



Pick seals big win for Logan

By Steve R. Waterhouse, STAFF WRITER

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UNION CITY — At 5-foot-7 and 165 pounds, Kyle Lopez is one of the smaller football players.

He's also the one player who seems to get the brunt of the yelling from the coaching staff.

"He's one of the smarter football players on this team, and when he makes a mistake you can yell at him, and he knows that he's done something wrong," Logan coach George Zuber said.

Lopez got yelled at a few times Friday night at Logan. But he got his in the end when he intercepted a Michael Gates pass with 45 seconds left in the game that sealed Newark Memorial's fate in Logan's 21-14 win in the Mission Valley Athletic League showdown of unbeatens.

"Last game I dropped a pass," Lopez said. "This game, I told myself I had to step it up. I knew they were going to throw to No.10 (Myles Gates), so I was focused on him and the ball."

The win gives Logan (10-0 overall), which is ranked No.2 in the East Bay Poll, a second straight MVAL title at 6-0. It's also the second league title for second-year coach Zuber and the Colts' eighth title in nine years. Logan (NCS 4-A) also earns the MVAL automatic North Coast Section berth.

"I couldn't have done it without my teammates," the junior Lopez said. "I don't play

for myself, I play for them."

No.4 Newark (9-1, 5-1) finished the regular season against one of the toughest opponents in the East Bay. The Cougars will have to apply for an at-large berth into the NCS 3-A playoffs, but you can figure them to be one of the top seeds, if not the No.1 seed, because of San Ramon Valley's 20-14 loss to Monte Vista.

The Cougars had opportunities, but dug themselves a deep hole in the first half. They fumbled three times, resulting in 14 Logan points and trailed the Colts 21-7 at the half. Mix in the interception, and the Cougars turned the ball over four times.

"We beat ourselves," said Myles Gates, who had a game-high 136 yards rushing on a season-high 13 carries and scored a touchdown. "We knew we had a good chance to win this game, we just made mistakes."

Defensively, the Cougars were about as tough as an opponent Logan's offense has seen all year. Newark held Logan, which came in averaging 359.9 yards and 43.7 points per game, to 205 hard-earned yards.

"Our defense played a whale of a game," Newark coach Rich Swift said.

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