

# Miners grab memorable road win

Johnston's game-winning field goal among a long list of team heroes

By Bruce Smith  
Matchup

There was the long bus ride through the Rocky Mountains, the luxurious meal at (Bingham alum) Rob Eggett's estate and more.

But it was Chayden Johnston's 27-yard field goal in overtime that secured Bingham's best memory – the swarm of Bingham players on the giant "V" in the center of Valor Christian's field immediately after the Miners' 24-21 win.

"We all know what he's capable of," said Bingham QB Kyle Gearig. "He has one of the strongest legs the program has ever seen. I was just praying for him."

Johnston took care of his job, sending the Bingham sideline into a frenzy not seen since the Miners won their first state title in 2006.

"I just swung through," Johnston said. "Just did what I know how to do."

After the celebration, coach Dave Peck put the win in perspective.

"Our kids just compete," Peck said. "Even when we got behind, it was never like, 'This game is over.' It was, 'Let's get back in it.' What a great win."

The win improved Bingham's record to 3-0 and marked the Miners' first out-of-state victory since 1936 (White Pine – Ely, Nev.). It also was the second straight year the Miners narrowly defeated Colorado's defending 5A state champion in a non-region game. Bingham won 21-20 the previous year at home.

"We felt like playing in these type of games last year," Valor coach Rod Sherman said. "It really



**TOP:** Daniel Langi takes down Valor's QB.

**RIGHT:** Coaches Dave Peck and John Lambourne watch the action from the sideline.

propelled us on our state championship run because this molds character."

Besides Johnston's kick, another key play came a few minutes early when Bingham freshman Langi Tuifua burst through Valor Christian's line and blocked the potential game-winning field goal in the final seconds of regulation. The 20-yard attempt by Paul



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# BINGHAM FOOTBALL: Miners 24, Valor Christian 21 (OT)



## GAME SUMMARY

Bingham	7	7	7	0	3	- 24
Valor	14	0	0	7	0	- 21

- VC – Marcus Wilson recovered blocked punt in end zone (Paul Grizzle kick)
- VC – Christian McCaffrey 98 run (Grizzle kick)
- B – Landen Measom 68 pass from Kyle Gearig (Chayden Johnston kick)
- B – Dalton Schultz 15 pass from Gearig (Johnston kick)
- B – Nick Heninger recovered fumble in end zone (Johnston kick)
- VC – McCaffrey 5 pass from A.J. Cecil (Grizzle kick)
- B – FG Johnston 27

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

- RUSHING:** Bing – Nichols 16-67, Gearig 14-68, Nate Naylor 7-49, Sione Finefeuiaki 1-4, Kade Jensen 1-(-12). Valor – McCaffrey 25-216, Gabriel Watkins 4-16, Cecil 9-7, Wilson 1-5.
- PASSING:** Bing – Gearig 12-26-2-190 yards, Michael Green 1-1-0-12 yards. Valor – Cecil 8-15-2-74 yards.
- RECEIVING:** Bing – Measom 3-101, Schultz 4-51, Nichols 4-37, Naylor 1-16, Chase Messervy 1-(-3). Valor – Wilson 4-36, McCaffrey 2-10, Trey Hanley 1-16, Brandon O'Donnell 1-12.

**TOP LEFT: Landen Measom** hauls in a pass.

**TOP RIGHT: Spencer Tauteoli** grabs a Valor ball carrier.

**MIDDLE LEFT: Daniel Langi** fights off a block.

**MIDDLE: Kyle Gearig** gets blocking help from Riley Culley.

## Valor recap

night, forced a fumble in the end zone on the next play. Nick Heninger recovered to give the Miners a 21-14 lead.

McCaffrey, the defending 5A MVP from Colorado last year, caught a 10-yard TD grab in the fourth quarter knotted the score 21-21. He also had a 98-yard touchdown run earlier in the game, but the game eventually came to the long arms of Tuifua, the hands of Bingham long snapper Brigham Tuatagaloa and the foot of Johnston.

And that made the long trip home a lot more fun than the bus ride there.

*Continued from previous page*

Grizzle seemed all but certain, but forced the extra session instead.

Bingham took advantage of the momentum and the defense hurled Valor Christian backward on its first possession of overtime and the Eagles missed a long field goal. Bingham didn't waste any time going for the win.

The victory helped erase a series of big plays by both teams.

Valor stonewalled a Bingham 4th-and-1 attempt on the Valor 1-yard line late in the third quarter. The Bingham front line, gassed from chasing Eagle star Christian McCaffrey around the field all