

Bingham still too much for Jags



Miners' long winning streak over their rival continues as Palepoi leads strong running attack to convincing win

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

It had been since 2001 since the West Jordan football team had beaten Bingham. Nine straight losses to the neighborhood rival left a mark and, this year, coach Mike Morgan thought that could end.

The Miners, however, had 225-pound running back Daniel Palepoi.

On Friday, Palepoi had a breakout performance, rushing for two touchdowns and 170 yards, as the Miners opened the defense of their Class 5A title with a 45-28 win over West Jordan.

In Bingham's mind, the outcome was decided early. The Miners scored on their third play from scrimmage as Tisi Tuifua ripped off an 80 yard run. Bingham took advantage of its big offensive line, and the ground game looked to be in mid-season form moments later as Palepoi culminated an 80-yard drive with a three yard run giving Bingham the 14-0 lead.

Palepoi said he learned a lot last year, playing behind all-state pick Harvey Langi.

"I played fullback for him last year, but I watched how he cut and set up his blocks and now I'm just trying to carry on the tradition," said Palepoi.

West Jordan showed its



Senior Brady Lail gets good blocking in his first start as Bingham's QB.

ABOVE: A new sign graces the south side of the gym outside the stadium.

capability when Michael Moorehead found Martavius Redmond with a 83-yard strike. However, the Jags were stymied the rest of the time and Bingham ham led 27-7 at intermission.

Moorehead finished with 312 yards passing, and added another 72 on the ground. The Jaguars came into the season hoping to expand their running game, but it was mostly Moorehead on this night. West Jordan finished with 82 yards on



Sophomore TE Dalton Schultz gets ready to block his opponent.

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BINGHAM FOOTBALL: Miners 45, West Jordan 28



GAME SUMMARY

West Jordan	0	7	7	14	- 28
Bingham	14	13	8	10	- 45

B – Tisi Tuifua 80 run (Jaron Maxfield kick)
B – Daniel Palepoi 1 run (Maxfield kick)
B – Palepoi 1 run (kick failed)
WJ – Martavius Redmond 83 pass from Michael Moorehead (Alex Giordani kick)
B – Tonga Manu 1 run (Maxfield kick)
B – Hayden Weichers 9 pass from Brady Lail (Josh Davis run)
WJ – Cody Paraso 3 run (Giordani kick)
B – Weichers 6 pass from Lail (Maxfield kick)
WJ – DeShawn Perkins 12 pass from Moorehead (Giordani kick)
B – FG Maxfield 45
WJ – Redmond 32 pass from Moorehead (Giordani kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: WJ – Moorehead 19-73, Paraso 1-3, Cameron Peacock 3-3, Chinedu Ahonou 2-3, Perkins 2-0. Bingham – Palepoi 15-170, Tuifua 3-82, Shinji Ishigaki 6-38, Tonga Manu 5-21, Coleman Stout 6-16, Josh Davis 3-13, Scott Nichols 1-4, Tanner Scholes 1-2, Brody Strong 1-0, Lail 5-(-19).

PASSING: WJ – Moorehead 22-35-0-312 yards. Bingham – Lail 13-19-0-133 yards, Stout 2-4-0-16 yards.

RECEIVING: WJ – Redmond 6-163, Perkins 7-66, Peacock 7-60, Michael Duckworth 2-24. Bingham – Weichers 5-78, Kalan Cantwell 4-31, Dalton Schultz 2-17, Ishigaki 2-1, Manu 1-12, Jae Lobdell 1-10.



TOP LEFT: Paul Langi, XXXXXX, Kendal Cloward, Brady Lail and coach Dave Peck greet the West Jordan captains.

MIDDLE LEFT: Daniel Palepoi gets a good block from Dylan Briggs.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Poasi Taukeiaho blocks a WJ player.

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the ground, and never broke a long gain.

The Miners controlled the line of scrimmage. However, as good as their ground game looked in the first half, it was the play of first-year quarterback Brady Lail that seemed to lift Bingham later. Lail found Hayden Weichers for two scoring strikes and seemed to be in complete command from the start of the game.

“The thing with Brady is he probably could have been a starter at just about any other school,” said Bingham coach Dave Peck. “He’s got baseball

[scholarship] offers all over the place and he really stepped up and played well for us tonight.”

Although Peck said he wasn’t happy with the 21 points put up by the Jags in the second half, including touchdown passes from Moorehead to DeShawn Perkins and Martavius Redmond, he was pleased with the overall effort of his team.

“I don’t think these guys know they aren’t as good as previous Bingham teams,” said Peck. “They just think they’re the next great Bingham squad.”

West Jordan is still wondering.