

Nichols takes over

Bingham back scores five touchdowns to lift Bingham to big Region 3 win

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

Stanford football coach David Shaw was the obvious fixture on the sidelines. On the field, however, the star Friday night was easily Bingham running back Scott Nichols.

Nichols put on a show for Shaw and the rest of the crowd, finishing with 363 all-purpose yards and five touchdowns, to catapult Bingham past Jordan 48-27 to move the Miners closer to the Region 3 crown.

"I know there's a lot of guys getting a lot of press and everything. Scott Nichols is the best tailback in the state," said Bingham coach Dave Peck. "He's the hardest working kid I've coached in 30 years. I'll go on record and say that, and anybody that I've ever coached can call me up. This kid is unbelievable and you never hear him say a word. He leads by example."

Nichols' night began with a 90-yard kickoff return to pull Bingham even at 7-7 after Jordan quarterback Austin Kafentzis had orchestrated a nine-play, 80-yard drive on the opening series.

"That was awesome," Nichols said. "We definitely needed it because they went down and I just answered right back thanks to the kickoff return team."

Nichols later add three touchdown runs of 13, 1 and 53 yards and an additional score on a 19-yard pass from quarterback Kyle Gearig. He shook two would-be tacklers on a short out route to give Bingham a 41-21 lead with 6:02 remaining.

"It puts us on top, so that's a good feeling," said Nichols of the win, which gave Bingham sole possession of first place in the region. "Everyone is shooting for us now."

Following the opening series, Bingham (8-0) tailored its defense in counterattack mode against the quick-hit Jordan (4-4) offense. Originally, the Miners brought a variety of blitzes without success.



TOP: Scott Nichols breaks another tackle.

RIGHT: Sione Finefeuiaki

After that, though, they sagged off and forced Kafentzis, who didn't have the services of star receivers Mason Krueger and Kosta Sergakis, into working downfield. The Miners ultimately secured four inter-



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BINGHAM FOOTBALL: Miners 48, Jordan 27



TOP LEFT: Jordan Evans gets a punt away.

TOP RIGHT: Toki Mahonrai closes in on the Jordan quarterback.

MIDDLE LEFT: Austin Bunkall blocks ahead of Scott Nichols.

MIDDLE: Aaron Amaama, Riley Culley, Kyle Gearig, Daniel Langi, XXXXXX and others celebrate.

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ceptions – two by Vaka Vehikite - to increase their season total to 18.

“We felt coming in that we could get to (Kafentzis). We tried to be aggressive and play straight man-to-man,” Peck said. “Their O-line was a lot better than I anticipated. We could hardly get to him and it put our guys on an island.

“We had to adjust and play more bend but don’t break,” Peck continued. “We don’t like that style, but they took us out of what we normally try and do. At that point it was about managing the score and making it tough for them to go 80 yards.”

The Miners extended their winning streak to four straight over the ‘Diggers, and 9 out of the last 11 after a two-year hiatus interrupted the series.

“I’ve been saying it all year — I love this group of kids,” Peck said. “Our best players are our best leaders. When you get guys standing up in front of the team saying, ‘You guys keep up with me and we’re going to go win a state championship,’ and they back it up. That’s when it’s pretty fun being their coach.”

GAME SUMMARY

| | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Bingham | 7 | 13 | 14 | 14 | - | 48 |
| Jordan | 14 | 0 | 7 | 6 | - | 27 |

- J - Austin Kafentzis 12 run (Jeffrey Timothy kick)
- B - Scott Nichols 90 kickoff return (Chayden Johnston kick)
- J - Tayler Johnston 5 pass from Kafentzis (Timothy kick)
- B - Nichols 13 run (kick failed)
- B - Nichols 1 run (Johnston kick)
- B - Nichols 57 run (Johnston kick)
- B - Kyle Gearig 14 run (Johnston kick)
- J - Kafentzis 8 run (Timothy kick)
- B - Nichols 19 pass from Gearig (Johnston kick)
- B - Aaron Marsh 3 run (Johnston kick)
- J - Kafentzis 6 run (kick failed)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Bingham - Nichols 23-201, Gearig 9-87, Marsh 7-28, Nate Naylor 1-1, Jordan Evans 1-0. Jordan - Kafentzis 27-161, Clay Moss 14-84.

PASSING: Bingham - Gearig 8-16-0-72 yards, Nichols 0-1-0-0 yards. Jordan - Kafentzis 16-31-4-221 yards.

RECEIVING: Bingham - Landen Measom 2-24, Colton Livingston 2-17, Dalton Schultz 2-12, Nichols 1-19, Naylor 1-0. Jordan - Johnson 5-103, Nathan Mower 3-62, Cooper Clark 3-22, A.J. Townsend 3-20, Moss 2-4.