

# Diggers' rally ends Grizz upset hopes

First half goes  
Copper Hills' way,  
but can't keep up

By Bruce Smith  
Matchup

The final score indicated Jordan's 41-10 victory over Copper Hills Friday was a rout, but everyone involved had a different story.

Sure, freshman QB Austin Kafentzis threw for 227 yards and two touchdowns and ran for two more scores, but the Grizzlies' effort was noticeable. Jordan had one of the state's best offenses, but for a while, it couldn't find its groove.

"We played them tough, and the kids were motivated," said Copper Hills coach Kai Kapele. "They had all kinds of talent, but we were right with them. This was one of those games where a couple of players here and there could have made a big difference."

"I wasn't happy with the way we started," said Jordan coach Eric Kjar. "We didn't take much initiative or fortitude. We didn't try to do much. I give credit to Copper Hills. They were taking care of business and we weren't."

The Grizzlies ran wild in the first half, as Henry Kemp, Tommy Ligman and Aaron Khan took turns following their horses (offensive lineman) and combined for 153 yards.



**Christian Reese** takes the snap from center **Skyler Gord** during first-half action, when the Grizzlies had the ball most of the time.

"Our O-Line was creating big holes, and we just kept moving the chains," said Ligman. "We wanted to keep their offense off the field. When they get going, they're hard to stop."

Aaron Price's 37-yard field goal was the only score in

the first quarter and, by halftime, Jordan had rallied but it was still only 14-3.

Copper Hills' running room, however, was nearly non-existent in the second half. The Grizzlies added just 40

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# COPPER HILLS FOOTBALL: Jordan 41, Grizzlies 10



## GAME SUMMARY

Copper Hills	3	0	0	7	- 10
Jordan	0	14	7	20	- 41

CH – FG Aaron Price 37  
 J – Austin Kafentzis 4 run (Taylor Loomis kick)  
 J – Jerome Bettis-Vaituu 35 pass from Kafentzis (Loomis kick)  
 J – Loomis 25 interception return (Loomis kick)  
 J – Loomis 25 pass from Kafentzis (kick failed)  
 J – Kafentzis 10 run (Loomis kick)  
 J – Baron Gajkowski 8 run (Loomis kick)  
 CH – Tommy Ligman 13 pass from Christian Reese (Price kick)

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

**RUSHING:** Jordan – Kafentzis 9-88, Austin Grant 4-67, Desmond Carter 3-34, Gajkowski 2-15, Loomis 1-11, Taylor Dean 1-(-2). CH – Henry Kemp 18-89, Ligman 19-80, Aaron Khan 10-27, Reese 6-18.

**PASSING:** Jordan – Kafentzis 14-25-1-243 yards. CH – Reese 2-6-1-26 yards.

**RECEIVING:** Jordan – Grant 5-99, Mason Gajkowski 3-57, Dean 2-40, Loomis 3-27, Vaituu 1-35. CH – Bryson Allen 1-67, Zach Smith 1-26, Ligman 1-13, Tyson Thompson 1-6.

**TOP LEFT:** Dalas Howells sprints forward to make a tackle.

**TOP MIDDLE:** Aaron Price gets his foot into the kickoff.

**MIDDLE RIGHT:** The Copper Hills crowd.



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yards to their amount. Their passing game, which had also clicked early, was just as ineffective, as four players combined to complete just four of 20 passes.

"We were messing up on our assignments in the first half," Jordan linebacker Hayden Babka said. "We were not mentally in it. We can out-physical any team; it's definitely all mental. We should have done better in the first half."

When its defense began taking over, Jordan's offense also got started.

Kafentzis, an all-state candidate, overcame a 3-for-9 passing start, and finally got Jordan moving in the final two minutes of the half. He had a 4-yard touchdown and connected with Austin Grant from 25 yards out for another score.

The Diggers then kept the momentum charging. Taylor Loomis returned an interception 25 yards for a touchdown and also hauled in a

scoring pass on offense. Soon, it was 27-3.

"Our kids need to learn to play from the get-go," Kjar said. "I don't think we know how to start a game. That might affect us later on, down the stretch especially. We've got to learn to be more efficient on offense and play harder on defense."

A pair of big plays gave Copper Hills some life in the fourth quarter, but the Grizzlies were never able to fully take advantage of it.

Kafentzis accounted for Jordan's entire yardage total in the first half, rushing for 59 yards and throwing for 139 more. He finished with 88 yards on the ground. Grant also had a stellar all-around game, running for 72 yards and catching five passes for 95 yards.

"We've just got to be humble, play with a chip on our shoulder, go out there and perform," said Babka, who spearheaded the defensive effort.