



Trojans pull out 24-23 win over Vacaville with conversion stop in final seconds

A young and inexperienced Oak Ridge football team took a big step in learning how to win Friday night with a 24-23 win over Vacaville.

The Trojans stopped a two-point conversion attempt in the final minute to secure the one-point victory and improve to 2-0 on the season.

"It's so good for a team to experience a game like that," Oak Ridge coach Eric Cavaliere said. "It's so important to fight for a win like that; especially against a good team. We buckled down and played hard. It would have been a good experience for us even if we had lost the game, but it makes it even better that we won."

The Trojans broke a 17-17 tie in the fourth quarter with an 80-yard screen pass from Ian Book to Andrew Lackowski. The Bulldogs drove down the field in the game's final minutes, which included a miraculous fourth-down conversion.

"They had a fourth down and five, six or seven and their quarterback made a heck of a play," Cavaliere said. "He scrambled to his left and then to his right and then back to his left again and found a receiver down field. I swear the ball flew 60 yards in the air to get inside the 20."

The Bulldogs scored a touchdown to draw within one in the final 20 seconds and attempted a two-point conversion and the win with a running play off left tackle.

"The quarterback dropped the ball on the snap and handed it to the fullback," Cavaliere explained. I actually thought he got in, but there was a delayed call and lots of drama and the refs said he didn't. It could have gone either way."

Cavaliere said Logan Delwiche, Nolan Book and Dalton Santos were there to make the stop on the play.

Vacaville's ensuing onside kick was unsuccessful and the Trojans took a knee to run out the clock.

"It was one of the craziest games I've ever been apart of," Oak Ridge senior tight end Ryan Sullivan said. "It was definitely a rush. We were sweating on that last drive. It was extremely important to win a game like that to build the confidence of our guys and to trust in each other and the coaching staff. To overcome that adversity and come out on top was huge for all the guys."

Book finished the game 18-of-24 for 249 yards and three touchdowns. Lackowski, Ryan Sullivan and Kyle Brown caught TD passes, while Tommy Dunnigan hauled in a team-high five catches. Lackowski was the team's leading rusher with 85 yards on 14 carries.

Defensively Stephen Douglas recovered a fumble.

The Trojans' next game is at home Friday against Burbank.