

SAINTS STORM TO BIG EARLY LEAD, HANG ON FOR NARROW VICTORY

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For three quarters, the St. Augustine game plan was simple.

St. Augustine 29, Mira Mesa 21

Run the ball to control the clock. Force turnovers. Put pressure on Mira Mesa quarterback Dominic Richardson.

It all went as planned until Richardson went wild in the fourth quarter — leading the Marauders to three touchdowns — and the Saints had to hang on for a 29-21 win after leading 26-0 in a game played at Mater Dei Catholic High.

With the victory, the Saints move to 7-2 overall. Even more important, they are still in the hunt for an Eastern League title entering the season finale against rival Cathedral Catholic on Friday at San Diego Mesa

College.

To get there, they looked to hard-running Aaron Anderson, who might not win many footraces but compensated against Mira Mesa with large chunks of yardage when needed before he finally broke off a 40-yard gain that sewed up the victory.

“I knew I wouldn’t score, I’m not fast enough,” said Anderson, who finished with a career high 127 yards on 26 carries. “The plan was to keep the clock running and play good defense.”

When Michael Robertson returned an interception 23 yards for a TD to start the second half and Sean Davey did likewise seconds later, this time from 24 yards out, the Saints had pushed a 13-0 lead to 26-0 and appeared to have things wrapped up.

Richardson had other ideas, however, as he finished 16-of-21 for 281 yards and a pair of TDs, most of it in the fourth quarter.