



Liberty High School trounces Vacaville in football season opener

By Kyle Szymanski | The Press | August 22, 2018

The high-powered Liberty High School football took awhile to fire up its offense in its opening game against Vacaville.

But once it got going, it ran like a well-oiled machine.

Four different Lions scored touchdowns after the first quarter, and the Liberty defense held the potent Bulldogs to 10 points, adding up to a 35-10 Liberty victory.

“We got off to a little bit of a slow start, but we got going and found the right formula,” said head coach Ryan Partridge.

Liberty’s Jay Butterfield completed 16 of 28 passes for 292 yards and three touchdowns, which included scoring strikes to wide receivers Jerrin Easter-Williams, Adrik Lamar and Sione Vaki.

Running back Tyerell Sturges-Cofer, who finished with 13 carries for 76 yards, also scored on a 50-yard run, as the Lions scored at least 34 points for the sixth consecutive game dating back to last season.

“It seemed like everyone got into the mix on offense,” said Butterfield. “Three different receivers had touchdowns, so I think it was successful.”

Vaki shined on both sides of the ball for the Lions – pulling in eight catches for 138 yards and a touchdown on offense and returning a pick-six late in the second quarter to give Liberty a 21-3 halftime lead.

The rest of the Lions’ defense held its own, limiting Vacaville to 263 total yards. Lions middle linebacker/defensive end Ethan Dumond led the way with eight tackles and a sack.

“It was a lot of good team work,” said defensive tackle Brock Hammer, who finished with three tackles. “The defense really stepped it up today, and the offense stepped up when they needed to get the touchdowns we needed.”

After starting the game with three consecutive punts and falling behind 3-0 late in the first quarter, the Lions’ offense awoke on Easter-Williams’ 28-yard catch and run to put Liberty on top for good, 7-3.

The Lions were just warming up.

Sturges-Cofer’s 50-yard touchdown dash late in the second quarter and Vaki’s 49-yard pick-six about one minute later gave Liberty a 21-3 halftime lead it wouldn’t relinquish.

Vaki’s 34-yard catch and run late in the third quarter and Lamar’s 31-yard touchdown reception early in the fourth quarter capped an explosive night for the Lions’ offense. Lamar finished with four receptions for 63 yards.

Vacaville’s lone touchdown came on Nick Smith’s 83-yard catch and run early in the third quarter, bringing the Bulldogs to within 21-10, but Vacaville drew no closer.

Vacaville quarterback Hunter Dorraugh completed four of 12 passes for 137 yards, while running back Chris Island carried the ball 14 times for 41 yards as the Bulldogs’ leading rusher.

In other action around the Bay Valley Athletic League last week, Freedom nabbed Turlock 42-35, San Ramon Valley defeated Heritage 56-14, Clayton Valley Charter edged Pittsburg 38-31, Antioch knocked off Lincoln 24-7 and Deer Valley ousted American Canyon 36-21.

Liberty returns to the field at 4 p.m., Aug. 25, in a clash with Gilroy at St. Francis High School in Mountain View, while Vacaville travels to Oak Ridge Aug. 24, at 7 p.m.