

One good quarter isn't enough

Bengals' 12-minute effort isn't quite enough and lose again to Alta

By Bruce Smith
For the Deseret News

The Brighton Bengals probably played their best quarter of the season. Unfortunately, there are four in a football game.

The Bengals rallied from an early 14-0 deficit to quiet the Alta crowd, but they couldn't keep it up for more than 12 minutes and ended up falling 48-31 Friday in a Region 3 game.

The key was the third quarter. With the exception of an 82-yard kickoff return by Uaea Masina, there was little excitement for the Bengals.

"We had a three-and-out and they made a lot of big plays," said Brighton coach Ryan Bullett. "We didn't match their intensity ... I don't know why. They came out and controlled the ball."

Alta was coming off a tough loss to neighborhood rival Jordan, the Hawks chose to celebrate homecoming against the Bengals – another rival. With national power Don Bosco (N.J.) coming to town next week, Alta couldn't afford a letdown.

The Hawks got two touchdown returns from their special teams and quarterback Chipper Lucero had one of his best nights as the Hawks improved to 5-1 overall and 1-1



Drew Jensen breaks loose for a long gain early in Brighton's game at Alta.

in region and beat the Bengals for the fourth straight time.

"Losing to Jordan was hard. It got us pumped up for this game," said Alta wide receiver Harrison Handley, who caught eight passes for 85 yards, including a 23-yard scoring pass from Lucero that put the game away.

"Huge win," said Alta coach Bob Stephens. "Special teams was phenomenal. It was a

huge boost for us."

While many fans were finding their seats, Alta opened the game with a 99-yard kickoff return by Taylor Ogden. A few minutes later, Mack Richards returned a punt 92 yards for another score and it appeared a rout was on.

Instead, Brighton came back.

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BRIGHTON FOOTBALL: Alta 48, Bengals 31



“We didn’t match their intensity. I don’t know why.”

- Coach Ryan Bullett

ABOVE: Brighton fans showed up in full force, almost outnumbering the home crowd.

RIGHT: Bracken El-Bakri signals to a nearby official after J.J. Mahe recovered an Alta fumble.



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Freshman quarterback Drew Jensen threw two touchdown passes and Osa Masina surprised the defense by throwing a 32-yarder to Tyson Reid.

The Bengals took a 24-21 lead into halftime and seemed to have plenty of momentum, but everything quickly changed when the teams returned to the field.

Lucero was a big reason. The junior signal caller, who had just 45 passing yards at halftime, hit 8-of-9 throws in the next 12 minutes as Alta’s offense roared down the field. Lucero had five touchdown throws on the night. The biggest was probably an 85-yarder to Ammon Barker that helped Alta take the lead for good.

“He was just ‘on,’” said Handley, the 6-foot-6 University of Utah recruit. “We all made mistakes in the first half, but we got it rolling after that.”

Lucero finished with 278 yards passing. After a tough first half, he completed 12 of 13 throws after intermission. That also helped Alta eventually establish its running game, and the Hawks held on to the ball.

“That’s what we wanted to do,” Stephens said. “We wanted to keep their offense off the field. They’re dangerous. We knew that.”

The Bengals’ normally vaunted running attack never materialized. Jensen had 87 yards on 17 carries, but the Hawks corralled Osa Masina and Brighton’s coaching staff didn’t feel like Uaea Masina was healthy enough yet to take too many hits, so he played only defense and special teams.

“We have some injuries, but we’ll be back,” said Bullett. “We weren’t as aggressive as we needed to be and we need to work on that.”

GAME SUMMARY

Brighton	0	24	7	0	- 31
Alta	14	7	20	7	- 48

- A - Taylor Ogden 99 kickoff return (Tanner Valerio kick)
- A - Mack Richards 92 punt return (Valerio kick)
- B - Isaiah Kaufusi 42 pass from Drew Jensen (kick failed)
- B - Tyson Reid 32 pass from Osa Masina (Osa Masina run)
- B - FG Dall 32
- B - Isaiah Kaufusi 25 pass from Drew Jensen (Dall kick)
- A - Mack Richards 9 pass from Chipper Lucero (Valerio kick)
- A - Carter Heslop 20 pass from Lucero (Valerio kick)
- B - Uaea Masina 82 kickoff return (Dall kick)
- A - Ammon Barker 85 pass from Lucero (kick failed)
- A - Mack Richards 10 pass from Lucero (Valerio kick)
- A - Harrison Handley 23 pass from Lucero (Valerio kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

	Brighton	Alta
First downs	12	17
Rushes-yards	37-149	24-122
Passing yards	173	278
Passes	10-19-0	17-24-1
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties	3-25	7-54
Punts	1-36.0	3-33.0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Brighton – Jensen 17-87, Brady McCloyen 10-44, Osa Masina 6-14, Josh Thompson 3-1, Isaiah Kaufusi 1-3. Alta – Trevor Hill 6-42, Jake Forsling 5-32, Kendal Reese 3-25, Lucero 3-8, Dylan Rivas 3-4, Max Broman 2-7, Richards 2-4.

PASSING: Brighton – Jensen 8-17-0-123 yards, Osa Masina 2-2-0-50 yards. Alta – Lucero 17-24-1-278 yards.

RECEIVING: Kaufusi 3-82, Chandler Gee 3-42, Reid 1-32, Thompson 1-14. Alta – Handley 8-85, Richards 4-49, Barker 3-111, Forsling 1-30, Carter Heslop 1-20.