

Big second half powers Karr to quarterfinals

Cougars cruise past Vandebilt, win 46-9

By Joe Halm
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HOUMA — Karr quarterback Munchie Legaux stood on the sideline for much of the first half Friday, as the Vandebilt offense ran 39 offensive plays and held a 9-6 halftime lead.

In the second half, it was clear that Legaux didn't want to come off the field, as the Cougars' offense scored 40 points and Karr (11-1) cruised to a 46-9 Class 4A regional playoff victory at

Buddy Marcello Stadium. Karr will host Salmen, which defeated Breaux Bridge 34-29, in the quarterfinals.

"I think they were trying to keep the ball out of my hands because they knew what our offense was capable of doing," Legaux said about the first half. "We just needed the ball, and we got the ball in the third quarter."

It took Karr just four plays and 41 seconds to take its first lead, and less than six minutes later, the Cougars' offense had reeled off three touchdowns to give the visitors a commanding 27-9 lead.

In the third quarter alone, Legaux scored on runs of 3 and

24 yards, and he passed for three more touchdowns. He connected with Neal Randall on touchdown passes of 36 and 32 yards. He also found Tavis Clark for an 18-yard touchdown pass. The Cougars set the final margin when Keenan Canty reeled in a 39-yard touchdown pass early in the fourth quarter.

Legaux finished with 151 yards on 9-of-15 passing and four touchdowns. He also rushed for 100 yards and two scores.

"We only had two possessions in the first half, so in the second half, we came out with some energy. We knew we were going to get the ball, and we took advantage of it. We made some adjust-

ments at halftime defensively, and that is what football is about," Karr Coach Jabbar Juluke said, adding that his defense intercepted three passes in the second half.

Vandebilt had just three first downs in the second half, but the Terriers dominated the first half in every category in building its 9-6 advantage. Vandebilt ran 39 offensive plays to Karr's nine. The Cougars gained 79 yards and three first downs, and the Terriers amassed 196 yards and 12 first downs.

Vandebilt's dominance began with its opening drive, when the Terriers drove 66 yards on 10 plays, capped by a 33-yard Michael Blanchard field goal. Van-

debilt extended its lead to 6-0 on a 36-yard Blanchard kick.

In the second quarter, the Cougars' offense didn't touch the ball until the final seconds, but Karr's special teams kept the Cougars in the game. Karr's Devon Francois scooped up a blocked field-goal attempt near midfield and returned it for the Cougars' first score.

Blanchard tacked on his third field goal of the half — this one from 17 yards — to set the 9-6 margin at halftime. The kick was set up by a 28-yard reception by Nyrce Smith.

"We're going to enjoy this for the tonight, and tomorrow we'll focus on the next round," Legaux said.