



WASHINGTON'S LOGAN MOZZETTI tries to run past Newark's Eric Branford.

YUKI SAITO-MILLER — Staff

Newark wins on FG at 3:57

Benavente kicks winner as potent offenses net just three field goals

By Steve R. Waterhouse
STAFF WRITER

NEWARK — Many in attendance at the Mission Valley Athletic League opener between Washington High and Newark Memorial probably were expecting a high-scoring affair.

Washington went into Friday night averaging 37.7 points and 275.7 yards per game. And Newark was averaging 40.3 points and 358 yards per game.

But it turned into a defensive-charged game, and Newark pulled off a 6-3 win in the league opener for both teams.

"I've experienced more Newark-Washington games than anyone else, and it's always been like this, smack-them-in-the-mouth football," said

Newark coach Rich Swift, who is the school's only coach since the inception of Newark Memorial in 1981.

Newark, the East Bay's No. 10-ranked team, held potent Washington to 185 yards of offense, 122 of which came on the ground. Washington's defense wasn't too shabby either, holding the Cougars to 244 yards and no touchdowns.

The difference in the game was a 23-yard field goal by Newark's Anthony Benavente that gave the Cougars a 6-3 lead with 3:57 left in the game.

The field goal was set up by a 61-yard drive that took nearly five minutes off the clock.

"Our offense did a great job," Swift said. "Our goal was to consume as much of the clock as we could so we could keep their talented offense off the field."

And when you're trying to consume as much clock as you can on each drive, you need

some kind of power running back. A guy such as Eric Stewart, who rumbled his way for a hard-earned 116 yards on 17 carries. He had five carries for 23 yards on the game-winning drive, the biggest one coming on a third-and-1. Stewart managed 3 yards to get the first down.

"I felt like I just had to do it for the team," Stewart said. "I had to push myself for my boys. My front line gave me enough room to work with."

That run set up a 30-yard halfback pass play from Myles Gates to Grayson Hudgens.

Six plays later, Benavente kicked the biggest field goal of his prep career.

"I feel like this was a statement game," said the 6-foot-3, 190-pound Stewart. "I feel we can give some teams a run for their money."

The win gives Newark a 4-0 overall mark and a 1-0 MVAL

record. The Cougars travel outside of league play next week, visiting Stockton to take on McNair, a team that went 0-10 last season.

As for No. 15 Washington (2-1-1, 0-1), the Huskies were riding high off a come-from-behind 35-35 tie with then-No. 3 San Ramon Valley a week ago in which the Huskies scored 14 points with less than four minutes left in the game.

"This hurts," Washington coach Ken Wittmer said. "But you play like you practice. Unfortunately, we didn't practice the way we should have."

The one bright spot on offense for Washington was the play of running back Robert Patterson, who rushed for 103 yards on 13 carries. Quarterback Logan Mozzetti was limited to 63 yards passing. He had trouble finding open receivers because of Newark's secondary, which was led by Robert Hawkins and twin brothers Myles and Michael Gates.

American wins MVAL opener

Troupe-Masi sets pace in Eagles' victory over Irvington Vikings

By Kevin Rand
CORRESPONDENT

FREMONT — A fumble recovery on the opening kickoff set the tone for the upstart American High football team as it marched its way to a 39-23 victory over Irvington on Friday night.

American totaled 282 yards of offense, led by all-encompassing Jeremy Troupe-Masi, who had 97 yards on the ground in the Mission Valley Athletic League opener for both teams.

Troupe-Masi had what he called his "best game of the year," with an interception, a fumble recovery for a touchdown and two rushing touchdowns.

"I'm just following my linemen," he said. "I don't do too much, but the guys in front of me do most of the work."

American quarterback Michael Kreitzer spent most of the game handing the ball off, but with 10:32 left in the second quarter, he connected with wide receiver Andrew Stone to put American up 21-3.

Irvington (0-4, 0-1 MVAL) totaled 239 total rushing yards, but key turnovers and a porous defense kept it behind the entire game. It scored late in the first half on a two-yard touchdown run by Ross Larson, to cut the lead to 21-10.

In the second half, American continued on the ground with 22 more carries. It chewed up the clock for most of the third quarter and Troupe-Masi's fumble recovery at the beginning of the fourth gave American (3-1, 1-0) its biggest lead at 33-10.

Irvington scored two more touchdowns in the final quarter, failing on one two-point-conversion attempt.

American coach Nick

Scores, schedule

THURSDAY	
NON-LEAGUE	
Liberby 60, Hogan-Vallep 20	
FRIDAY	
ACCAL	
Alameda 32, De Anza 7	
Piecio Valley 6, Berkeley 6	
El Cerrito 48, Hercules 6	
Excelsior 41, Richmond 0	
BFL	
Sacred Heart Prep-Atherton 34, California School for the Deaf 6	
BSAL	
Kennedy-Richmond 28, Moreau 20	
Piedmont 21, St. Mary's 14	
St. Patrick-St. Vincent 64, John Swett 22	
BVAL	
Clayton Valley 26, Freedom 6	
Heritage 17, Deer Valley 14	
DFAL	
College Park 34, Campolindo 32	
Acalanes 26, Miramonte 14	
Dublin 14, Alhambra 7	
Norridge 47, Concord 35	
Las Lomas 49, Mt. Diablo 14	
EBAL	
San Ramon Valley 23, Amador Valley 13	
Piedmont 21, Footfall 7	
Monte Vista 49, Granada 35	
HAAL	
San Leandro 45, Arroyo 13	
Castro Valley 14, Mt. Eden 7	
Tennyson 20, Hayward 19	
MVAL	
American 39, Irvington 23	
Newark Memorial 6, Washington 3	
NON-LEAGUE	
Livermore 20, Benicia 14	
Madera 35, McClaymonds 26	
Balboa-San Francisco 22, Oakland 21	
Oakland Tech 34, Seaside 27	
Jesse Bethel 25, Skyline 27	
James Logan 28, Pittsburg 7	
TODAY	
BVAL	
Antioch at Ygnacio Valley, 1 p.m.	
HAAL	
Bishop O'Dowd at San Lorenzo, 1:30 p.m.	
MVAL	
Kennedy-Fremont at Mission San Jose, 7 p.m.	
NON-LEAGUE	
Cochrane-Alberca-Canada at Berean Christian, 11 a.m.	
Albany vs. St. Elizabeth at St. Mary's, 1:30 p.m.	
Castlemont at Salesian, 1:30 p.m.	
Monte Vista Christian vs. Fremont at Curt Flood Field, 2 p.m.	
Wilson Prep at North Monterey County-Castroville, 2:30 p.m.	
De La Salle, bye	

all the work on the field."

Amato was doused with water during an early celebration by the American players to cap off the win.

"I yell at them. I ride them," he said. "But at the