Cougars enjoy special opening romp

By Matt Rempel
CORRESPONDENT

NEWARK — The Newark Memorial High football team used its special teams to take an early lead, then rode its dominating ground game to a 46-0 non-league rout of Sequoia of Redwood City.

Myles Gates returned a Sequoia punt 63 yards for the first score with 5:42 left in the first quarter, and just over two minutes later, Myles' brother, Michael, returned the next punt 85 yards for a score, setting the tone for an easy victory.

"We were fortunate with our special teams to get an early advantage," Newark Memorial coach Rich Swift said.

Newark Memorial's running backs took it from there, amassing 370 yards, while averaging nearly eight yards a carry. Robert Hawkins led the Cougars with 111 yards on 12 carries and a score, and Eric Stewart carried six times for 69 yards. Myles Gates accounted for three touchdowns and a two-point conversion, rounding out a superb outing for the multitalented senior.

"The blocking was just great tonight," Gates said. "When we are running the ball well, it all seems to come together for us."

Not much came together for the Cherokees, who managed only 57 yards of total offense.

"We knew what we were in for against Newark Memorial," Sequoia coach Sam Lopez said. "We showed some of our strengths and weaknesses tonight. We will learn from this, we will get better, and we will move on."

The Cougars' didn't need to throw the ball too much, but when they did they were succesful. Quarterback Michael Gates finished just 2-for-5, but the two completions went for touchdowns. The first was a 3-yard connection with Ken Robinson, and later, he found his brother Myles wide open on a 26-yard score to break the game open.

Newark reserve running back Anthony Smith rounded out the scoring with a 7-yard scamper late in the fourth quarter.

"We are a young football team," Swift said. "We will mature as the season goes, but right now, we need to get prepared for a tough Milpitas team."

Milpitas was the Central Coast Section large-school champion last year, capping a season that included a 28-3 win over the Cougars. However, Milpitas is without Brandon Carswell, now a receiver at USC.

Sequoia was led on the ground by Miguel Flores, who carried 12 times for 28 yards and Ruben Ramirez who had three receptions for 28 yards.

Newark Memorial 46, Sequoia 0

Sequoia (0-1)	0	0	0	0	— 0
Newark Memorial (1-0)	19	6	8	13	—46

N — My.Gates 63 punt return (kick blocked)

N — Mi.Gates 85 punt return (Colon kick)

N — My.Gates 22 run (run failed)

N — Robinson 3 pass from Mi.Gates (kick failed)

N — My.Gates 26 pass from Mi.Gates (My.Gates run)

N — Hawkins 6 run (pass failed)

N — Smith 7 run (Colon kick)

Statistics

Rushing: S — Flores 12-28, Holland 6-11, Spears 2-5, Moreno 3-(-16). Totals: 23-28. N — Hawkins 12-111, Stewart 6-69, My.Gates 5-54, Tobin 5-44, Mi.Gates 4-27, Nguyen 5-26, Rayburn 2-13, Anderson 4-12, Smith 1-7, Dore 2-6, Skovronski 1-1. Totals: 47-370.

Passing: S — Moreno 4-15-1-29. N — Mi.Gates 2-5-0-29.

Receiving: S — Ramirez 3-28, Mendez 1-1. Totals: 4-29. N — My.Gates 1-26, Robinson 1-3. Totals: 2-29.

Fumbles/lost: Sequoia 1/0, Newark 2/1.