

St. Augustine defense holds the Hornets in check

By Steve Brand
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Football games don't always play out on the field the way you expect.

St. Augustine
18

Lincoln
7

Before the St. Augustine-Lincoln game last night at Balboa Stadium, most everyone thought two of the highest-scoring teams in the section, two that love to throw the ball, would roll up a big score.

Instead, St. Augustine turned to

its defense and came alive offensively in the second half to stymie No. 10 Lincoln in an Eastern League showdown 18-7.

"The defense did a great job of double-teaming Victor Dean," said Saints first-year coach Richard Sanchez of his defense that held Lincoln's 6-foot-6 standout receiver to zero receptions until 7:27 remained in the game.

"We took away the slant and the short pass and unfortunately (Damon) Dunn couldn't play."

Dunn, a two-position standout as a DB and running back, suffered a

knee injury against Mission Bay and after being part of the upset of Cathedral Catholic last week, Hornets coach Ron Hamamoto decided to wait for the results of an MRI before playing him.

The defense of the Saints (6-1, 2-0) picked off two passes, did not allow a completion until Dunn's catch and yielded a score on a 14-yard Dunn reception with 1:27 remaining in the game.

Meanwhile, St. Augustine junior QB Evan Crowder came back after tossing three interceptions in the first half to complete 8-of-12 passes

for 109 yards after intermission, including TD aerials of 2 yards to Evan Critchlow and 49 yards to Dana Barbaro.

"They pressed us in the first half but when the defense holds Lincoln (4-2-1, 1-1) to seven points, that's the story," said Crowder, a 6-foot-5 lefty.

Even when St. Augustine couldn't put it in the end zone, junior kicker Paul Hundley was applying pressure on Lincoln, connecting on a chip-shot field goal of 20 yards before booming a 46 yarder.