College of Redwoods downs Cabrillo in overtime

Seahawks rally twice but fall to 1-3 with the loss

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APTON — The Cabrillo College football team was stopped inches short in its bid to tie the game and lose to the College of the Redwoods 25-18 in overtime on Saturday afternoon at Carl Connely Stadium.

The Seahawks never led but tied the game twice, the second coming with less than a minute to play. Starting quarterback Lucas Romanski found receiver Cliff Robinson and threw to him for a 39-yard touchdown, pulling Cabrillo to within 10-17. On its two-point attempt, Romanski tossed the football to Devyn Grimes, who went into the end zone untouched to tie the game. Both teams got the football, per overtime rules. Redwoods went first and scored on five plays. Three of the five plays were for zero or negative yards. But the other two plays were positive, as quarterback Matt Sullivan threw to receiver Anthony Poole. The first toss went for 11 yards. The second toss was a 15-yard touchdown pass when Poole went to his right and caught the ball falling down. "I knew I had one of our best receivers out there, and I threw it to him, and he made it look like a great pass," Sullivan said.

Cabrillo had a chance to answer Redwoods’ drive. It got nine yards on three plays. On fourth-and-one, running back Dylan Johnson was stopped just before the 15-yard line. The officials marked him just inches before the 15-yard line, and the Corsairs celebrated their third win of the season.

It was a frantic fourth quarter as Cabrillo tried to tie the game while Redwoods had hopes of extending their win streak. The game was played at Carl Connely Stadium in Aptos.

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Putting it away. The flag on the virtual tag-of-way rope didn’t budge much, and that’s because both teams struggled on offense.

With 5:04 to play, the Corsairs stopped Cabrillo on a fourth down at midfield and got the ball. But on its first play, Sullivan threw an interception to Derick Tellez, who returned the ball to Cabrillo’s 39-yard line.

Cabrillo cuffed the game when it advanced the ball to the Redwoods’ 2-yard line.

Romanski looked McSwain’s way again with 1:08 to play but threw a pass he couldn’t catch.

On the next play, Romanski saw a slightly open Robinson and threw the football to Robinson, who went low to get it for the touchdown.

"When you got the ball back with 50 seconds left and one timeout, you’re limited with what you can do," said Cabrillo head coach Bill Marrick. "We executed, and I’m proud of the kids for doing that."

The game had the makings of a shootout early, as both teams had trouble stopping each other.

After Redwoods recovered a fumble on Cabrillo’s opening drive, it marched 22 yards for a touchdown. Quarterback Matt Sullivan found John Richard and tossed the football between two Cabrillo defenders to get the touchdown.

The point-after attempt was wide, leaving Redwoods with just a 6-0 advantage in the first quarter.

Cabrillo answered on its next possession when starting quarterback Lucas Romanski found Cliff Robinson in stride for a 10-yard touchdown. The point-after attempt was blocked, and the game was tied at 6-6 with 5:05 to play in the first quarter.

Redwoods went right back to work, rolling down the field with ease thanks to a big 50-yard pass from Sullivan to Richard.

The Corsairs got all the way to the Cabrillo 6-yard line when Sullivan bolted the ball to Richard, who leaped past several Seahawk defenders to grab it, scoring a touchdown. Sullivan tried to run in for two more points but was clipped before he got there, leaving the Corsairs with a 12-6 lead with 2:22 to go in the first quarter.

Cabrillo scored in every quarter. It got two points with 1:09 to play in the third quarter on a safety. Redwoods snapped on fourth down inside the 30, and with the ball half an inch short of the end zone.

Redwoods kept the drive, going 9-19 on third down. Cabrillo, by comparison, was gone in 1:34.

Redwoods had the ball one minute longer than Cabrillo and wrestled away four of the Seahawks’ fumbles. Romanski finished with 136 passing yards. Higgins Powell added six yards, 117 all-purpose rushing yards, and a touchdown.

Jackson was Cabrillo’s top receiver, gaining 57 yards on 21 carries.

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