CABRILLO FOOTBALL NOTES

Replacement QB shines

By ANDREW MATHESON
amatheson@santacruzesentinel.com

APTOS — Cabrillo quarterback Roberto Concha-Foley sprained his right hand at some point during the second half against visiting Hartnell on Saturday night. He was in enough pain afterwards where even shaking someone’s hand proved too difficult.

It’s a good thing the 6-foot-1, 200-pound signal-caller from Zephyr Cove, Nev., is lefty.

Concha-Foley, who was starting for the injured Jerry Alvarez on Saturday, delivered the best game previously involved in.

On the season, he is 18-of-40 for 228 yards.

When asked about his play earlier this season, Concha-Foley said, “It was about as bad as it could get.”

“It wasn’t pretty,” he added.

“It was easy to get down. But you have to understand it. You have to know the nature of the game. You’re going to have ups and downs.

“This is my third year, and up until now it’s been rough. But I try to stay optimistic.”

Concha-Foley said a big part of his development has been the player he backs up: Alvarez.

A Watsonville High alum, Alvarez was ruled out of Saturday’s game with an anterior cruciate ligament injury. Garrison said he does not know how long the sophomore QB will be sidelined.

“He’s kind of my role model,” Concha-Foley said of Alvarez. “I try to learn as much as I can from him. He knows how to run the offense.”

DEFENSIVE ‘HEROES’

The Cabrillo defense had four interceptions, including two by Paul Jones and one by Derick Delucchi in the end zone.

Ryan Lopez had the other interception, as well as a sack and a team-high eight tackles.

“They pulled through,” Concha-Foley said. “They’re the real heroes tonight.”

Although Cabrillo’s offense was held without a touchdown in the second half, too was Hartnell’s offense.

IT’S NOT OVER UNTIL IT’S OVER

Cabrillo’s win wasn’t without a somewhat crazy finish.

After the Seahawks increased their lead to seven points following Matt Burke’s 45-yard field goal with 2:55 remaining, both teams exchanged offensive possessions before Hartnell got the ball back deep in its own territory with less than a minute left.

And on what was supposed to be the final play of regulation, Cabrillo’s Paul Jones picked off a Josh Correia pass at time expired. However, before Jones went to the ground, Hartnell stripped the football and recovered it, while an inadvertent whistle by the referee at the end of the play led to some confusion on both sides.

Although the scoreboard read triple zeros, coaches and officials discussed at midfield the outcome of the game, and it didn’t favor Cabrillo.

Due to the inadvertent whistle by the ref, Hartnell was granted one last untimed play, from approximately its own 40-yard line.

“I don’t understand it, but we had to play one more play,” said Garrison, who was noticeably displeased with the officials’ decision at the time.

The final play, a screen pass to Hartnell’s Alvin Jelks, picked up plenty of yards for the Panthers and advanced the ball deep into Cabrillo territory. But the Seahawks many of whom were playing deep in order to prevent a long touchdown pass, made the stop before Jelks reached the end zone.