Cabrillo routed by American River in season opener

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SACRAMENTO — Based on recent history, the Cabrillo College football team expected a spirited, close match-up with American River in the season opener for both squads Saturday. The Seahawks' expectations fell quite short of reality, though, as the host Beavers dismantled Cabrillo 57-10.

American River scored touchdowns on offense, defense and special teams in bullying an overmatched Seahawks squad battling injuries.

Cabrillo struggled to get anything working offensively from the start, and four of its first five drives resulted in punts. Later, several long snaps that sailed over the quarterbacks’ and punter's heads punctuated what was a disappointing showing all around for Cabrillo.

"We did some good things today, and we did some absolutely terrible things," Cabrillo coach Bill Garrison said. "That's a reflection on me as the coach."

Most of the good things came in the third quarter.

Trailing 27-0 entering the second half, Cabrillo drove the ball 60 yards on seven plays in 3 minutes, 45 seconds. On a broken play, sophomore wide receiver Michael Cooper all alone on the 25-yard line, Alvarez heaved perhaps his best pass of the afternoon under duress and Cooper scampered in for the Seahawks' only touchdown.

Matt Burke kicked a 41-yard field goal later in the quarter to sum up Cabrillo's scoring efforts.

Cabrillo followed its touchdown with a solid defensive stop. But then the team's short-lived spurt came to an end.

American River pinned the Seahawks deep in their own territory on the ensuing punt, which trickled out at the 3-yard line. On the opening play of the drive, the shotgun snap sailed over Alvarez’s head. As he scrambled for the ball, it took a bounce back toward the line of scrimmage and into the arms of American River defensive lineman Cortez Woods. Woods scored on the play, making it 35-7.

Woods had an outstanding game. Rushing off the edge, he applied consistent pressure to Alvarez and Robert to Concha-Poley, the sophomore quarterback who relieved Alvarez two series into the third quarter.

Other Cabrillo miscues in the second half included a punt attempt in which the snap sailed out of the back of the end zone. Another snap went over the head of Concha-Poley, resulting in a 28-yard loss.

A bright spot for the Seahawks was the play of freshman running back Dylan Jackson, who gained 46 yards on 16 carries.

"It was hard to find stuff out there — they were filling the gaps," Jackson said. "They made it extremely tough on us."

The Seahawks' lone scoring chance of the first half was foiled when Thomas Evans blocked Burke's 49-yard field-goal attempt. The ball trickled down to the 4-yard line and was scooped up by the Beavers' Gregory Grimes and returned all the way out to their 40-yard line.

That set up a five-play, 60-yard drive capped by a Devontae Booker 20-yard touchdown rumble, making the score 14-0 at the end of the first quarter.