



Vacaville earns muddy 43-6 victory over Rodriguez

Early fall storms passed through Northern California in the past 24 hours, and the grass field at Tom Zunino Stadium, which saw three football games in that time frame, was hanging in there – other than between the hashmarks.

The muddy setting didn't affect the rushing train known as the Vacaville High football team, which blasted its way to a 28-0 lead after one quarter and cruised to a 43-6 Monticello League Empire victory against Rodriguez on a messy Friday night.

Bulldogs coach Mike Papadopoulos was asked about the muddy conditions before the game – he sort of shrugged and acknowledged it wasn't anything he hadn't seen before on the field. Papadopoulos recalled after the game that the last time the field was muddy was in November 2015. But Friday's conditions surpassed that memory.

"The conditions today, it hasn't been like this in quite a while," he said. "The soupiness, it hasn't gotten that bad.

"We don't get a chance to see games like this very much anymore around here."

It was a very different case for the Mustangs (0-9, 0-4 MEL), who couldn't find their footing and chose to warm up away from the muddy field, only arriving to the actual playing field minutes before the game was scheduled to start. The advantage was clearly with the Bulldogs (6-3, 3-1 MEL), who never seemed to lose their footing early and found holes in the line to rush down the field quickly.

Austin Green started the scoring frenzy in the first quarter, scoring from 9, 6 and 11 yards out to give Vacaville its first three touchdowns of the game.

Gunner Bagos scored from 3 yards out later in the quarter. Carlos Garcia scored on a 31-yard run in third quarter and the Bulldogs added another rushing touchdown in the fourth to finish off their dominant night.

"For the most part, I think the kids did a nice job adjusting to the footing on both sides of the ball, and it was slippery for everybody, but I think they did a nice job given what was going on tonight," Papadopoulos said.

Rodriguez added its own score late in the fourth quarter when Jake McNeill rushed in from 10 yards out. The Mustangs didn't give up despite the deficit, calling timeouts as the game wound down and recording their longest play from scrimmage on the final play of the game, a 42-yard run from Adam Shafer.

The Bulldogs are tied with Vintage for second place in the MEL standings after the Crushers rallied to defeat Wood 28-27 on Friday night. The Wildcats fall to fourth place in the standings, just one spot behind Vacaville and Vintge.

The four teams involved in the MEL standings face each other in rivalry games next week, as Vacaville hosts Wood for the Black-and-Blue Bowl and Napa hosts Vintage in The Big Game.

Should Napa beat Vintage, it wins the league. If the Crushers win and the Bulldogs win, it'll be a three-way tie atop the MEL, which means all three teams would win a share of the league title. If Wood beats Vacaville, and Napa beats Vintage, there will be a three-way tie for second place with all three teams at 3-2 in the league standings.

Papadopoulos said his team is looking forward to the annual rivalry game next week: "We just really look at the next day and play and just figure what things we need to do to continue get better because we always know there's something we can do."