



Vacaville High School football rolls over Yuba City in playoff opener

Cassius Reynolds went head over heels. Kane Cunningham spun around, and around again.

Mykal Walker just ran straight ahead, and maybe that was the best move that Vacaville High School football players pulled off Friday night in their Sac-Joaquin Section Division II playoff opener.

Reynolds, Cunningham and Walker all had big touchdowns, the Bulldog defense stopped Yuba City on four separate fourth-down tries, and Vacaville came away with a 42-7 victory at Tom Zunino Stadium.

"I thought we did fantastic, both on offense and defense," said Reynolds, a sophomore who scored the first two TDs of the night. "It was a lot of fun."

Vacaville improved to 9-2 overall, and advanced to next week's quarterfinals. The No. 5 seeded Bulldogs, who won in the first round for the sixth year in a row, will play at No. 4 Del Oro next week.

No. 12 Yuba City finished the season at 5-6 overall.

For all the fun, the game was still in the balance after the Honkers marched 80 yards in 10 plays after taking the second-half kickoff. Brenndon Shalowitz completed three key passes to John Horn during the drive, and Bryant Seaman went the final yard to cut Vacaville's lead to 21-7.

But Yuba City's joy was short-lived. Walker took the ensuing kickoff, cut right and ran straight up the sideline for 71 yards and a back-breaking score.

Sam Patel's extra-point kick, one of six on the night, pushed the advantage back to 21 points at 28-7.

"That really helped," Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopoulos said. "I felt like we got control back when Mykal scored."

The Honkers got desperate on their next drive, and went for a first down instead of punting on a fourth-and-3 play from their own 26-yard line. Shalowitz found Horn in the left flat, but Trevor Stewart came all the way from his defensive end spot to tackle Horn for no gain and turn the ball back over to the Bulldogs.

Two plays later, Vacaville scored again. After a 12-yard gain by Damonte Moore, Cunningham took a handoff, was hit at the 10 and spun 360 degrees, was hit again and spun completely around again, and scored standing up for a 35-7 lead.

Cunningham finished with 104 yards rushing on 12 carries. Moore led all rushers with 115 yards on just 10 attempts.

But it was Reynolds who got Vacaville untracked.

Both teams had long drives early that ended in no points. Vacaville fumbled at the Yuba City 10, and Yuba City later punted after a 10-play march that included one fourth-down conversion.

The Bulldogs responded with a seven-play, 80-yard march. Reynolds went the final 10 yards, getting hit at the 2 and flipping completely over a Yuba City defender and into the end zone.

"When I got to the goal-line, everything felt like it was in slow motion," he said. "I went up, and then I went over. It was ... crisp. It felt good."

After Yuba City failed on another fourth-down attempt at Vacaville's 21, the Bulldogs marched 79 yards in seven plays. Reynolds took a swing pass from Chad Hekking and went the final 19 yards for a 14-0 lead.

Hekking added a 17-yard TD run late in the second quarter.

Yuba City responded with a 12-play drive just before halftime, but again came away empty. The drive stalled with three straight incompletions at Vacaville's 14-yard line, two of which were batted away by Vacaville cornerback Amaurie Johnson.

Wyatt Faulkner added Vacaville's final touchdown on a 2-yard plunge early in the fourth quarter.

Isiah Edwards stopped Yuba City's final drive with an interception at Vacaville's 15-yard line.

Seaman led the Honkers with 88 yards rushing on 22 carries. Shalowitz added 68 yards passing and 49 rushing. Horn had five catches for 49 yards.