



Newark 9-0 and in showdown

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UNION CITY — Shortly after the Newark Memorial High football team shook hands following a 40-0 Mission Valley Athletic League win over John F. Kennedy at Tak Fudenna Stadium Saturday night, the chant began.

"9-0, 9-0, 9-0, 9-0!"

Two years removed from an 0-10 record and coming off a 7-3 season, the Cougars, who are ranked No. 4 in the East Bay Poll, are 9-0 overall (5-0 MVAL) and will cap the regular and league season at No2 James Logan (9-0, 5-0) Friday night.

Saturday night's game ended at 9:18 p.m., and when asked, Newark coach Rich Swift said the Cougars started thinking about Logan at "9:21 p.m."

"We played on Saturday, and that gives us one less day to prepare," Swift said.

Twin brothers Myles and Michael Gates didn't hesitate at all when approached about one of the more anticipated matchups in the East Bay this year.

"Logan has always been in the back of our heads," said Michael, the team's quarterback, who threw for 65 yards, rushed for 28, scored a rushing touchdown and threw for a touchdown. "We knew when we beat Milpitas (in week 2) we had something special going."

Added Myles, a running back who scored two touchdowns and caught four passes for 36 yards: "We want to show people that we're good too. We're 9-0, and people still say we're not that good."

Before the Cougars could really start focusing on Logan, they had to beat a feisty, but struggling Kennedy squad that had been 2-0 in MVAL play earlier this year.

And Saturday was the MVAL finale for Kennedy, which finishes league play with a 2-4 mark. The Titans, who got 40 hard-earned rushing yards from running back Trevor Bauchou, cap their regular season next week at No. 5 California, which is 8-1.

The Titans played nearly the entire game without leading running back Jerrell Walker, who sustained a high ankle sprain in a loss at Logan last week.


Walker got the opening kickoff and was limping his way up the field, fumbled the ball and didn't play another series.

As for Newark, the defense and the special teams appeared in late-season form. The defense held Kennedy to 68 yards rushing and 28 passing. The Cougars got a defensive touchdown to open the game — a 25-yard interception return by lineman Doug Hall, who rumbled his way into the end zone.

The special teams came up big with several big punt returns. Though none was bigger than the 42-yard punt return for a touchdown by Myles Gates.

"When our special teams come out and do something first, it really gets us started," Michael Gates said.


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