

Quick start isn't enough

For one half at least, Bengals pressure eventual state champs

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

For one half, the Brighton Bengals were on top. They had done the impossible and slowed what would eventually be Utah's best football team.

Led by great ball control, key runs by Osa Masina and a defense that frustrated Jordan quarterback Austin Kafentzis, the Bengals shocked the home team. Unfortunately, it didn't last long enough and the Beetdiggers rallied for a 42-14.

"I don't know what's going on with the slow starts. It's driving us crazy," said Jordan coach Eric Kjar. "The kids put it together and did what they were supposed to do."

Jordan did it without a passing game, which mustered only 63 yards. However, Kafentzis and running back Dezmond Carter combined for almost 400 rushing yards. The Diggers held the ball for most of the second half, finally relaxed their fans and clinched first place in Region 3.

"They were the toughest team we played," said Brighton coach Ryan Bullett after the season. "We had a tough region and they were able to dominate."

Masina gave Brighton its



Defensive back **Nate Benner** helped Brighton hold Jordan to a season low passing total.

best memories. After a scoreless first quarter, he crossed the goal line twice before Jordan could get moving. His second touchdown, and a two-point conversion afterward, gave Brighton a 14-0 lead.

Despite their talent, the Beetdiggers had dug themselves into holes in three games prior, but emerged with victories each time. On this night, they scored 42 unanswered points, including three TDs in just over three minutes in the third quarter.

Kafentzis, the eventual

state MVP, led the Beetdiggers' effort. For the only time all season, he didn't throw a touchdown pass. However, he had 204 rushing yards and three touchdowns. His play was complemented by Carter and Jerome Bettis Vaituu, who followed a stout offensive line.

"I can always trust our line. They've put in the work, and we're showing it now," Kafentzis said. "Dez Carter stepped up. It was just a

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BRIGHTON FOOTBALL: Jordan 42, Bengals 14



TOP LEFT: Brad Wallace and Logan Lund come out onto the field.

TOP MIDDLE: Chandler Gee applies some defense.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Brighton fans show their support.

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"They were the toughest team we played. We were in a tough region and they were able to dominate."

- Coach Ryan Bullett



GAME SUMMARY

Brighton	0	14	0	0	-	14
Jordan	0	7	20	15	-	42

- B – Osa Masina 1 run (kick failed)
- B – Osa Masina 15 run (Osa Masina run)
- J – Austin Kafentzis 2 run (Jeffrey Timothy kick)
- J – Dezmond Carter 11 run (Timothy kick)
- J – Kafentzis 2 run (Timothy kick)
- J – Kafentzis 74 run (run failed)
- J – Jerome Bettis Vaituu 2 run (Vaituu run)
- J – Vaituu 4 run (Timothy kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Brighton – Osa Masina 14-117, Brady McCloy 7-26, Drew Jensen 6-17, Uaea Masina 5-16, Kekoa Kane 1-2, Josh Thompson 1-1. Jordan – Kafentzis 24-203, Carter 22-189, Vaituu 5-24.

PASSING: Brighton – Jensen 3-7-1-15 yards, Osa Masina 2-2-0-34 yards. Jordan – Kafentzis 4-10-1-63 yards.

RECEIVING: Brighton – Alec McArdle 1-33, McCloy 2-9, Osa Masina 1-8, Parker Owen 1-(-1). Jordan – Nick West 1-29, Mason Krueger 2-24, Adreil Jefferson 1-10.



phenomenal game."

The offensive line did have its issues. At first, they had trouble handling Brighton. Several penalties hurt Jordan in the first half.

A shotgun snap sailed over Kafentzis' head, turning a 1st-and-goal from the 4-yard line into a 2nd-and-goal from the 30. After forcing a turnover on downs, Brighton had a seven-minute drive capped by Masina's first touchdown.

On the ensuing kickoff, southerly winds and rain blew confused Jordan's returners, who were unable to get near the ball and the Bengals recovered. Masina quickly made it 14-0.

The Beetdiggers finally got on the board with a Kafentzis touchdown just before halftime.

Brighton got another drive going, but Hunter Dall's long field-goal attempt was blocked by Vaituu. Despite the play, the most notable fact was that the

Bengals' running game had kept Jordan's offense off the field, and limited the Diggers to just three first-half possessions.

The second half was a different story. Tyler Swan had a long punt return that set up a 10-yard touchdown run by Carter. Then, Brighton had trouble with the wind, and fumbled the kickoff. Jordan's Christian Shaver recovered and Kafentzis scored on the next play, giving the Diggers two touchdowns in 15 seconds and a 21-14 lead.

Kafentzis had a 74-yard touchdown run minutes later and Jordan capitalized on the momentum. Even with the failed PAT, Jordan was in control and never let up. However, in the end, the Diggers knew they were in a game.

Brighton fell to 6-3 overall, but just 1-3 in region. The loss put the Bengals in a must-win game the following week at Copper Hills.