



## Vacaville High football team downs Wood, wins MEL championship outright

By Matt Sieger | Vacaville Reporter | November 2, 2019

The Will C. Wood Wildcats got off to an excellent start Friday night in a packed Wildcat Stadium on Wood's Senior Night against Vacaville High in the Black and Blue Bowl. After receiving the opening kickoff, they methodically drove the ball downfield, chewed up some clock and on a quarterback keeper by Ken Tilford from six yards out, led 6-0.

But not for long.

Myron Amey returned the ensuing kickoff 99 yards for a touchdown and Vacaville never looked back on its way to a 34-6 win to clinch its third consecutive Monticello Empire League crown.

Wood ended the season with a 4-6 overall record, 3-2 in MEL. Vacaville went 5-0 in league play, is 8-2 overall and headed for the Sac-Joaquin Section playoffs. Brackets will be announced Sunday,

Keyon Grayer took the opening kickoff on the 11-yard line and returned it to the Wood 45 to give his team great field position. Steven Lukens then ran for eight yards and fullback Daniel Brombacher, the workhorse all night for the Wildcats, churned out a total of 17 yards on four successive runs. When Wood got to the Vacaville 19-yard line, Brombacher broke off a 13-yard run and the Wildcats had first-and-goal on the six. Tilford then ran it in. The extra-point attempt was no good.

The following kickoff by Dominic Barnett was a long, hard bouncing squibber that gave Amey some trouble. It went off his hands on the six-yard line and looked like it might roll all the way into the end zone. By he scrambled back, retrieved it on the one-yard line and... let's let him tell it.

"When I picked it up," said the senior, "I cut to the left. There wasn't a hole there and then looking back to the right there was a little hole. Then it just opened up from there. And when I saw green turf I just took it there."

That green turf was down the right sideline as Amey turned on the jets all the way into the end zone for a 99-yard touchdown. A Chris Sacca extra point made it 7-6 Vacaville at the 6:38 mark of the first quarter.

The Bulldog defense held on Wood's next possession, Vacaville taking over on its own 43.

Then it was Geremiah Brown's turn to dazzle the crowd. On the first play from scrimmage, he broke through the line and ran 57 yards for a TD with 2:37 left in the quarter for a 13-6 lead, the extra point attempt failing.

Brown was quick to deflect credit to "my linemen and everyone who blocked for me." But, like Amey, the junior running back showed some agility and lightning speed on his long run.

Vacaville forced Wood into a three-and-out and began a drive which ended with a Kyler Abramowicz three-yard run for a TD at the 10:08 mark of the second quarter. That was set up on the previous play by a 16-yard pass from quarterback Jeremy Villalobos to Michael Otterstedt. Logan Cunningham, getting a great block from Abramowicz, ran the ball in for two points after the touchdown for a 21-6 lead.

Wood went three-and-out on its next possession and Vacaville again drove for a touchdown. A key play was a great catch by Amey between two defenders on a 37-yard pass from Villalobos to the Wood ten-yard line. Vacaville then had two touchdowns nullified by penalties on two successive plays. The third time was the charm, as Darian Leon-guerrero took a nice inside handoff from Villalobos and ran 19 yards for the score and a 27-6 lead with 4:41 left in the half. Wood blocked Sacca's extra-point attempt.

The score stayed that way till halftime. Wood could never get its offense going again. Villalobos, who also plays safety, seemed to have radar on a few Wood option plays, flying into the backfield for bone-jarring tackles for Wildcat losses.

After Abramowicz recovered a fumble on the Wood 20, Chris Island rumbled for 17 yards and one yard on two successive carries. Then Brown ran two yards around right end for his second touchdown and a 33-6 lead. Tabatha Bagos delivered the extra point kick for the final 34-6 margin with 9:10 left in the third quarter.

With 6:01 remaining in the period, Greyer was tackled by several Bulldogs on a run and lay on the ground for about 20 minutes until the Vacaville Fire Department Paramedic truck took him to the hospital.

Anderson said that Greyer suffered a concussion and had some pain in the middle of his back, but no broken bones.

After the game, as Vacaville High celebrated in front of the visitors' bleachers, the Wood players quietly assembled on the field. First-year head coach Kirk Anderson addressed the team as a whole and then individually talked with each of his seniors.

He told the team that Vacaville High is a very good team and to hold their heads up. The seniors then lined up to talk with their coach, who took the time to thank and encourage each one. The players hugged each other in appreciation of the four years of hard work they had put in together in practice and on the field.

"The score's not indicative of it, but I really felt like the last two weeks we've played our best football," said Anderson of a team that only returned one of last year's 22 starters. "So there's something to build on there and so I'm excited about that part. For the lack of experience that our team had going into this year, we really did grow as a football team."

The signboard in front of the Wood parking lot read, "Leave it all on the field, Wildcats," and the team certainly did that.

Brombacher had 107 yards on 20 carries for Wood.