

Second-half spurt lifts Miners

Bingham takes advantage of turnovers to bury Idaho opponent in opener

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

Coach Dave Peck expected the Bingham Miners to take a little time before they would hit their stride.

Playing the lone high-school football in Utah Saturday night, the Miners took two quarters.

Junior quarterback Kyle Gearig fumbled the snap on Bingham's first possession, but that was all but forgotten after the Miners buried the Bonneville Bees 42-7 in both teams' non-region opener.

"I really liked the way we settled in and just started playing," said Peck. "You never know what's going to happen in Game One. It's sort of like Christmas ... you open the present and hope it's good. We wore on them a bit in the second half and it made the difference."

The game seemed closer than the score indicated, but Bingham forced six turnovers from the visitors from Idaho Falls, Idaho. Most came in the second half, when the Miners extended a 14-7 halftime lead and dominated the rest of the game that was televised nationally on ESPNU.

The key play came early in the third quarter when Gearig



Dominieke Jones leaps high to prevent the Bonneville receiver from catching the ball.

made the biggest play in his first start, connecting with tight end Dalton Schultz on a 62-yard touchdown pass.

A Bonneville fumble on the Bees' next possession and a block punt after that led to a couple of quick Bingham scores.

Less than five minutes into the second half, that 14-7 advantage had turned into 35-7.

"Turnovers played a huge difference," Peck said. "I told our guys at the half that I

Continued on next page

BINGHAM FOOTBALL: Miners 42, Bonneville (Idaho) 7



Continued from previous page

didn't like the way we played; that we were a lot better team than what we played."

The Miners, of course, came in with high expectations. Gearig's miscue took place at the Bingham 40, but Bonneville put the home team on its heels when tailback Lincoln Clayton ran untouched on a 12-yard draw play.

The lead, however, lasted less than four minutes. Senior Scott Nichols, who was Bingham's top rusher with 65 yards on 10 carries, scored on a 1-yard run to tie the game.

The game stayed pretty even, but Chase Messervy's interception ended a long Bonneville drive and Bingham took advantage. The Miners had a confidence-building long drive that ended when Gearig threw his first touchdown pass, a 15-yarder to Landon Measom.

That score ended up being more important that it seemed as the third quarter showed. Mohanrai Toki and Nick Heninger helped by being on the receiving end of Bonneville's turnovers.

"We played a real good half of football, and to come in this place and score first, nicely done," said Bonneville coach Fred Armstrong. "We learned some things today. We came in and in the first half we had them on the ropes."

Bonneville's lone excitement of the second half came when Elijah Williams returned a kickoff 81 yards, but Bingham recovered a fumble shortly afterward.

By the fourth quarter, both teams had emptied their benches and the clock was allowed to run, allowing scores of young men to strut their stuff on national television.

LEFT: Dalton Schultz coasts across the goal line for a second-half touchdown.

TOP MIDDLE: ESPN camera crew.

TOP MIDDLE: Scott Nichols escapes a defender.

RIGHT: Mahonrai Toki hammers the QB.

GAME SUMMARY

Bonneville	7	0	0	0	-	7
Bingham	7	7	21	7	-	42

Bonn – Lincoln Clayton 12 run (Kaden Johnson kick)

Bing – Scott Nichols 1 run (Chayden Johnston kick)

Bing – Landon Measom 15 pass from Kyle Gearig (Johnston kick)

Bing – Dalton Schultz 62 pass from Gearig (Johnston kick)

Bing – Gearig 1 run (Johnston kick)

Bing – Sione Finefeuiaki 15 run (Johnston kick)

Bing – Jared Tupou 2 run (Johnston kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Bonn – Clayton 9-47, Trevor McDonald 2-9, Tanner Smith 10-3, Tyson Craig 2-5, Brad Smith 2-(-1), A.J. Nakashima 3-(-2). Bing – Nichols 10-65, Tupou 8-34, Finefeuiaki 1-15, Aaron Marsh 4-15, Kade Jensen 3-7, Gearig 4-3, Nate Naylor 2-2.

PASSING: Bonn – T. Smith 8-20-2-101 yards, B. Smith 2-2-0-8 yards, Bing – Gearig 11-26-0-194 yards, Michael Green 1-2-0-6 yards, Jensen 0-1-0-0 yards.

RECEIVING: Bonn – Not available. Bing – Measom 6-86, Schultz 2-70, Naylor 2-25, Nichols 1-13, Sabin Rimal 1-6.