

A great start

Bengals second-half rally in season opener leads to a rousing win and a lot of momentum



By Bruce Smith
Matchup

The Brighton Bengals learned a little bit about themselves Friday night.

Moments after the Bengals rallied to defeat nemesis Davis 21-14 on the Darts' new turf field, Uaea Masina shed his helmet, revealing a steady stream of blood trickling down the bridge of his nose.

Masina may not have known it, but the look he had had an effect on a lot of others.

"We ran it down their throats," left tackle Jackson Barton, a University of Utah commit, told the *Salt Lake Tribune*. "We were challenged by our coaching staff in the locker room at halftime, and we wanted to come out and make a statement. We really felt we were the better team."

These teams played just one half last year – due to a power outage at Brighton's field that forced the game to end in a 0-0 tie. This win came the hard way, with the second half a testament to smash-mouth football.

Trailing 14-7 at intermission, Brighton scored 15 unanswered points by simply lining up and running it down the middle.

The statistics backed up



Osa Masina drags a Davis defender line while scoring Brighton's first touchdown.

Barton's comments. Brighton rushed for 276 total yards, most coming after halftime. Masina, also a Utah commit, dominated in the second half. In all, the senior running back rushed for 129 yards and a touchdown on 21 attempts. His younger brother, Osa Masina, was a great alternative. He gained 74 yards on the ground on only

seven touches.

"When Uaea was on, everybody raised their game," said Brighton coach Ryan Bullett.

Led by Barton, the Bengals offensive line played so effectively that passing the ball was rarely needed. On each play, the Brighton backs found

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BRIGHTON FOOTBALL: Bengals 21, Davis 14



ABOVE: Tyson Alldridge shares a hug with assistant coach XXXXXX shortly after the Bengals' victory.



RIGHT: Freshmen quarterback Drew Jensen crosses the goal line, thanks to a block Josh Menna and several other teammates.

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big holes to run through. As if to be reminded that Troy Hinds no longer wears a Davis uniform, the Darts were smallish on the defensive line, and they eventually wore down.

"We wanted to win this by running the ball," Uaea Masina said. "We didn't play well in the first half and we definitely wanted to come out and redeem ourselves. We just needed to regroup at halftime and then come out and play."

Drew Jensen started at quarterback. In his first start, the freshmen completed 8 of 11 passes for 102 yards and kept several drives going with his accuracy. Chandler Gee was the top receiver with five catches.

Alec McArdle, a junior cornerback, made perhaps the biggest play for the defense, which gave up just one touchdown (the other was on a kickoff return). McArdle secured an interception with four minutes remaining to give Brighton the ball. From there, the Bengals were able to run out the clock.

GAME SUMMARY

Brighton	6	0	15	0	- 21
Davis	14	0	0	0	- 14

- D** – Gage Cook 3 run (Andrew Fuller kick)
- B** – Osa Masina 5 run (kick failed)
- D** – Trevor Leavitt 98 kickoff return (Fuller kick)
- B** – Drew Jensen 2 run (Chandler Gee pass from Jensen)
- B** – Uaea Masina 28 run (Hunter Dall kick)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Brighton – Uaea Masina 21-129, Osa Masina 7-74, Josh Thompson 11-47, Jensen 4-32, Hunter Smedley 1-13, Brady McCloyn 2-3. Davis – Cook 17-34, Kyle Godderidge 4-24, Ashton Reinhold 6-18, Parker Rose 2-12.

PASSING: Brighton – Jensen 8-11-0-102 yards. Davis – Cook 8-14-1-71 yards.

RECEIVING: Brighton – Chandler Gee 5-57, Tyson Reid 3-28, Uaea Masina 2-16, Isaiah Kaufusi 1-13. Davis – Davis Seaman 3-42, Colby Child 4-24, Trevor Leavitt 1-5.