

Early season shocker

Miners' winning streak comes to end at hands of talented California team

By Brandon Gurney
Deseret News

Bingham High football coach Dave Peck will have to wait another year to show what his team can do against out-of-state competition. While the proud program has had no problems plowing through in-state competition, they haven't fared well outside of it.

Orange Lutheran snapped Bingham's 26-game winning streak Saturday with a 42-7 win over the Miners in Mission Viejo, Calif.

Orange Lutheran handed it to Peck's program with the help of multiple Miner turnovers. For Bingham coaches and players, the loss was a shock.

"We're not used to losing like this," Peck said. "This isn't who we are or who we've been. We were beaten by a better team — a team that was better prepared than we were and we'll learn from it."

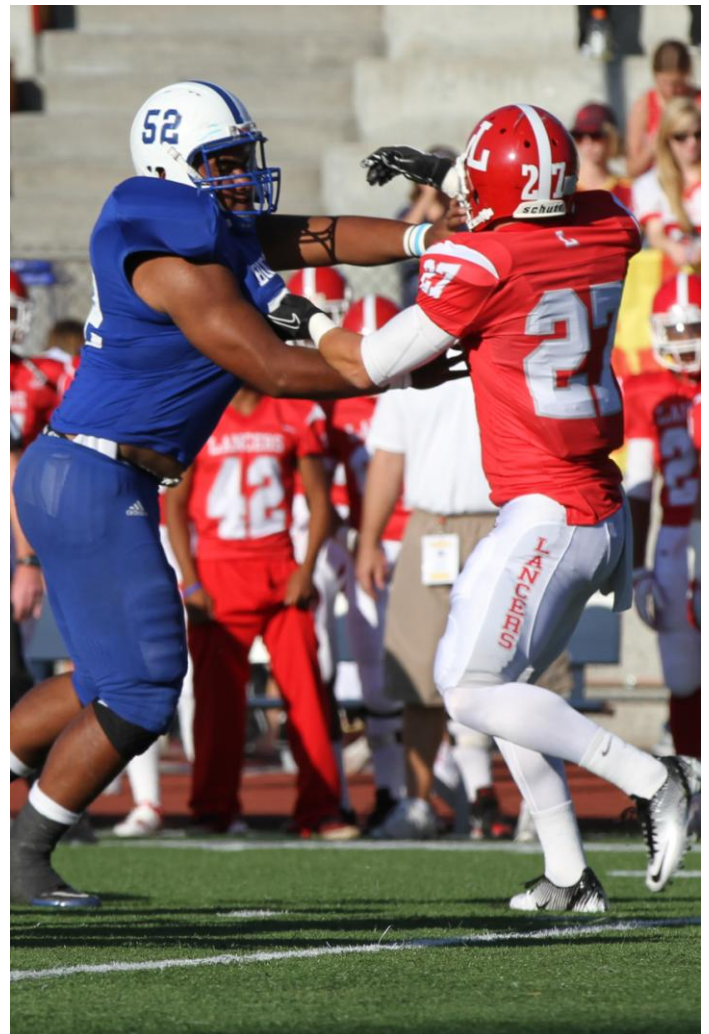
Early on, it was a slugfest as Bingham tied the game 7-7 toward the end of the first quarter on a 1-yard TD run by Daniel Palepoi.

Then turnovers began to take their toll.

Three separate times the Miners drove the ball deep into Lancer territory only to fumble or throw an interception. Two other times, they turned it over deep in their own territory, yielding easy scores to Orange Lutheran.

"We just can't turn it over like that and expect to win," said Peck. "We have to execute better against a team as talented as that team was. It just can't happen or you get the kind of score that this ended up being."

After Orange Lutheran's final touchdown came with 4:17 left, the officials went to a running



TOP: Will Nasilai takes on a Orange Lutheran blocker.

BOTTOM: Team captain Paul Langi eyes his opponent and an official.

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LEFT: Junior linebacker **Drake Miller** prepares for the game.



RIGHT: Keegan Hicks and Zach Kidd block a defender and give running room for **Daniel Palepoi**.

MIDDLE RIGHT: xxxxxxxxxxxx



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TRIP NOTES

* - **ALTA and TIMPVIEW** also attended the Mission Viejo Classic, which featured six games. Alta defeated Crenshaw, Calif. 45-14 and Timpview lost to Bakersfield, Calif., 38-13.

* - **ORANGE LUTHERAN** was ranked among California's top five big schools and was in the playoffs at press time.

clock to shorten the game. For a team with Bingham's proud history, that move was nothing short of surreal.

"The last time I felt like this was in Dallas 26 games ago," said Peck. "It's not a feeling I'm used to and it's certainly not a good feeling. It's something we'll deal with. We still have our goal in mind which is to win a state championship."

For Peck, it's a lot about just bad-timing.

Last year's team had 15 players that went on to sign letters of intent with college programs but didn't travel outside of the state. Peck believed that team could have played with anyone in the country. This year, it's a different Bingham team.

"We're rebuilding and tonight showed that we have a ways to go in getting back to where we were," he said. "You don't just replace 15 scholarship players like that and be fine. We have a lot of work to do, but I'm excited for that challenge."

Peck said he was confident that he'll get the timing right and show beyond the state's borders what Bingham is capable.

"We'll get there," he said. "That wasn't Bingham football tonight and we'll get back to what people expect from us. We have a young team, but a good team. The kids have a lot of desire and they're hurting right now."

GAME SUMMARY

Bingham	7	0	0	0	- 7
Orange Lutheran	7	14	14	7	- 42

- OL** – Connor Sullivan 50 run (Josh Cornelius kick)
- B** – Daniel Palepoi 1 run (Jaron Maxfield kick)
- OL** – Miles Willis 25 pass from Sullivan (Cornelius kick)
- OL** – Brady Roelofs 11 pass from Sullivan (Cornelius kick)
- OL** – Graeme Fraser 5 run (Cornelius kick)
- OL** – Demetrius Palmer 3 pass from Sullivan (Cornelius kick)
- OL** – Fraser 41 run (Cornelius kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Bingham – Palepoi 22-86 Brady Lail 6-23, Shinji Ishigaki 1-1. Orange Lutheran – Jabari Wilson 14-70, Fraser 11-58, Sullivan 4-41, Palmer 4-22, Kyle Steckler 4-21, James Bean 2-7.

PASSING: Bingham – Lail 13-32-2-137 yards. Hayden Weichers 1-1-0-41 yards. Orange Lutheran – Sullivan 13-16-0-131 yards.

RECEIVING: Kalan Cantwell 5-42, Weichers 4-52, Jae Lobdell 1-41, Ishigaki 1-14, Palepoi 1-13, Dalton Shultz 1-9, Dylan Briggs 1-7. Orange Lutheran – Willis 3-56, Roelofs 3-31, Christo Kourtzidis 3-18, Willie Fletcher 1-11.