

Defense does it again in Miners' rout

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

Senior running back Daniel Palepoi passed an important milestone on "Senior Night" at Bingham High Wednesday, but it was the defense that recorded its second straight shutout.

Palepoi went over the 1,000-yard mark as Bingham closed out its regular season with a 41-0 win over an overmatched Pleasant Grove team Wednesday night. The win improved the Miners' mark to 8-2 and 4-1 in region. It also paved the way into the 5A playoffs on a high note.

The Miners will play host to a familiar opponent - Kearns - next week in the opening round.

Palepoi had a great night, rushing for 212 yards on just 14 carries. He also scored three times to finish the regular season with 1,100 yards in 153 carries and 10 scores.

"We get there to make a stop and we still can't bring him down," said Pleasant Grove coach Dale Sampson, who announced his retirement after a long career a few days later.

His counterpart, Bingham's Dave Peck, recognized the importance of the contest as his team hopes for a third consecutive 5A title.

"I thought Pleasant Grove came in here and gave us a tough game to start," Peck



Jae Lobdell goes high into the air to try to block a Pleasant Grove kick.

said. "But our kids are eager to prepare for state and they need all the work they can get. We had too many turnovers tonight. You can't win games with that many. We will work on that."

Bingham's line dominance was obvious.



XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXX

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

Against the Vikings, the Miners averaged over 10 yards per carry, rushing for 272 yards.

“This was one of our best games,” said Peck. “It was a great way to end the season in front of the home fans and we got a lot of kids into the game. I felt really good about how the way we went into the playoffs.”

Bingham’s defense caused all kinds of problems for the Vikings. Jared Afalava had a big night with 13 tackles, including a sack and a forced fumble. All told, PG lost four fumbles.

Drake Miller and Justin Woolston will also remember this game forever. Miller intercepted a Pleasant Grove pass late in the second quarter and returned it 40 yards for a touchdown that gave the Miners a 27-0 lead.

In the fourth period, Woolston got into the game and recovered a fumble in the end zone that resulted in Bingham’s final score.

By comparison, Pleasant Grove’s only bright spot was running back Colton Babb, who has accounted for much of the Vikings’ offense all season. He carried the ball 28 times for 85 yards as PG finished its season with a 3-7 record and missed the postseason.

XXXXXXXX and XXXXXXXXX join their teammates in listening to assistant coach **John Lambourne’s** talk after Bingham’s win over Pleasant Grove.

GAME SUMMARY

Pleasant Grove	0	0	0	0	0
Bingham	7	20	7	7	41

- B** – Daniel Palepoi 2 run (Jaron Maxfield kick)
- B** – Palepoi 72 run (Maxfield kick)
- B** – Palepoi 55 run (Maxfield kick)
- B** – Drake Miller 40 interception return (kick failed)
- B** – Tanner Scholes 5 run (Maxfield kick)
- B** – Justin Woolston recovered fumble in end zone (Chayden Johnston kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: PG – Colton Babb 28-85, Braxton Winterton 1-3, Cooper Caldwell 1-0, Skyler Munson 10-(-42). **Bingham** – Palepoi 14-212, Tonga Manu 4-44, Hayden Weichers 1-34, Scholes 3-23, Jared Afalava 1-3, Brody Strong 1-1, Scott Nichols 1-0, Brady Lail 3-(-7).

PASSING: PG – Munson 7-19-2-55 yards. Bingham- Lail 2-6-1-53 yards.

RECEIVING: PG – Nathan Sampson 3-37, Dallin Hatch 1-9, Spencer Romney 3-9. **Bingham** – Kalan Cantwell 1-39, Jae Lobdell 1-24.