

St. Bonaventure rolls again, 51-21

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SANTA BARBARA — There's little mystery why St. Bonaventure High's football team can make opponents feel like they just lost all their trick-or-treat goodies and have nothing to show for a night out than an empty bag.

"They get points every which way because they have athletes every which way," said Santa Barbara coach Will Gonzales after watching the Seraphs roll to a 51-21 Channel League win at Peabody Stadium.

Patrick Hall, the Seraphs' USC-bound running back, scored on a run and pass while playing sparingly on offense in the first half. Devon Blackledge and Isaiah Burton scored on back-to-back kick returns (a kickoff and punt) as St. Bonaventure rolled to a 48-7 lead before turning the game over to reserves late in the third quarter.

Blackledge also ripped off touchdown runs of 54 and 28 yards, while Marcus Langkilde added a 1-yard touchdown as St. Bonaventure improved to 7-1 overall and 4-0 in league.

"Every one of our guys believes they are a threat to score and every play," said St. Bonaventure coach Todd Thierren.

The Dons also have a few athletes who can move the ball up and down the field, notably quarterback John Uribe and receivers Roberto Nelson and Bryson Lloyd, each in record-setting territory for Santa Barbara. And they went down swinging Thursday night, or, more accurately, went down slinging.

Uribe attempted 52 passes and completed 23 for 275 yards and three touchdowns. Nelson, who is headed to Oregon State on a basketball scholarship, caught two of the scores, including a 30-yarder in tight coverage to cut the score to 14-7 at the end of the first quarter. Nelson finished with six catches for 127 yards, while Lloyd caught eight passes for 86 yards.

"No. 12 and No. 6 (Nelson and Lloyd) are real good players," said Thierren. "It's really been fun to watch Nelson go from a good athlete as a sophomore who wasn't really a football player to now, where he is really a good football player."

But for every 12 and 6 Santa Barbara could throw at St. Bonaventure, the Seraphs seemed to have a fistful of counterpunches. Quarterback Logan Meyer efficiently managed the explosive offense. See him here as he deftly dinks a pass to Hall and watches him run through the Dons' offense for score. Or watch him drill a pass downfield Burton for a 25-yard pickup. Of course, he also looks pretty confident handing the ball off to Hall or Blackledge.

For good measure, the Seraphs also had a 50-yard touchdown run on a fake punt nullified by a penalty late in the first half while leading 34-7.

"That's just St. Bonny being St. Bonny," shrugged Gonzales. "They do what they do and they're pretty indifferent to the score."

The score, perhaps, but not the time. Thierren put several defensive starters back in the game late in the fourth quarter because his reserves were having trouble getting the pass-happy Dons off the field.

"We needed to get the game over," he explained. "We had some (reserves) get hurt and we were scrambling to fill some spots. Santa Barbara can really extend a game with the way they play."

Blackledge led the Seraphs with 117 yards rushing on seven carries.

The defense was solid up front, holding the Dons to 2 yards net rushing, while recording three sacks. Tim Bennett picked off two passes.

Kicker Derek Kirk nailed a 39-yard field goal to complete the scoring for St. Bonaventure and had a school record attempt of 49 yards hit the crossbar and bounce back. The Dons' final score came on a 13-yard pass from Uribe to Kyle Leonard.