

Red Storm Lose To Cal Poly 44-14

San Luis Obispo, CA -- Ahead 16-0 at halftime, 19th ranked Cal Poly scored three touchdowns in the first three minutes of the third quarter, two by its defense, en route to a 44-14 victory over Division II Dixie State in a non-conference football game Saturday night before 9,231 in Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

Junior quarterback Tony Smith scored on a one-yard run following a 59-yard punt return by sophomore Asa Jackson to start the scoring spree.

Freshman Ryan Taylor blocked a Dixie State punt, scooped the ball up and ran two yards for another touchdown and freshman linebacker Kenny Jackson recovered a Dixie State fumble and ran 32 yards for the third score and a 37-0 Mustang lead with 11:53 to play in the third period.

With the victory, Cal Poly won its second straight game for the first time this season and improved to 4-3 on the year. Dixie State, playing the Mustangs for the first time, fell to 4-5.

Cal Poly led 9-0 after one period following a 24-yard field goal by Chris Pinto and a 73-yard scoring pass from Smith to junior wide receiver Dominique Johnson. It was Smith's first touchdown pass since the season opener when he threw three scoring passes against Sacramento State.

Smith's six-yard touchdown pass to Mike Anderson early in the second quarter gave the Mustangs a 16-0 cushion which they carried to the break.

After Cal Poly's three quick scores to open the second half, Dixie State averted the shutout with a 33-yard run by sophomore running back Tauni Vakapuna with 3:13 to play in the third period.

Smith's second one-yard sneak of the game gave Cal Poly a 44-7 advantage with 11:31 to play in the game and Dixie State capped the scoring with 7:30 to go on a six-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Judd Thompson to junior running back Adam Wells.

Smith completed seven of 13 passes for 119 yards and two scores. Both Johnson and sophomore Jarred Houston had a pair of catches for the Mustangs.

Cal Poly's top rusher for the second straight game was sophomore fullback Jake Romanelli with 96 yards on 19 carries. He had career highs of 24 carries and 108 yards a week earlier against Southern Utah.

For Dixie State, Thompson completed 21 of 46 passes for 211 yards and one touchdown but was intercepted three times, all in the first half. Senior wide receiver Skyler Ence caught nine passes for 119 yards and Wells had five receptions for 22 yards.

Vakapuna finished with 52 yards rushing on 12 carries.

Though Cal Poly won the game by 30 points, Dixie State had a 18-11 advantage in first downs and almost outgained the Mustangs in total yards. Cal Poly had 297 yards and the Red Storm 275.

David Fullerton, Bijon Samoodi and Greg Francis each had interceptions for Cal Poly. For Fullerton, it was his third theft of the season and 10th of his four-year Mustang career.

Asa Jackson led the Mustangs in tackles with seven while junior linebacker Keauntea Bankhead notched 15 tackles for Dixie State.

Dixie State	0	0	7	7	--	14
Cal Poly SLO	9	7	21	7	--	44

CP – Pinto 24 Field Goal

CP – Johnson 73 pass from Smith (kick failed)

CP – Anderson 6 pass from Smith (Pinto kick)

CP – Smith 1 run (Pinto kick)

CP – Taylor 2 blocked punt return (Pinto kick)

CP – Jackson 32 fumble recovery (Pinto kick)

DSC – Vakapuna 33 run (Langston kick)

CP – Smith 1 run (Pinto kick)

DSC – Wells 6 pass from Thompson (Langston kick)