Mendocino minces ’Hawks

By Andrew Matheson

APTOS — APTOS — The Cabrillo College football team’s second-half comeback against visiting Mendocino fell short in the final minute and Eric Gerlach’s coaching debut ended on a sour note as the Eagles defeated the Seahawks 34-27 in a nonconference game on Saturday night at Carl Conelly Stadium.

Gerlach, a Soquel High graduate, filled in for head coach Bill Garrison, who is tending to a health concern. Gerlach is in his 18th season as a Seahawks assistant.

Cabrillo trailed 27-6 at halftime and 34-13 early in the fourth quarter.

A late rally that saw the Seahawks record two fourth-quarter touchdowns

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set up some final-drive drama. But quarterback Brandon Layne's attempted pass on fourth-and-9 from the 22 to Yoshio Hasegawa in the end zone was deflected at the last moment and Mendocino escaped.

Layne, who filled in for starting quarterback Lucas Romanski earlier in the final drive, finished 8 of 11 for 100 yards with a touchdown and an interception. Romanski, who played the entire second half until he was injured with 1:06 left in the game, was 17 of 39 for 255 yards and three touchdowns.

Jon Jon Moore, who also left the game with an injury in the second half, caught six balls for 125 yards and two touchdowns. Tige McSwain Jr. and Kyle Heskett both added receiving scores.

Running back Fabian Serrano compiled 112 yards on 19 attempts.

It was the first game this season Cabrillo’s offense managed to find the end zone. But it wasn’t enough to keep pace with Mendocino and speedy running back Jakorin Graves.

Graves finished with 205 yards rushing and a touchdown on 29 attempts. He had 150 yards rushing in the first half.

Quarterback Andrew Paulson completed 10 of 16 for 182 yards and three touchdowns.

Cabrillo (0-2) will hit the road for its next two games, beginning Saturday when it plays at Redwoods at 1 p.m. Mendocino (1-3) will also travel next Saturday when it plays at Siskiyou at 2 p.m.

Garrison, who has coached Cabrillo since 2007, said he had been experiencing numbness on the right side of his body earlier this week. Doctors informed him he had a small blood leak in his brain following a CT scan on Wednesday.