

Bengals finish on top at homecoming

McCloyn's late score lifts Brighton to 5-0 with region play on tap

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

A homecoming crowd and an exciting victory. Five games into the season, the Brighton football team had its fellow students and fans thinking special thoughts.

Friday night, the Bengals kept their undefeated streak going. Brady McCloyn rushed for a career-high 158 yards and scored the go-ahead touchdown with less than four minutes left as Brighton defeated Pleasant Grove in a non-region game, 17-16.

The win was also the 300th in Brighton football history.

"The last time we went 5-0 we went to state, so we've got to keep playing hard," McCloyn told the Salt Lake Tribune after the game. "We faced adversity and overcame it. It's just Bengal pride."

Brighton faced adversity more than once against the Vikings, who returned a blocked field goal for a touchdown and went ahead 16-10 on Michael Anderson's 6-yard pass to Skyler Munson to cap a 90-yard drive early in the fourth quarter.

Still, the Bengals went back to their vaunted rushing attack to take control. With Uaea Masina out with an injury



Tyson Reid has a step on a Pleasant Grove defender and tries to take advantage of it.

and Osa Masina being keyed on by the Vikings' defense, McCloyn and fullback Josh Thompson gained yardage in large chunks.

Following the go-ahead touchdown, Kekoa Kane sealed the win with a key interception.

"I hope our kids aren't too comfortable," said Brighton coach Ryan Bullett. "We had a lot of penalties we hadn't made the first four weeks. We didn't do anything pretty, but I'm

excited for the kids. Winning band-aids a lot of stuff and covers up a lot of stuff, but it's kind of contagious. The kids are coming with a worker's mentality every day."

The teams traded field goals in the first quarter. Pleasant Grove's Trevor Ward connected first from 29 yards, and Brighton's Hunter Dall

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BRIGHTON FOOTBALL: Bengals 17, Pleasant Grove 16



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converted from 35 yards.

The Bengals opened a 10-3 lead when Osa Masina, operating out of the "wildcat" formation, threw his only pass of the game and it went for a 15-yard score to Tyson Reid.

The Vikings closed within a point when Cody Scott returned a blocked field goal 90 yards. However, Brighton blocked the extra point to preserve a 10-9 lead.

Osa Masina's big punt return set up Brighton at Pleasant Grove's 43-yard line with the Bengals trailing 16-10 in the fourth quarter. McCloyn found the end zone four plays later.

"If I have a lot of passion, it gets my teammates fired up and ready," said McCloyn, who celebrated jubilantly with his teammates.

Uaea Masina was sidelined again with a knee injury, and Bullett said he didn't want to bring him back to quickly since it was a non-region game. McCloyn handled the bulk of the carries. His speed, combined with Thompson's bruising power, helped pave the way for the Bengals. Thompson finished with 63 yards on 11 carries.

"We had some kids miss tonight, but I'm excited for the other kids getting an opportunity," Bullett said. "I'm excited for our school and our community."

Parker Owen also had an interception for Brighton, which opens region play against Alta next week.

"I'd rather take 5-0 in region than 5-0 in preseason," Bullett said.

TOP LEFT: Kekoa Kane rambles downfield for a 32-yard gain on his lone carry of the night.

TOP RIGHT: Ethan Finlinson pressures the quarterback while **Lowell Groberg** tries to deflect the pass.

GAME SUMMARY

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Pleasant Grove | 3 | 6 | 0 | 7 | - 16 |
| Brighton | 3 | 7 | 0 | 7 | - 17 |

PG – FG Trevor Ward 22

B – FG Hunter Dall 26

B – Tyson Reid 15 pass from Osa Masina (Dall kick)

PG – Cody Scott 90 blocked field goal return (kick blocked)

PG – Skyler Munson 7 pass from Michael Anderson (Ward kick)

B – Brady McCloyn 31 run (Dall kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: PG – T.J. Wind 19-78, Munson 5-20, Levi Loy 1-6, Michael Anderson 6-(-3). Brighton – McCloyn 21-158, Josh Thompson 10-58, Kekoa Kane 1-32, Osa Masina 5-24.

PASSING: PG – Anderson 9-17-2-94 yards. Brighton – Jensen 4-7-0-40 yards, Osa Masina 1-1-0-15 yards.

RECEIVING: PG – Loy 5-48, Munson 2-24, Dallin Hatch 2-22. Brighton – Reid 3-53, Chandler Gee 2-2.