

A year later, Bengals finish off Davis

Brighton doesn't allow second-half comeback and rolls to semifinals

By James Edward
Deseret News

There was no collapse this time around for Brighton's girls soccer team.

A year after squandering a two-goal lead in a 5A quarterfinal loss to Davis, the Bengals were extra focused for Thursday's quarterfinal rematch and poured it on throughout on their way to a convincing 4-0 victory over Davis.

"We talked about it at practice the day before. We just had more drive because we didn't want a repeat of last year, especially 'cause it's the quarterfinals again," said Brighton midfielder Stephanie Ringwood.

David had high hopes for duplicating last year's result after upsetting Region 4 champion Riverton earlier in the week, but those hopes never materialized.

Brighton senior Nadia Gomes scored in the sixth minute and then again in the 13th minute to push Brighton out to a comfortable early lead.

She scored from distance on her first goal, and her second was the result of a quality cross from Jocelyn Loomis.

Brighton continued to dictate the pace with the 2-0 lead, but Davis certainly had



Sydney Myers grimaces after heading the ball downfield.

chances to claw back into the game. In the 19th minute, Davis' Mikayla Colohan headed a corner kick on frame, but Brighton defender Katelynn Mortensen was standing in perfect position by the post to clear it off the line.

In the 35th minute Davis had another close-range scoring opportunity blocked by a perfectly placed Brighton defender.

Just before halftime, Ringwood effectively iced the game on a wonderful piece of individual skill. The senior used several step-over moves to free herself from Davis' backline and then uncorked a 15-yard shot into the back of the net for the 3-0 lead.

Despite having a three-

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Jocelyn Loomis takes control of the ball and looks for a teammate to pass the ball.

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goal advantage at the half, the message from coach Mark Stoker was a simple one.

"We drove home the point, 'It's a 0-0 match after halftime. It's critical to come out and play 40 minutes like it's 0-0,'" said Stoker, whose team lost to Davis 3-2 in last year's quarterfinals despite a seemingly comfortable 2-0 halftime lead.

Unlike a year ago though, Brighton did a great job protecting its lead with crisp, one-two passing that had Davis on its heels for long stretches. Defensively, the Bengals were calm whenever the Darts threatened as they held on for the clean sheet.

Just a few minutes before the final whistle, Sydney Myers finished the game off in style, slipping a shot just inside the post for the 4-0 lead.

No replay for the Bengals

By Christopher Kamrani
Salt Lake Tribune:

Brighton wouldn't let it happen again. One year after owning a 2-0 halftime lead against Davis in the Class 5A girls' state quarterfinals only to see it evaporate into a 3-2 loss, this year's Bengals ensured it wouldn't be Groundhog Day.

At halftime up 3-0 over the Darts, Brighton coach Mark Stoker told his team to play the second half like it was a 0-0 match.

"It was critical for us to come out and play 40 minutes like it's 0-0," he said.

The Bengals did and dispatched Davis 4-0 in Thursday afternoon's 5A state quarter-final victory. Brighton inched closer to Rio Tinto Stadium for the state title game.

Senior forward Nadia Gomes opened the scoring with two quick goals in the first 13 minutes. She hit the crossbar twice in a 10-minute span in the first half, barely missing out on a four-goal first half.

"I thought that we would have it today," she said.

The Bengals did. Senior Steph Ringwood dribbled through traffic atop the Davis box and eventually tucked away a goal later in the first half.

"We just had more drive because we didn't want a repeat of last year," Ringwood said. "The difference is because we put the goals in quick instead of having it 1-0 at half."

Brighton dominated possession in the second half and preserved a shutout thanks to a few point-blank saves by keeper Carly Olsen.

With time ticking away and with a guaranteed spot in the 5A semifinals, senior midfielder Sydney Myers added the final exclamation with her left-footed goal.

"Our whole senior class is basically our starting lineup," Ringwood said. "We just have more chemistry than last year."

Coach Stoker's comments:

We were fortunate to host Davis in the second round after they defeated No. 1 seed Riverton. This was a never-racking game coming into it because Davis came from a 2-0 deficit in our playoff match last year to knock us out.

The girls came out determined and we jumped all over them in the first half and, once again, we were able to stay healthy and rested.