

JV squad builds for the future

Coach says season was a learning experience and should pay off

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

The Brighton junior varsity football team won just two games this season, but coach Jeff Kaufusi wasn't disappointed.

Kaufusi felt the JV team had a huge impact on the success of the varsity, and was willing to adjust the squad. It was much like putting a puzzle together, and should pay big dividends in the near future.

"It was a learning experience for all the kids," he said. "They were able to develop skill-wise and learn more about the game of football."

The JVs opened the season with a 19-7 victory over Fremont. Later in the year, the Bengals defeated Cottonwood 6-0. Kaufusi said the strength of the team was the defense which, except for Alta, kept Brighton in every game.

"They did a pretty good job," he said. "Our offense at times could not convert. We put them in some pretty good situations and it was tough for them."

The defense had many standouts, including Cody Barton, Sage Nelson, Ryker Kimball, Jon Edmonds and Bracken El-Bakri. Kai Harmer, Max Linder and Brendon Brady



Cody Barton hustles downfield on a kickoff during a varsity game vs. Fremont.

were the top players on the line and Kaufusi expected them to be standouts on the varsity next year.

Despite its 2-7 record, Kaufusi said that, with just a few differences, Brighton could have won every game. Too many turnovers, however, plagued the team and much of the season was spent trying to reduce them.

Besides having to deal with sending a lot of underclassmen to the varsity,

2012 results (2-7, 1-4)

Date	Opponent	W/L	Score
Aug. 23	at Fremont	W	19-7
Aug. 30	SKY VIEW	L	8-21
Sept. 6	AMERICAN FORK	L	7-28
Sept. 13	at Pleasant Grove	L	0-28
Sept. 20	ALTA*	L	14-42
Sept. 27	at Cottonwood*	W	6-0
Oct. 4	at West Jordan*	L	7-23
Oct. 11	JORDAN*	L	10-19
Oct. 16	COPPER HILLS*	L	14-27

* - Region 3 games. Home games in CAPS

there were various injuries that affected the team. Quarterback

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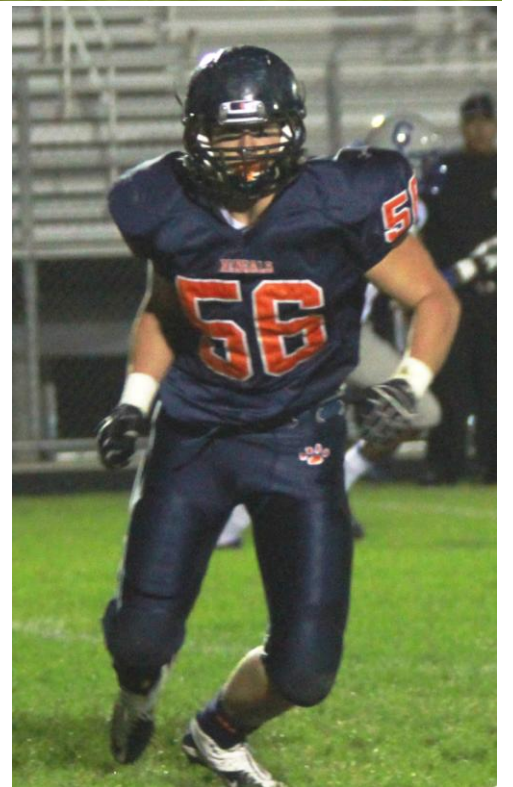
BRIGHTON FOOTBALL: JV season recap



TOP: JV coach Jeff Kaufusi

TOP RIGHT: Cameron Dees tackles the quarterback.

LOWER RIGHT: Bracken El-Bakri



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Quarterback was one position that was particularly affected. During the season, Adam Carmona, Zach Connor, Logan Lund and Hunter Albert each had playing time under center.

Connor Hansen, Bill Patch and Cameron Dees were the Bengals' primary running backs. Barton was one of the few real anchors on the team at wide receiver and in the defensive backfield. He showed a lot of potential during the season and also stayed injury-free.

"Most of our top JV players were also playing varsity," Kaufusi said. "That left the JV group a little slim on athleticism, but that was offset by all the time they got on the varsity. We had a lot of freshmen and sophomores move up to our team."