

Arroyo Field Goal Beats Alameda in Season Finale

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By Jim Knowles

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Carlos Jimenez kicked a 37-yard field goal with three minutes left in the game to boost Arroyo High to a 17-14 win over Alameda on Saturday afternoon.

Alameda tried a field goal in the final seconds but the attempt was blocked by the Dons in a late afternoon win on the last game of the season on the Arroyo home field.

Arroyo defensive back Ryan Gordan got a hand on Alameda's field goal attempt, reaching up over a pack of linemen. Gordan said it was a team effort and defensive back Jakob Magana played a part too.

"It was me and my bro (Magana)," Gordan said. "He scared the kicker and I hit the ball with my hand."

Alameda got on the board first on a 7-yard touchdown run by Ernest Gardner for a 6-0 lead.

The teams staged a defensive battle through much of the first half, exchanging punts. But the Dons took the lead, 7-6, just before the half when running back Chris Harrison broke away on a 30-yard run to the end zone.

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Then in the third quarter, Arroyo got the big play they'd been waiting for. Harrison took off on a 65-yard run to move the ball all the way to the Alameda 11-yard line.

"Coach (James Barnes) made a good call," Harrison said. "The O line did a good job. We practiced that play all week (a counter left). We tried it and it worked."



On third down at the 5-yard line, Malcolm Hale scored on a sweep around the right side. And with the extra point kick by Jimenez the Dons had a 14-6 lead.

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But Alameda drove the ball back downfield as quarterback Elijah Hernandez completed a pass to wide receiver Jake Coyne to the Arroyo 36-yard line. And then Arroyo was called on pass interference to give the Hornets the ball on the Dons 15-yard line.

The Hornets moved the ball to the 1-yard line and from there Hernandez dove under the pile for the score to cut Arroyo's lead to 14-12. Then the Hornets tied the game, 14-14, on a 2-point conversion on a pass to wide receiver Keelan Doss.

Arroyo came back on their next possession with a key pass from quarterback Isaac Tapia to Hale to move into Alameda territory, and later a pass interference call on the Alameda 22-yard line set up the game-winning field goal by Jimenez.

Arroyo finished the season with a 6-4-record, 4-1 in the West Alameda County Conference, Shoreline Division.

CAPTION 1: Arroyo defensive back Ryan Gordon makes a tackle on Alameda receiver Keelan Doss as he hauls in a pass from quarterback Elijah Hernandez in the first quarter.

CAPTION 2: Dons fullback Nick Jordan, a senior, joins the celebration on the field after Arroyo pulled off a memorable win.



The Arroyo High championship football team from 1981 was honored in a ceremony at halftime on Saturday.

PHOTOS BY JIM KNOWLES

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