



Record setting rout gives Vaca a share of title

By Tim Roe | Vacaville Reporter | November 7, 2009

Clinching a share of the Monticello Empire League title and routing a strong recent rival were nice, but LaRyan King got something just as sweet early in the third quarter.

The junior defensive lineman had a loose football flop into his hands, and he raced 25 yards for a touchdown. For all intents and purposes, that play put an end to the game as the Bulldogs substituted en masse and cruised to a 60-7 victory Friday night at Tom Zunino Stadium.

“It jumped up and came right to me and I ran it back,” King said. “It feels great, like no other feeling I’ve ever had before.”

Vacaville scored on its first seven possessions and locked up at least a share of its 11th MEL title and the top seed for the playoffs. The final outcome made for the most lopsided victory in the history of the series between the two schools.

This matchup has played a role in determining the last seven MEL titles. Napa had won the last two games in the series.

Vacaville improved to 8-1 overall and 4-0 in the MEL. Napa fell to 4-5 overall and 2-2 in league.

The Bulldogs rushed for 305 yards with 11 different ballcarriers. Vacaville didn’t notch its usual plus-500 yards of rushing because a balanced offensive attack came into play. Quarterback Tyler Irwin completed five of seven passes for 109 yards and two touchdowns.

“The kids played really well,” Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopoulos said. “Napa’s a little down and that probably helped us in some instances, but we played a really good football game. Our guys did what they needed to do.”

It was Vacaville’s night from the get-go.

Jeff Beasley intercepted a Napa pass on the Indians’ first possession. Quincy Forte then took the Bulldogs’ first play from scrimmage and raced 65 yards around right end for a touchdown. Forte was the Vacaville’s leading rusher with 94 yards on five carries.

Hudson Buck had a 12-yard touchdown run in the first quarter, and opened the third quarter with a 53-yard jaunt for a score. The long score came on Vacaville’s first play from scrimmage in the second half.

Jimmy Hines added a 14-yard touchdown in the first quarter, and Beasley had an 8-yard dash for a score in the second.

Irwin had his touchdown passes in the second quarter. He hit Blakelyn Birks in stride on a 69-yard strike across the middle, where Birks showed his sprinter ’s stride in eluding tacklers. Irwin also connected with C.J. Jacobe on an 11-yard scoring pass.

Once King returned his fumble for a touchdown, Vacaville had plenty of time to get its bench ready for next Friday’s Black and Blue Bowl against Will C. Wood and any future playoff opponents. De’John Miller joined the scoring spree with a 15-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

King had a number of teammates who were defensive stars. Ray Smith, Brock Hekking, Nate Berumen, Ben Holmes, Buck and plenty of others held the Indians in check.

Napa was held to 86 yards rushing, though quarterback Cody Thompson was able to throw for 107 yards. Napa’s C.J. Cunningham caught six passes for 87 yards.

Napa’s lone touchdown came in the second quarter, when Cody Jensen scored on a 3yard touchdown run.

Vacaville closes out the regular season next Friday against Wood. The playoffs will follow with the quest of winning a section title just like the 2006 team.