

Loud, proud chaos serves as football's frenzied backdrop

BY CAMERON SALERNO
AND JOE DAVIDSON
jldavidson@sacbee.com

High school rooting sections across the region have been on their A game this fall. They have to be, otherwise the rival fans will drown them out.

The best cheering sections serve as an emphatic backdrop to the football action.

On any given Friday night in Placer County, El Dorado County or throughout Sacramento, students are packed into bleachers, decked in school colors, face paint and making a racket. It is fun and organized chaos, a costumed Halloween theme for all seasons.

Some of the students standing and shouting are athletes from other sports, mingling with some whose only extra-curricular endeavors might be improving on their 4.5 GPA.

So, what makes a good student section?

Is it the amount of people? If so, check any Holy event between rivals Christian Brothers and St. Francis/Jesuit. Students take their rooting serious and personal, squeezing into their seats and next to each other and belting out chants as if their grades depend on it.



BRAND BAER Special to The Bee

Christian Brothers fans run onto the field after a 30-27 win over the Jesuit Marauders in the Holy Bowl at Hughes Stadium at Sacramento City College on Sept. 14.

At the 49th Holy Bowl in September, Christian Brothers students stormed the Hughes Stadium field after the Falcons defeated Jesuit for the first time in nine years, as if it were a fire drill. It was cause for a campus celebration.

And what's a rivalry now without the rooting section? The annual Quarry Bowl in Placer County pits Rocklin against Whitney. The community comes together to support their teams, with the teenage voices ringing loudest.

When Rocklin defeated Oak Ridge in a Sierra Foothill League game, the Thunder's rooting section - "The Storm" - capped homecoming night with a game to remember.

"That crowd was a major factor," Rocklin coach Jason Adams said after the Oak Ridge game. "I know our kids could feel the energy in the stands. They helped us get this victory."

BLACK HOLE ROOTS AT DEL ORO

Del Oro will host Rocklin on