

# Miners dismantle an old nemesis

Bingham gets off to another quick start and heads to 5A finals

By Trevor Phibbs  
Deseret News

It took less than 11 minutes to decide the 5A state semifinal game between Bingham and Lone Peak Friday night at Rice-Eccles Stadium.

Bingham worked quickly and efficiently in its dismantling 48-13 win over an outmatched Lone Peak squad. Before the end of the first quarter, the Miners were already up three scores.

"It had to do with our history with Lone Peak," said Bingham quarterback Kyle Gearig. "We lost to them in the state championship two years ago. We came in with good motivation. ... We just came in ready to play."

The No. 1 Miners raced down the field after forcing Lone Peak into a three-and-out scenario to open the game. Bingham's nine-play drive ended with an 8-yard TD run by Scott Nichols. Less than three minutes later, Nichols again crossed the plane following a Knights' botched snap.

Shortly thereafter, Gearig scored his first of three touchdowns after mowing down a defender at the pylon. Bingham had a 21-0 lead and Lone Peak had minus-10 yards of total offense in the first quarter.



Kyle Gearig breaks into the open en route to a one of his three rushing touchdowns.

"That was one of the best games that I've ever coached as far as our kids playing with an edge," Peck said. "I challenged them to see how good we can be. The saying on our shirt says, 'Good is not good enough.' We won a couple state championships in a row and the last two years we've come up short. It started in offseason, 'Are you guys tired of just being good? Why don't we dare to be great?'"

Gearig finished 12 of 18 for 174 passing yards with one touchdown and one pick while adding 100 rushing yards on only six carries, including a 79-yard touchdown run to give the Miners a 35-6 lead.

"I've been saying it the whole year: This is his first year he's really played high school quarterback," Peck said of Gearig. "Phenomenal athlete

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# BINGHAM FOOTBALL: Miners 48, Lone Peak 13



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and he gets it. He understands the game. By next year, you're going to see a bunch of colleges wanting that kid."

The Miners dominated in virtually every statistical category: first downs (23-12), rushing yards (290-69), passing yards (197-143), total offense (487-212) and total plays (65-45).

Peck was especially satisfied with the lopsided possession time (32:29-15:31), which kept Lone Peak's explosive quarterback, Baron Gajkowski, on the sideline.

"Our No. 1 priority was to control Baron," explained Peck. "He's a heck of a player and we knew that if we could just contain him a little bit that our chances would go way up. We felt our best defense would be our offense. If our offense could score some points that was going to help."

**TOP LEFT: Austin Bunkall** looks for someone to block.

**TOP RIGHT: Scott Nichols** breaks loose again.

**MIDDLE LEFT: Chase Messervy** breaks up a pass to a Lone Peak receiver.

**MIDDLE CENTER: Daniel Gasio** leaps high to try to deflect a pass.

**MIDDLE RIGHT: Brennan Kossin** has the inside track on a Lone Peak pass.

## GAME SUMMARY

Lone Peak	0	6	0	7	- 13
Bingham	21	14	7	6	- 48

- B – Scott Nichols 8 run (Chayden Johnston kick)
- B – Nichols 7 run (Johnston kick)
- B – Kyle Gearig 7 run (Johnston kick)
- B – Gearig 2 run (kick failed)
- LP – Dylan Murdock 35 pass from Baron Gajkowski (kick failed)
- B – Gearig 79 run (Johnston kick)
- B – Nate Naylor 12 pass from Gearig (Johnston kick)
- B – Aaron Marsh 16 run (kick failed)
- LP – Gajkowski 7 run (Braxton Berry kick)

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING:** LP – Gajkowski 18-85, Erik Ostrom 4-7, Tyler Hirsch 1-4. Bingham – Nichols 16-97, Gearig 6-89, Marsh 5-33, Kade Jensen 7-25, Jared Tupou 2-23, Sione Finefeuiaki 2-19, Ben Boelter 2-11, Vaka Vehikite 1-7, Landen Measom 1(-)-5).  
**PASSING:** LP – Gajkowski 10-21-2-143 yards. Bingham – Gearig 12-18-1-174 yards, Jensen 1-2-0-23 yards.  
**RECEIVING:** LP – Ostrom 4-43, Murdock 3-72, Zach Buhrey 2-10, Tyler Randall 1-18. Bingham – Measom 3-57, Naylor 3-54, Dalton Schultz 3-47, Josh Gurr 2-16, Colton Livingston 1-10, Finefeuiaki 1-3.