

Newark outlast Shavers and Fremont

OAKLAND -- Fremont High wide receiver Michael Shavers was absolutely unstoppable Saturday during the middle of the Tigers' non-league game against Newark Memorial. All eight of his catches - which went for 206 yards and four touchdowns -- came in the second and third quarters. But the Tigers just could not slow down the Newark Memorial running game, which piled up 360 yards in a 42-26 win at Curt Flood Field. Eric Stewart, one of five Cougars with at least 50 yards on the ground, led the way with 18 carries for 110 yards and a touchdown. Newark Memorial (3-1) dominated the first quarter, holding the Tigers to negative yardage and capitalizing on great field position to take a 14-0 lead on touchdowns by quarterback Rod Rael (13 carries, 84 yards) and Michael Gates. The second quarter was all Shavers. The senior caught six passes, including touchdowns of 33 and 17 yards as Fremont (1-2) trimmed the deficit to 14-12. The Tigers took an 18-14 lead on the fourth play of the second half, when a wide-open Shavers hauled in a strike from Dwayne Jones on a 53-yard halfback option. Newark Memorial responded with consecutive touchdowns, by Ryan Guzinski and Gates, to take a 28-18 lead. Two plays after Gates' 3-yard scoring plunge, a blanketed Shavers out-jumped two defenders to snare a deep sideline pass from quarterback Daniel Biagas and went 61 yards for the touchdown. He added the two-point conversion on a fade to make it 28-26 with 1:20 remaining in the third quarter. A well-placed kickoff pinned the Cougars at the 2-yard line for their next possession. But after nearly being caught for a game-tying safety on their first snap, Newark Memorial mounted a 15-play, 98-yard drive to break the Tigers backs. All 15 plays came on the ground, culminated by Stewart's 5-yard touchdown burst. "It was like we had it, and it just started slipping," Shavers said. "I gave it my best, but it wasn't enough."