Hartnell’s defense harasses Cabrillo into loss

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SALINAS — It was an all-defensive battle on Saturday night as Cabrillo College only managed to score seven points in the Central Coast matchup against Hartnell College in Salinas on Saturday night.

The Seahawks (2-5, 1-1) lose their perfect record in the Coast Conference against the Panthers (4-3, 2-0) and were held to one touchdown in the 16-7 loss. Cabrillo has averaged 21 points a game this season so far but they came up short against a tough Hartnell defense.

The Panthers are looking to repeat as league champions this season and they made sure of that after shutting out Cabrillo in the second half.

The game was an offensive struggle as both squads committed turnovers in the first quarter, but were not able to do anything with the ball. Cabrillo’s Derick Deluchhi and Riggs Powell each had an interception.

Hartnell struck first with a 58-yard pass to Da’Quan Smith from Josh Correia to take a seven-point lead in the first quarter. Correia finished the game with 215 yards along with two touchdowns and two interceptions.

“I feel great, I’m so glad we’re 2-0 in conference and we’re right where we want to be,” Correia said. “(Cabrillo) did a good job in the first half shuffling around and mixing up their coverage, but in the second half we came out fired up and drove the ball right down on our first possession.”

That’s when he hit Brandyn Crosby for the eventual game sealing 18-yard touchdown after a five-play drive in less than five minutes to give the Panthers a 16-7 lead.

Every time the Seahawks found themselves in a groove, a crucial mistake brought them right back down. Cabrillo was plagued with penalties throughout the night, having caused eight of them for 50 yards that cost them precious field possession.

Cabrillo’s lone score came on a 41-yard pass from Lucas Roman-Anderson to Tige McSwain, Jr. just before the half to cut the Panthers lead by two, 9-7.

Next week the Seahawks will try to rebound against Monterey Peninsula College at Carl Conley Stadium on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

The Panthers will go on the road to face San Jose City College on Saturday at 5 p.m.