

Bengals take control of their fate

Victory moves Brighton into a third-place tie with playoffs on the line

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

All week long in practice, it was very clear that the Brighton Bengals had no other choice but to win their regular-season finale.

Regardless of injuries and all their previous victories, the season came down to one game. The Bengals got an early wake-up call from the Copper Hills Grizzlies, but Osa Masina took over at quarterback, rushing for three touchdowns as Brighton won 49-13.

“It all came down to this,” said Brighton coach Ryan Bullett. “We knew we could do it, but we had to go out and prove it.”

With the victory, Brighton moved into a three-way tie for third place in Region 3. The Bengals joined Cottonwood and West Jordan five days later in a play-in game – with two of the teams earning the right to advance.

Copper Hills came into the game well motivated. The Grizzlies were celebrating their “Senior Night.” They knew they had no chance of making the playoffs and they also had their stadium decorated in pink to promote breast cancer awareness.

Tyler Smith got Copper



Brady McCloyn finds running room with the help of a block by **Parker Owen**.

Hills on the scoreboard first with a 3-yard run. After that, however, Brighton got on a roll even though leading rushing Uaea Masina and quarterback Drew Jensen were on the bench.

Osa Masina scored on an 89-yard touchdown run – Brighton’s longest gain of the season – to tie the game and added a 32-yarder minutes later. By halftime, Masina had three TDs and the Bengals had rolled

to a 42-7 lead.

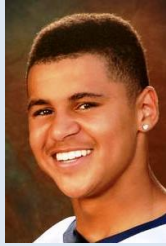
Brady McCloyn added 114 yards on the ground. The Bengals totaled 286 rushing yards and averaged over eight yards per carry. Masina, in fact, only attempted three passes the whole game.

Isaiah Kaufusi was the star on defense. The junior defensive back had two

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Seniors



McCloy



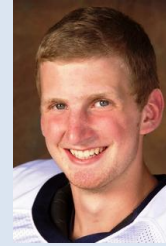
Rogers



Benner



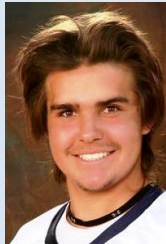
Reid



Young



Wallace



Militello



Kehl



Masina



Whipple



Giles



Owen



Tongaonevai



Kane



Smedley



Douros



Mahe



Finlinson



Reid



Groberg



Menna



Vance



Allen



Sleight

GAME SUMMARY

Brighton	14	28	7	0	- 49
Copper Hills	7	0	6	0	- 13

CH - Tyler Smith 3 run (Troy Humphreys kick)

B - Osa Masina 89 run (Hunter Dall kick)

B - Masina 32 run (Dall kick)

B - Masina 10 run (Dall kick)

B - Kekoa Kane 1 run (Dall kick)

B - Isaiah Kaufusi 2 run (Dall kick)

B - Brady McCloy 21 run (Dall kick)

CH - Smith 12 run (run failed)

B - McCloy 51 run (Dall kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Brighton - Masina 13-126, McCloy 10-114, Kane 6-18, Kaufusi 6-15, Connor Hansen 3-10, Josh Thompson 1-4. CH - Smith 11-50, Sio Mafi 8-46, Christian Reese 2-25, Anthony Hall 1-21, Brady Perry 1-1, John Penisini 2-0.

PASSING: Brighton - Masina 1-3-0-9 yards. CH - Reese 4-7-2-39 yards.

RECEIVING: Brighton - McCloy 1-9. CH - Smith 3-24, Dustin Soter 1-0.

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interceptions. Kekoa Kane led the team in tackles with five.

Afterward, the Bengals were happy but also businesslike, knowing that they were forced into a play-in game for the third time in four years and having won none of them.

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TOP LEFT: Hunter Dall warms up prior to the game.

MIDDLE LEFT: Osa Masina had his best outing in one of the most important games of the season.