

HSU takes charge in 31-10 win over APU

Oct. 3, 2009

HSU Sports Information

AZUSA, Calif. — Leading from start to finish, Humboldt State controlled the pace with a stellar running game and big-play defense in a 31-10 victory over Azusa Pacific Saturday at Cougar Stadium.

Four different running backs led the Jacks to 201 yards on the ground, led by Bobby Thomas' 81 yards on 16 carries. Humboldt State's defense did its part, picking off three passes and recovering a fumble while holding Azusa Pacific to 242 yards of total offense.

The victory finished off a stretch of three straight road games, improving Humboldt State's record to 3-2 overall heading into Saturday's home game against Great Northwest Athletic Conference leader Central Washington. Azusa Pacific fell to 1-5 on the season.

"We're tired of traveling, and ready for a home game," HSU head coach Rob Smith said. "It's nice to finish this road stretch with a very solid win in a game we controlled from start to finish."

Mike Proulx and Chris Bolt split time at quarterback for the Lumberjacks, Proulx finishing 7-of-17 for 110 yards and a touchdown. Bolt completed 2-of-3 passes, but added 45 yards on the ground.

Humboldt State's ball control offense was indicated by the unbalanced first down and time of possession numbers. The Jacks achieved 22 first downs to APU's 14, while possessing the ball 35 minutes and 54 seconds to the Cougars' 24:06.

HSU moved the ball crisply on its second drive of the game, moving all the way down to the APU 4-yard-line before the Cougars held. Kyle Shierholt's 20-yard field goal attempt was blocked by Shane Henry, however, keeping the scoreboard blank.

It didn't take long for the Jacks to get the ball back, Mike Lynch intercepting a John van dan Raadt pass three plays after the Cougars had taken possession. He returned it to the 4-yard line, and Nick Ricciardulli carried on consecutive plays to find the end zone and give HSU a 7-0 lead.

Ben Hansen converted a 26-yard field goal early in the second quarter, allowing Azusa to cut the lead to 7-3. HSU bounced back with a 10-play, 72 yard drive – all of it on the ground – finishing with Bolt's 1-yard touchdown run.

Humboldt State extended its lead to 28-3 with two touchdowns in the third quarter, the first on Matt Devlin's 25-yard reception from Proulx and the second when Proulx rushed across from two yards out. Azusa Pacific found the endzone when van den Raadt hit Matt

Davis with a 10-yard touchdown pass with 3:13 left in the third period.

Schierholt booted a 32-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter to complete the scoring.

Defensively, Justin Price and and Guy Ricciardulli joined Lynch to give the Jacks three interceptions. Linebacker Bubba Reynolds topped the team with 12 tackles.

"We made some plays when we needed to, and when they got close our defense turned them away," Smith said. "We're a team that's learning and part of that is how to close out a game. We made a step forward in that tonight."

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| Humboldt State | 7 | 7 | 14 | 3 | -- | 31 |
| Azusa Pacific | 0 | 3 | 7 | 0 | -- | 10 |

HSU – N. Ricciardulli 1 run (Schierholt kick)

APU – Hansen 26 Field Goal

HSU – Bolt 1 run (Schierholt kick)

HSU – Devlin 25 pass from Proulx (Schierholt kick)

HSU – Proulx 2 run (Schierholt kick)

APU – Davis 10 pass from van den Raadt (Hansen kick)

HSU – Schierholt 32 Field Goal