

Newark foils American upset

By Steve R. Waterhouse
STAFF WRITER

NEWARK — To find out how much better the American High football team is this season compared to last, just ask the 33-year veteran coach at Newark Memorial.

"My hats off to them," Newark coach Rich Swift said. "They came out ready to play, and they played hard."

American had upset on its mind, taking a 21-9 lead into the half. But it was all for naught, as host and No. 5-ranked Newark scored 20 unanswered points in the second half for a 29-21 Mission Valley Athletic League win Friday night.

"Our coach came in and changed everything," American quarterback Michael Kreitner said of first-year coach Nick Amato. "He's the reason for all this. He taught us how to play and play hard. This program is on the rise."

There are no moral victories in Amato's eyes, though.

"I lost us two games," he said. "The Benicia game and now this one. They deserved to win, and I didn't get it done for them."

Kreitner lit up the Newark (6-0, 2-0 MVAL) secondary for 230 yards passing that included three touchdowns. His top target was Andrew Stone, who caught seven passes for 167 yards and scored a touchdown.

American falls to 3-3 overall and 1-2 in MVAL action.

Meanwhile, Swift said he didn't tell his team to make many adjustments, despite being down 21-9 at the half.

"I told them, 'Let's play football,'" Swift said. "I said, 'They're beating us to every loose ball,' that we need to play better football."

Everything started in the second half on the defensive end for Newark, which is one of the top ones in the East Bay. The Cougars got a quick three-and-out. And when they got the ball back, they stuck to their game plan — running the ball.

On the second play of the third quarter, Newark running back Eric Stewart raced his way for a 38-yard touchdown that cut American's lead to 21-15. Stewart finished with a game-high 115 yards rushing on 19 carries and scored two touchdowns.

The Newark defense struck again with 6:11 left in the third quarter when Michael Gates intercepted a pass that set up a first-and-10 at American's 17-yard line.

Five plays later, Gates rum-



NEWARK'S MIKE TOBIN finds a crack while returning a kickoff against American.

ANDA CHU — Staff

bled his way in on a quarterback keeper from 7-yards out, and that gave the Cougars a 22-21 lead.

"We knew we had to pick it up," said Stewart, who also recorded a huge sack with less than a minute left. "In the first half we weren't playing as a team. We weren't hustling to the ball. Coach (Swift) talked to us

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(at halftime), but we knew what we needed to do."

NOTE: American middle linebacker and left guard Kevin Cocklin left late in the fourth quarter when he collapsed near the bench. Paramedics were called, and the junior was taken to the hospital in an ambulance and breathing on his own.

Colts make short work of Mission

By Kyle Bonagura
STAFF WRITER

FREMONT — Going into Friday's game between James Logan and Mission San Jose, it would have been hard to imagine a possible outcome that didn't have the Colts winning handily. After all, Logan went into the game as the No. 2-ranked team in the East Bay, while Mission had yet to win a game.

Throw in the fact that the Warriors hadn't beaten the Colts since any of the current players was born, and the game figured to get ugly in a hurry.

It did.

Logan put up 37 points in the first quarter and cruised to a 65-0 win.

The Colts needed three plays to go 78 yards for a touchdown on their first drive. That was followed by a one-play possession in which Justin Brooks went 66 yards to the end zone. Then they needed just four plays to cover 68 yards, the drive capped off by a 59-yard run by Danny Godfrey, for second touchdown of the game.

Rashad Evans showed why he is considered one of the most electrifying players in the area, with a highlight-reel, 79-yard scramble to pick up 28-0.

He lined up in a shotgun formation, the snap went by him, and the magic began. Somehow, he was able to pick up the ball in stride, roll out to his right and look for an open receiver, before deciding to tuck it away and run. It took a spin to get away from five Mission defenders, a couple of downfield cuts, and he was gone.

"When I turned around, there was a guy in my face, so I had to run outside," Evans said. "Then I got a good block from (Brian) Ngata, got downfield, then got another good block, from Preston Bradford, and just kept running."

Evans carried the ball just three times but ended up with 129 yards rushing.

Since Mission beat Logan 27-14 in 1986, the Colts (6-0, 2-0 MVAL) have compiled 19-0-2 record in the series. The only year the two teams haven't played since was 2002, when Mission didn't field a varsity team.

The biggest Logan win was an 83-8 game in 1995.

Scores, schedule

FRIDAY	
ACCAL	Alameda 36, Hercules 0 Berkeley 61, De Anza 24 Escalante 16, El Cerrito 7 Pinole Valley 55, Richmond 7
BSAL	Fremont 40, Albany 7 St. Patrick/St. Vincent 49, Kennedy-Richmond 0
BVAL	Ygnacio Valley 26, Clayton Valley 14 Deer Valley 18, Freedom 15 Pittsburg 35, Liberty 0
DFAL	Academics 25, Campolindo 21 College Park 32, Alhambra 0 Miramonte 48, Concord 7 Dublin 16, Mt. Diablo 14 Las Lomas 58, Northgate 0
EBAL	San Ramon Valley 10, California 9 Foothill 24, Granada 7 Monte Vista 27, Livermore 0
HAAL	Arroyo 34, Tennyson 6 Mt. Eden 40, San Lorenzo 0 Castro Valley 17, Hayward 12
MVAL	Newark Memorial 29, American 21 James Logan 65, Mission San Jose 0
OAL	Castlemont 39, Oakland 0 McClymonds 45, Fremont 0 Oakland Tech 21, Skyline 12
NON-LEAGUE	Amador Valley 35, Antioch 7 De La Salle 56, Heritage 14
TODAY	
BFL	Sacred Heart Prep vs. St. Elizabeth at Burr Field, 1:30 p.m. Salesian at Kings Academy, 7:30 p.m.
BSAL	Moreau Catholic at St. Mary's, 1:30 p.m.
HAAL	San Leandro at Bishop O'Dowd, 1:45 p.m.
MVAL	Kennedy-Fremont at Washington, 7 p.m.
NON-LEAGUE	CSO vs. Rincon Valley Christian at Santa Rosa High, 1 p.m. Burton-SF vs. Irvington at Tak Fudena S. dium, 1 p.m. Wilson Prep at Berean Christian, 1:30 p.m.

Logan coach George Zuber was able to get all of his players in the game, and even got his kicker, Jorge Hernandez, a carry in the fourth quarter. Hernandez, a soccer standout for the Colts, went 7 yards on the first carry of his career but fumbled.

"It was good to get all the kids who practice hard all week to get to play a lot tonight," Zuber said.

Captain Joe Bailey agreed.

"The scout teams make us better every week. We wouldn't be having this kind of success without them pushing us in practice," Bailey said.

Next week, Logan has a much more difficult task, in Washington. The Huskies also beat Mission San Jose 65-0, and had scores by quarter identical to Logan's.

NCS to hold Ross eligibility hearing

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