two teams, and 25 of the last 26 teams.

Armijo (3-5, 0-3) received the ball to begin the game and its first drive was a microcosm of the game to come on the offensive side of the ball. Quarterback Juan Regalado hit three quick slants in a row but on third down – on another quick slant attempt – the receiver dropped the ball with no defenders around. That would be a common outcome for the Indians' receivers, dropping balls at key moments which might have made the game closer.

Regalado completed 5 of his first 6 pass attempts, but finished 2 of 7 in the opening half – eventually finishing 12 of 21 for 65 yards.

“We thought if we got our athletes 1-on-1 with (Vacaville), we would do well and I thought we did that,” Armijo offensive coordinator Mark Layne said as coach Anthony Gonzalez refused to comment on the game. “But our mistakes were those dropped passes.”

Layne said he thought the dropped passes had a good chance of resulting in touchdowns and said the score would've been different had the receivers not dropped the passes.

“When you're trying to build a program like Vacaville has, you can see that they have been winning for 25 years,” the Armijo coordinator said. “If we get to .500 this year, it'll be a success because we've been rebuilding every year. But when we make mental mistakes, then we go back to Armijo of three years ago.”

It didn't take long for Vacaville to score on the Indians, taking its first drive of just 1 minute, 27 seconds which led to a Jeremy Villalobos connection to Chris Island for a 34-yard passing touchdown off a play-action.

On the Indians ensuing drive, a high snap on the punt attempt led to a short field for Vacaville, resulting in a 43-second drive for a 6-yard touchdown run from Nick Smith.

Down 21-0 with a little more than 10 minutes left in the half, Armijo put together its longest and most impressive drive of the evening, driving 80 yards in 6 minutes, 14 seconds to finally end with a touchdown run from Demetrius Perry. Perry took the handoff from the shotgun and ran up the middle for the score – his sixth touch of the series.

The Indians ran the ball nine times on the drive, but the big play was a slant on 3rd down, picking up 12 yards on the throw to David Chavez.

Unfortunately the visitors couldn't keep the home team out of the end zone before the half with Vacaville up 28-6 at the break – adding touchdown runs from Warfield and Island in the second half to go up 42-6. Brandon Talton hit a 15-yard field goal for the final score.

Of the 100th edition of the game, Vacaville coach Mike Papadopoulos had enjoyed a good amount of his life being part of the two teams playing one another.

“Being an Armijo High School graduate myself, it's been an honor for me to be part of almost a third of this rivalry,” Papadopoulos said. “I've seen quite a few things and it was a special moment, tonight. It's just been an honor for the history and nostalgia of being one of the longest ongoing games in California. I'm really proud to be part of that.” The Vacaville coach gave credit to Armijo for forcing the ‘Dogs to make adjustments due to different looks the black and orange sideline was seeing.

“I think (Armijo) did a nice job with their scheme,” the Vacaville coach said. “It gave us an opportunity to make some adjustments so given that, both sides played well.” Vacaville looks to stay unbeaten in the MEL when it travels to Fairfield, while Armijo hosts Rodriguez.

In JV action, the Bulldogs came out victorious with a 42-6 win over the Indians.

