



## Vacaville High School football falls to Grant in section semifinals

Every time Vacaville High School's football team tried to cut into the lead, Grant had an answer.

The Bulldogs couldn't slow the Pacers' vaunted run game on Friday night and fell 49-26 in the Sac-Joaquin Section Division II semifinals. Vacaville closed out with a still very successful 10-3 overall record..

"It's hard to stack up against them," Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopoulos said. "They'd hit us with a good pass. But the kids played their hearts out tonight."

Vacaville trailed 21-7 at halftime, but Grant scored 14 points in the third quarter for a 35-14 edge before outscoring the Bulldogs 14-12 in the final period. Two second-half fumbles stole some of the momentum the Bulldogs had hoped to build when playing catchup.

"We just played a great team," Vacaville's Mykal Walker said. "I'm proud of our guys for never quitting."

Top-seed Grant improved its record to 13-0. The Pacers will face St. Mary's of Stockton in the section final next Friday at Sacramento State. The Rams earned a 23-15 win over Elk Grove.

Vacaville scored the first touchdown of the game with 5:30 left in the first quarter. Kane Cunningham capped a 93-yard drive with a 1-yard touchdown run. The Bulldogs didn't score again until the second half.

Walker had an 11-yard touchdown run in the third quarter for Vacaville. Quarterback Chad Hekking hit receiver Reid Ramirez with a big 56-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter. Cunningham had his second touchdown of the game, a 4-yard scoring run in the final period. Sam Patel converted two extra-point kicks.

Damonte Moore led the Bulldogs with 123 yards rushing on 18 carries. Cunningham had 75 yards on 15 carries. Hekking was 7-for-14 passing for 84 yards and was intercepted one time.

"We moved the ball well," Papadopoulos said. "We just had a few mistakes that hurt us."

Grant used its power running game to score five of its seven touchdowns. Deondre' Whittington-Grays had touchdown runs of three, 29 and four yards. Mike Green II carried a pair for scores of five and 42 yards.

Quarterback Donovan Brown had a 34-yard touchdown pass to Xavier Cox and a 26-yarder to Ariyon Huff. Ruben Garza nailed all seven extra-point kicks.

Green and DeShawn Collins were the leading rushers for Grant. Collins picked up 116 yards on 18 carries. Green went for 125 yards on 12 carries. Brown forced Vacaville to focus on the pass as well by finishing an efficient 8-for-12 passing for 102 yards.

Papadopoulos was pleased with the performance of his team all season.

"These kids have been through so much this season," he said. "I'm proud of them for showing so much resolve."