



## Vacaville High School football team falls inches short in season-opening loss

A wild finish was just inches short of being a fantastic finish for Vacaville High School's football team in its season opener on Friday night.

The Bulldogs scored with 11 seconds left to pull within a point at Oak Ridge of El Dorado Hills, but a 2-point conversion run just missed in a 24-23 loss to the Trojans.

Kane Cunningham scored from one yard out to cap a 70-yard Vacaville drive in the final minutes, but Damonte Moore's 2-point run was ruled just short.

"We felt his momentum carried him into the end zone, but they ruled it stopped on the 1-inch line. I guess there was a little bit of controversy," Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopoulos said. "This was a great opportunity for us against a quality team. We're a better team for playing this game.

"Honestly, for our opener, the team did better than I expected. We're going to be in good shape."

Oak Ridge improved to 2-0.

Vacaville took a 14-7 lead after the first quarter, thanks to a 1-yard touchdown run by quarterback Chad Hekking, and a 35-yard scoring pass from Hekking to Dulon Stevens.

Sam Patel added both extra points, and a 27-yard field goal in the third period as the two teams entered the final 12 minutes tied at 17-17.

Oak Ridge scored with 10 minutes left, but missed a field goal with four minutes left that led to Vacaville's final drive.

Hekking completed 10 of 13 passes for 146 yards.

Daveon Harris led a balanced ground game with 84 yards, and Moore added 75. Cunningham finished with 47.

Jason Wright caught four passes to lead Vacaville, and Cunningham chipped in three receptions. Reid Ramirez caught one pass, and added an 8-yard completion to Hekking.

Oak Ridge quarterback Ian Book gave the Bulldogs fits, completing 20 of 26 passes for 261 yards and all three Oak Ridge touchdowns.

"They're a championship-caliber team," Papadopoulos said. "I thought it was a great game, and our defense really stepped up in the second half."

Mykal Walker led the Vacaville defense with 14 tackles, including 11 solo stops.

Vacaville opens its home season next week against Enterprise of Redding.