COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Olivarez, Alvarez excel, but Cabrillo falls

Former Watsonville High stars Fernando Olivarez and Jerry Alvarez showed that their touchdown-producing ways extend to the junior college level, but the Cabrillo College football team fell 36-33 to visiting American River in a nonconference game Saturday night.

Olivarez, who set several Santa Cruz County receiving records for Watsonville last year, caught four touchdown passes, three of which were thrown by Alvarez, who led Cabrillo on a late rally after it trailed 29-10 entering the fourth quarter.

Alvarez hit Olivarez with a 22-yard touchdown pass with 7 minutes, 12 seconds remaining in the game. After American River responded with a touchdown, Alvarez hit Olivarez with scoring passes of 45 and 3 yards.

Olivarez, who also caught a 29-yard touchdown pass from starting quarterback Gino Delucchi in the first quarter, finished with six catches for 112 yards.

Alvarez completed 7 of 10 passes for 121 yards. He was one of three Cabrillo quarterbacks to play in the game and had the best statistics. Delucchi was 6 of 16 for 105 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions and Roberto Concha-Foley didn't complete any of his three attempts.

Cabrillo also got a 45-yard field goal from Matt Burke that gave it a 10-7 lead in the second quarter. American River, however, scored the next 22 points. Daryl Copeland led Cabrillo with 11 rushes for 56 yards. Former Watsonville High linebacker Trevor Rodriguez made a team-high 14 tackles.

---

Cabrillo College

After a strong season a year ago, the Seahawks are off to a good start again this season, having captured two tournament titles.

The defending Coast Conference champions, who made it to the top eight in NorCals and finished 17-9 last year, are loaded with talent, Houston-Neville said.

She said the team has a lot of tall players and strong setters in sophomore Rachel Farren and freshman Brooke Carroll. Freshman Sierra Clark, at 6-foot-1, will be the team's biggest weapon, Houston-Neville said, calling her "one of the hardest-hitting players I have seen coming out of the local area in a long time."

Additionally, two freshmen from Watsonville are expected to contribute. Former Watsonville High star Alexis Mondragon is playing on the right side, and at almost 6 feet tall, will play a key role in setting up a strong block. Daisy Gordo, who helped Pajaro Valley to the MBL title, is a defensive specialist.

Michelle Meyer will also play a key role defensively for the Seahawks.

"The outlook for this year is very good," Houston-Neville said. "We have high expectations with the goal of defending the conference title as well as making it to the state tournament. This year they will take the top two from Northern California and the top two from Southern California."

"I am excited for this year and this team because we have so many talented players and great team chemistry. The players work hard in the gym every day and it is paying off."