

Miners relish made-for-TV blowout

Nichols, defense
have big games as
Bingham rolls to 5-0

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

Playing on Granger High School's beautiful new turf field – and in front of a locally televised audience - the Bingham Miners didn't leave much to chance Thursday night.

The Miners had their blood flowing on the crisp autumn evening. They rallied to the ball. They forced turnovers. They scored touchdowns and impressed all the viewers watching on KJZZ-TV.

Scott Nichols rushed for 111 yards and scored three times, but it was a team effort that put the clamps on struggling Granger 42-0 in a non-region game.

It was the first matchup between these two west-side schools since 2004.

All of Bingham's points were scored before halftime. The remainder of the contest was played with a running clock.

"We know that if we play our A-game, it shows it on the scoreboard," said Bingham's Vaka Vehikite.

Bingham scored six touchdowns in the first half, all it needed to maintain its unblemished record.

Junior quarterback Kyle Gearig threw for three scores



halftime. He wasn't needed to close out the first half because the Miners were in full control. Backups Kade Jensen and Jordan Evans played the remainder of the game.

"It was nice to get up by a lot, get that clock going and get a little rest," Gearig said.

Nichols exposed the Granger defense on the first play from scrimmage, when he took a toss sweep from Gearig, waited for timely blockers and sprinted down the west-side



TOP: Aaron Marsh tries to get a way from a Granger defender.
BOTTOM: Kyle Gearig awaits the snap in front of Austin Bunkall.

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LEFT: Nick Heninger gets past a lineman and pressures the Granger quarterback.

RIGHT: Chayden Johnston kicks off early in the game.

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sideline untouched for a 66-yard touchdown.

Nichols added two more touchdowns in the first half — a 1-yard walk in and a reception from Gearig, who found the Bingham running back on a slant for a 45-yard touchdown.

Gearig threw a 38-yard touchdown pass to junior running back Aaron Marsh later in the second quarter, which was followed by a 30-yard score to junior tight end Zach Burge.

It was all the Miners needed. The defense recorded the first of two straight shutouts this season. The Lancers were limited to 121 yards. Bingham had a balanced offensive attack and finished with 406 yards. The best part for Bingham, though, was that the starters were left to stand on the sidelines as their backups finished their 5-0 start.

"We want to play our best game, whether that's for a quarter, a half, three quarters or whatever," coach Dave Peck said. "It doesn't matter what records are or anything like that. For us, to get prepared to go for a region title, we couldn't have this be an off night. I was happy with the way we came out."

GAME SUMMARY

Bingham	21	21	0	0	- 42
Granger	0	0	0	0	- 0

- B – Scott Nichols 66 run (Chayden Johnston kick)
- B – Nate Naylor 26 run (Johnston kick)
- B – Nichols 1 run (Johnston kick)
- B – Nichols 45 pass from Scott Gearig (Johnston kick)
- B – Aaron Marsh 38 pass from Gearig (Johnston kick)
- B – Zach Burge 30 pass from Gearig (Johnston kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Bingham – Nichols 8-111, Jared Tupou 14-29, Naylor 2-28, Rus Conder 6-19, Sione Finefeuiaki 1-17, Kade Jensen 2-8, Gearig 3-8, Ben Boelter 1-5, Landen Measom 1-4, Walter Auvaa 1-3, Jacob Afalava 1-(-3). Granger – Alex Tuinei 22-46, Suli Tukumoeatu 2-9, Moana Finau 9-8, Zack Ashman 3-6.

PASSING: Bingham – Gearig 9-14-1-160 yards, Jordan Evans 1-2-0-17 yards, Jensen 0-1-0-0 yards. Granger – Ashman 9-17-1-52 yards.

RECEIVING: Bingham – Nichols 1-45, Marsh 2-39, Measom 2-27, Burge 1-30, 7, Michael Green 1-17, Josh Gurr 1-14, Colton Livingston 1-4, Dalton Schultz 1-1. Granger – Sione Tautaina 4-23, Tukumoeatu 3-25, Anthony Amiker 1-15, Alex Tuinei 1-(-3).