Cabrillo Football Notes

Copeland rushes into spotlight
Running back posts first 100-yard game for Seahawks

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APTOS — Cabrillo College running back Daryl Copeland, a freshman out of St. Petersburg, Fla., officially introduced himself to Seahawks football fans and Reedley’s defense on Saturday night.

Granted, his introduction was in passing.

Copeland produced his first 100-yard rushing game this season and scored a pair of touchdowns — including his 66-yard game-winning sprint in the fourth quarter — in the Seahawks’ 26-25 nonconference win.

His scores are Cabrillo’s only rushing touchdowns through three games.

“Honestly, I got more patient,” said Copeland, who has transitioned from a Wing-T attack at Northwest High in Florida to a flyer-based attack in college. “I waited for the holes to open and followed my blockers.”

In addition to learning a new offense, Copeland also had to make up for lost time since he’s an out-of-state student. He missed participating in spring and summer practice with the team.

“We came together as a team,” Copeland said. “Each week, we build and build. I just followed my fullback, big Dean Pappas, and I need to give a shout out to my O-line.”

While Seahawks quarterbacks Jerry Alvarez and Gino Delucchi have combined for 11 touchdowns passes, Cabrillo offensive coordinator Bassel Faltas said the team can and will continue to run the ball, and with success.

“We knew he had the ability to run downhill,” Faltas said. “We put the onus on staying inside, and Daryl did a good job honoring those blocks. I’m sure teams thought we were soft. But we can put our hand in the ground and play smash-mouth football when need be.”

Copeland, who is 5-foot-8, 185 pounds, said he was clocked running the 40-yard dash in 4.38 seconds in high school. He showed every bit of his speed on his final scoring run with 2 minutes, 46 seconds left in the game.

After pulling off a couple of spin moves to break out of tackles, he bounced outside and made a mad dash to the end zone as Seahawks fans celebrated.

“Don’t get caught,” Copeland said of his thoughts on his final run. “That’s my No. 1 rule.”

He finished the game with 127 yards on 15 carries.

An academic non-qualifier out of high school, Copeland was contemplating attending one of several junior colleges after he graduated. Many of them were in Kansas.

He said Cabrillo, and its proximity to the beach, made him feel like he was at home. He contacted recruiting coordinator Eric Gerlach and sent game film of himself at Northwest.

“His game film was incredible,” Gerlach said. “He got the ball and hit the hole hard.”

COLLINS PLAYS BIG, AGAIN

Jesse Collins, a 6-7 offensive lineman out of Aptos High, blocked his second point-after touchdown kick this season for the special teams unit.

The blocked kick allowed Cabrillo to keep its lead, 20-19, with :56 left in the third quarter.

Collins, still a work in prog-

ress, has improved leaps and bounds, his coaches say.

Several schools have expressed interest in the line-

man, though it’s still early in the recruiting process.

“God didn’t make all them 6-7,” Seahawks coach Bill Gar-

rison said. “He’s put in his time — in the weight room,

meetings and practice.”

Collins didn’t play football as a high school senior. He grayshirted his first season at Cabrillo to give him an extra year on the field.

“He was so raw it was unbelievable,” Garrison said. “He wasn’t in physical shape and he wasn’t in men-

tal shape, but he battled. He reaproportioned his weight. We’re very happy with his development.”

NOTES

Cabrillo’s defense gave up 453 yards of offense to Reed-

ley, but the Seahawks made several timely stops. Chris Jackson led the defense with 12 tackles and an interception.

Cabrillo made four sacks, including one by Gerry Norton that bowled quarterback Jeff Kidd. Trevor Rodriguez has 1.5 sacks, Ricardo Mendez had a sack with three of 11 tackles going for a loss of yards, and Francisco Garcia has half a sack. ... Public address announcer Jim LaTorre is proving to be the king of one-liners in his play-by-play summations. After Seahawks punter Matt Burke launched an errant kick into the stands in the third quar-

ter, LaTorre quipped: “Fielded nicely by the lady in turquoise. I think she signaled for a fair catch.”