

Running Game Powers Cougars to Another Win

By Alex Crook

“You guys love playing on the road.” Those were the words of 12th year Campolindo coach Kevin Macy before his Cougars cruised to an easy 28-8 win over the Encinal Jets in Alameda on Friday night. The air was cold at Willie Stargell Field, which looked like it could have been a 1970’s Pop Warner field. It had natural grass, no hash marks, and yard lines every five yards across the entire length of the field.

The spotlight was on senior running back Bo Richter that night when he ran in all four Campolindo touchdowns. The first quarter ended 14-0 Campo. The Cougars allowed the Jets only one offensive play in the first 12 minutes. That’s because Campo’s Tyler Rittenhour successfully recovered an onside kick from Giorgio Tavecchio following a 1-yard score from Bo Richter to open the game.

Encinal got on the scoreboard in the second quarter when Luke Crossley received a bad snap from John Petrovich. The ball sailed over the punter’s

head and into the end zone where a blue jersey pounced on it to put the Jets on the board with a safety. The half then ended 21-2 Cougars with the help of a 7-yard touchdown run from Richter to extend Campolindo’s lead.

In the third quarter, the Jets exploded with a 57-yard touchdown pass from Jonathan Brown to Dominique Sashington for the last Encinal highlight of the night. After the missed extra point, the score stood 21-8 Cougars. To finish off the Jets in the fourth quarter, Bo Richter converted on yet another 1-yard score to put Campolindo up by 20.

Late in the 4th a Campo fumble was picked up by Tyrone Duckett and ran back for the Encinal score. But two flags against the Jets crushed their hope of stopping the red-hot Cougars, and the touchdown was denied. Encinal then got a little ticked off with Campo and landed a personal foul, driving the Jets back 15 yards. With 44 seconds remaining, Tyler Ritten-

hour sealed it by picking off Brown’s pass. The Cougars finally ran down the clock to eliminate Encinal from the NCS Playoffs.

Campolindo has only lost once on the road all year, that being Week 4 against the College Park Falcons. The Cougars ended up on the short side of a 34-32 heartbreaker in Pleasant Hill back on Sept. 28. Campo is 6-1 away from Cougar Stadium.

This week’s game will be a rematch with the Las Lomas Knights in Walnut Creek. On Saturday afternoon, Las Lomas took down the visiting Ygnacio Valley Warriors. Campo will be thinking payback after what happened with the blown call in Moraga a couple weeks ago. In fact, the Cougars haven’t trailed a game since they hosted Las Lomas on senior night. The Knights held on to a late 20-13 lead to take the win.

The winner of Friday night’s game will play for the NCS title. Campo has never been to the final.