Cabrillo hands MPC its lumps

BY RYAN SILAPAN

MONTEREY — It was only fitting that the game ended on a Caleb Slaughter sack.

Slaughter, a freshman defensive lineman who made the transition to defense just one month ago, gave the Monterey Peninsula College quarterbacks fits all game to the tune of seven sacks. That helped the visiting Cabrillo football team end its three-game losing streak Saturday night with a 32-22 win over the host Lobos in a Coast Conference South matchup.

“It feels very good to get the win,” said Slaughter while smiling from ear-to-ear after the game. “I tried to emphasize the speed rush because we knew they like to pass the ball a lot. The defense played good and really stepped it up tonight.”

In all Cabrillo (2-6, 1-3) recorded nine sacks in the game and intercepted a pass.

Chase Whitney, an Aptos High alum, added two sacks and Casey Holman recorded the pick for the Seahawks.

“I thought we played extremely well this week,” Cabrillo coach Bill Garrison said. “Caleb played very well and our defense as a whole played very, very well.”

The game was a see-saw battle that was very physical. Both teams’ starting quarterback left the game at some point in the first half.

Backup Brandon Layne performed quite nicely for Cabrillo, throwing for 128 yards and two touchdowns while completing 7 of his 8 attempts on the two series he played in the second quarter. MPC (3-5, 2-1) wasn’t as fortunate.

Starting Lobos quarterback Andrew Loudenburg completed 8 of his 11 attempts for 80 yards and two touchdowns before leaving the game late in the second quarter with a leg injury. Backup James Lovato completed just 5 of his 15 attempts for 46 yards.

“We did a good job of getting off the ball and putting pressure on them,” Slaughter said.

Cabrillo starting quarterback Lucas Romanski, who was not injured and played the bulk of the game, threw for 203 yards on 18-of-27 passing with two touchdowns and three interceptions.

Najee Champagne, Ruffino Calderon and James Karasek recorded the interceptions for the Lobos.

Both Layne and Romanski made it a point to find sophomore wide receiver Tige McSwain, Jr. and McSwain came through with his best performance as a Seahawk. He caught nine passes for 159 yards and three touchdowns. Fellow sophomore receiver Kyle Heskett also had a 100-yard receiving day, catching five passes for 101 yards and a 37-yard touchdown.

Cabrillo got its first lead of the game when Layne connected with McSwain for a 62-yard touchdown on a double-reverse, flea-flicker trick play to put Cabrillo up 19-16 with 3:58 left in the first half.

Lobos kicker Alex Elterman connected on 30-yard field goal with 46 seconds left in the half and the teams went into halftime tied 19-19.

Cabrillo put the game away late in the fourth quarter when, on fourth-and-11 from their own 37, Seahawks punter Casey Holman saw and opening and went up the middle for a 58-yard run.

The Seahawks would capitalize four plays later when, on fourth-and-goal from MPC’s 3-yard line, Cabrillo took a chance and the gamble paid off as Romanski connected with McSwain for a 3-yard touchdown. A Ben Knuidson extra point followed to ultimately ice the game at 32-22 with 1:49 left.