



THE EUREKA REPORTER

Champions again

By **NICK WILSON**, The Eureka Reporter

Published: Oct 31 2008, 11:42 PM · Updated: Oct 31 2008, 11:52 PM

Category: **Sports**

Topic: **prep football**



They haven't worn the league crown since 2003, but it apparently it still fits.

The Eureka Loggers man-handled the Del Norte Warriors in every aspect of the game, winning 42-6 Friday, and earning a share of the Big Four championship in the process.

"It feels awesome," said Eureka quarterback Jordan Davis, who completed 9-of-12 passes for 171 yards and one touchdown. "As long as I've been here, we haven't won the championship – It's been all Del Norte. I'm just proud of the team and everything we've accomplished."

With two games remaining in the regular season, it's possible though not likely that Eureka could drop the next two games, while Del Norte wins its last two, in which case the teams would be co-champions.

But if Friday night's performance is any indication of how the Loggers will finish off the season, it looks like they will be the sole owners of this year's title.

As the game got under way, it took a while for the Loggers to find their rhythm offensively, but once they did, there was no stopping them.

With 3:52 left in the first quarter, Eureka broke the ice as Davis led his team 80 yards down the field before running back Soma Vainuku came through with a three-yard touchdown run up the middle. Vainuku would be the team's offensive workhorse throughout the contest, accounting for three touchdowns and a number of key third-and-short conversions to finish with 51 yards.

Also key to Eureka success was the team's ability to capitalize on Del Norte mistakes.

And in the opening minutes of the second quarter, the Loggers did just that when they recovered the ball after a punt touched the foot of Del Norte's Cody Hoffman, giving the home team excellent field position on its own 40-yard line.

Davis proceeded to pick the Del Norte defense apart, connecting with Eureka wideout Greg Allen twice during the possession, the second time being a 26-yard touchdown pass.

On second-and-goal on their own 26-yard line, Davis came out of the pocket on a broken play and was about to go down, but found Allen open and hit the receiver on a Favre-esque shovel pass. Allen then found the seam and his way to the goal line, putting Eureka up 14-0 after a successful extra point.

Del Norte would not roll over, however, and on the ensuing possession, the Warriors went to No. 83, Hoffman, to get them to the end zone.

Del Norte quarterback Taylor Duncan went to Hoffman three times during what was a 81-yard scoring drive, but none was more dramatic than when Duncan connected with the star receiver on third-and-27 for a jaw-dropping 50-yard touchdown pass.

That turned out to be the extent of Del Norte's offensive output, however, and going into the break, Eureka led 14-6.

After halftime, the Loggers held nothing back, and at the 7:42 mark of the third quarter, got their third score when Vainuku finished an 80-yard drive with an eight-yard touchdown run – his second of the night.

But Vainuku wasn't done yet, and in the first minute of the fourth quarter, the running back broke off a nine-yard touchdown run to put the Loggers up 35-9.

Eureka would get its last score of the night after Erik Sharp intercepted a pass from Del Norte's Thor Hadfield, returning the ball 37 yards to put the Loggers.

Eureka's Reuben Davis eventually punched the ball in on a one-yard run for the team's last touchdown, which put the team up 42-6.

While Eureka offense had a banner night, head coach Garrett Montana credited his team's defense for the win, specifically the play of defensive back Trevor Hash, whose assignment for the night was to cover the always explosive Hoffman.

"You really have to give it to Trevor for what he was able to do against Hoffman," Montana said. "Considering what Hoffman has been able to do against everyone else this year, Trevor really contained him. He was able to keep Hoffman from making the highlight reel all night."

With the win, Eureka improved to 4-0 in league and 4-4 overall, while Del Norte dropped to 2-1 and 4-2.

Related Links:

© 2008 The Eureka Reporter. All rights reserved.