

# Bingham's big-gamebreaker

Nichols overshadows Brighton's players and leads Miners to exciting home win

By Bruce Smith  
Matchup

Despite a pair of college coaches on the sideline taking a look at Brighton's Osa Masina, it was the Bingham running game that drew attention Friday night.

Senior Scott Nichols rushed for 214 yards and three touchdowns as the Miners rallied to beat Brighton 38-27 and get past a big potential roadblock on their route to the Region 3 title.

"It's like when we played at Valor Christian against Christian McCaffrey," Nichols said of the highly rated running back from Colorado. "I'm the underdog going into the game. I just try my hardest and try to prove everybody wrong."

Up next is another big task – Jordan.

"I love this group in that they just battle; they keep coming and coming, and we wear people out," said Bingham coach Dave Peck.

Bingham trailed 14-7 after the first quarter, but scored 17 unanswered points before halftime and extended its lead to 31-14 by scoring on its opening drive of the third quarter.

Nichols did most of the damage. He had the best game of his career, despite playing just one snap in the fourth quarter.

"We showed we have some kids who can go move some people, too," said Peck. "Scott Nichols is as good a tailback as we've had. He's an absolute stud."

While Nichols was virtually unstoppable, the defense did its best to prevent Masina from having a big game. Masina rushed for 253 yards and four touchdowns last week against Alta, but Bingham's defense swarmed him all game, limiting him to just 69 yards and one score.

"We knew Osa was their key guy. We kept trying to get in the backfield and send blitzes and make sure that he wasn't getting as many yards as he was against Alta," said Bingham defensive back



**Scott Nichols** takes advantage of Bingham's big blockers and rambles downfield for a big gain.

For a Bingham team that rallied from a 14-0 deficit at Valor Christian, Colo., there was no panic. Sky Manu.

Ironically enough, the Bengals did most of their damage through the air, with Robbie Hutchins throwing for 174 yards and two scores. His first touchdown pass to Isaiah Kaufusi tied the game at 7-7 with 5:51 remaining in the first quarter. A few plays later, Kaufusi scooped up a fumble and raced 65 yards to put Brighton ahead 14-7.

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“That game over at Valor helped us more than anyone knows,” Peck said of the Miners’ overtime win last month. “To go into that atmosphere set us up for these kinds of games.

“Things happen sometimes, especially when you have a lot of good athletes on the field. Hats off to them,” he added.

Bingham cut the lead to 14-10 on a Chayden Johnston 44-yard field goal midway through the second quarter, and then took a 17-14 lead with 2:29 remaining in the half on a Nichols’ 3-yard score.

The dagger, however, came when Bingham recovered the ensuing squib kick near the sideline, and Kyle Gearig connected with Dalton Schultz on a 23-yard score to increase the lead to 24-14 at the half.

The Miners increased the lead to 31-14 on a Nate Naylor 3-yard touchdown on the opening drive of the third quarter.

*“That game over at Valor helped us more than anyone knows. To go into that atmosphere set us up for these kinds of games.”*

**- Coach Dave Peck**

**TOP LEFT:** Daniel Langi pressures the Brighton quarterback.

**TOP RIGHT:** Kade Cloward and Sky Manu celebrate a big play.

**MIDDLE RIGHT:** Coach Dave Peck joins KSL’s Rod Zundel and the Bingham cheerleaders on TV before the game.

## GAME SUMMARY

|                 |           |           |          |          |             |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| <b>Brighton</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>0</b>  | <b>7</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>- 27</b> |
| <b>Bingham</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>17</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>- 38</b> |

- Bing** – Scott Nichols 5 run (Chayden Johnston kick)
- Bright** – Isaiah Kaufusi 27 pass from Robbie Hutchins (Hunter Dall kick)
- Bright** – Kaufusi 65 fumble return (Dall kick)
- Bing** – FG Johnston 44
- Bing** – Nichols 3 run (Johnston kick)
- Bing** – Dalton Schultz 23 pass from Kyle Gearig (Johnston kick)
- Bing** – Nate Naylor 3 run (Johnston kick)
- Bright** – Osa Masina 2 run (Dall kick)
- Bing** – Nichols 3 run (Johnston kick)
- Bright** – Kaufusi 21 pass from Hutchins (kick failed)

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING:** Bingham – Nichols 22-214, Aaron Marsh 13-66, Gearig 9-33, Naylor 5-22, Sione Finefeuiaki 3-11, Jordan Evans 3-0.

**PASSING:** Bingham – Gearig 6-11-0-75 yards.

**RECEIVING:** Bingham – Schultz 3-51, Naylor 1-15, Nichols 1-6, Josh Gurr 1-3.