

Bingham digs deep into playbook to get past Alta

By Andrew Aragon
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With a powerful running game and stout defense, the Bingham Miners rarely need to leave their comfort zone.

But in their 5A state semifinal game against rival Alta on Friday afternoon, the Miners pulled out all the stops. They ran a fake punt, used their Wildcat quarterback to throw a touchdown pass and changed their defensive scheme.

Leaving their comfort zone paid off, as the Miners beat the Hawks 28-19 at Rice-Eccles Stadium to enter the championship zone. Bingham will play Davis in the 5A title game on Friday at 2:30 p.m.

"Sometimes you got to get out of your comfort zone," said Bingham coach **Dave Peck**. "You know you have to pull out some stuff. We didn't come here to keep it close. We came here to win a game and hopefully get to the state championship game next week. We were going to pull out everything we had to and we did."

Bingham, down 7-0, made its first un-Bingham-like move early in the second quarter. On a fourth-and-5 from their own 44, the Miners called a fake punt. Upback



Ryker Hall (No. 6) and Brady Measom celebrate a Bingham touchdown.

Bridger Peck took a direct snap and rumbled 33 yards.

Three plays later, another uncharacteristic call put the Miners on the scoreboard. Wildcat quarterback **Stefan Cantwell** sold like he was running after taking a snap, and tossed an 11-yard touchdown pass to **Ryker Hall**.

"We got out of our comfort zone on both sides of the ball because you have to, to beat a great team like Alta," Peck said. "We thought with

the fake punt we had something there. Fortunately, the kids executed it very well and I thought it was a big play to start the game."

The Miners took charge from there. Bingham forced Alta quarterback Jordan Brown to fumble after a 6-yard run and **Travis McRae** recovered it. Bingham only made a field goal off of the turnover, but the damage was done.

"That (fumble recovery)

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BINGHAM FOOTBALL: Miners 28, Alta 19



Bridger Peck



Harvey Langi tries to stiff arm an Alta defender.



Dalton Fackrell goes for the ball.

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really got the momentum on our side, got us rolling," said Bingham defensive back and part-time receiver **Braden Anderson**. "It got us really fired up. We love to get the ball on defense."

Outside of a defensive scheme that differed from Bingham's usual personality, the Miners got back to their bread-and-butter. They pounded the ball behind their offensive line of **Jordan Hicks, Brad Laursen, Bradyn Heap, Tuni Kanuch and Brandon Taukeiaho. Harvey Langi** rushed for 78 yards and broke a 34-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter. Cantwell added 60 yards on nine carries.

On a 30-yard TD pass from **Ty Hannay** to Langi on a screen play in the second quarter, Heap had two pancake blocks.

"You have to give all the

credit to the offensive line," Anderson said. "They did the job."

So did Bingham's defensive line. The Miners, who usually attack and blitz, mostly sat back in a zone, attempting to keep everything in front of them while relying on their front three to shut down the run. **Seni Fauonoku, Kesni Tausinga and Moses Kaumatule** did just that, holding the Hawks to 52 rushing yards on 25 carries.

It was a convincing victory for the Miners, who led 28-13 until the Hawks scored on a pass play with 17 seconds remaining.

"That's the best Bingham team we've played since I've been at Alta," said Hawks coach Les Hamilton. "They have a great offense, great O-line. Defensively, they're fast and strong."

GAME SUMMARY

Bingham	0	15	7	6	- 28
Alta	7	0	0	12	- 19

- A – Tyron Morris 40 pass from Jordan Brown (Vance Bingham kick)
- B – Ryker Hall 11 pass from Stefan Cantwell (kick failed)
- B – FG Braeden Loveless 38
- B – Harvey Langi 30 pass from Ty Hannay (kick failed)
- B – Cantwell 9 run (Loveless kick)
- A – Zach Liston 9 pass from Brown (kick failed)
- B – Langi 34 run (kick failed)
- B – Morris 15 pass from Brown (run failed)

TEAM STATISTICS

	Bing	Alta
First downs	15	21
Rushes-yards	33-181	35-50
Passing yards	146	343
Passes	7-16-0	18-34-0
Fumbles-lost	2-1	1-1
Penalties	7-53	3-33
Punts	4-43.0	4-34.0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

BINGHAM: Langi 14-78, Cantwell 9-60, Peck 1-33, Hannay 5-6, Vakapuna 2-3, Lambert 1-3.
ALTA: Brown 17-23, Eyring 12-21, Finnerty 6-6.

PASSING

BINGHAM: Hannay 5-12-0-94, Cantwell 2-4-0-52.
ALTA: Brown 18-34-0-343.

RECEIVING

BINGHAM: Hall 3-58, Copier 1-41, Langi 1-30, Anderson 1-11, Fackrell 1-6.
ALTA: Morris 6-163, Liston 5-95, Mayne 5-59, Richards 1-18, Eyring 1-8.