

Robinson Is Brighton's Best Highlight Film

By Bruce Smith
MatchupUT.com

One month after the 2009 Brighton football season finished, the rectangle sign identifying **Stephen Robinson** as being a member of the Bengals was still placed proudly in his family's front yard.

Every Brighton player had one. It was dark blue, orange and white and had each player's uniform number in the middle.

Like every other Brighton player, Robinson didn't want the season to be over. It was among the highlights of his life to date. He was disappointed at how it ended, but everything before that was just grand.

"We worked hard," Robinson said. "It was the best time of my life."

Robinson joined many other Brighton players by preparing for the 2009 season almost immediately after the 2008 year ended. He spent countless hours in the school weight room, and it paid off immediately.

The Bengals started the 2009 schedule with shutout wins over Davis,



Stephen Robinson hauls in a pass in front of an Alta defender. Robinson was Brighton's leading big-play receiver in the 2009 season.

Taylorville and Hunter, and later added an emotional victory over rival Alta. Playing football was fun, and Robinson had a big role in Brighton's success.

Brighton's speedy receiver finished as the team's third-leading receiver, with 16 catches. But he stood out because of what he did with the ball. Robinson averaged an amazing 32.3

yards per reception and scored five touchdowns.

He also returned a kickoff for a touchdown, and was a dangerous return man on punts. On defense, he intercepted three passes and returned one for a score.

If anyone did more with the football, in the times he had it, it was Robinson.

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“We had a lot of big plays,” he said. “As a team, we just had the potential.”

It started against Davis, when teammate **Darren Later** got Brighton on the scoreboard first with a 35-yard run. It ended against Jordan, when **Zane Smith** caught a 65-yard touchdown pass against **Jace Felix**.

In-between, though, there was a lot of Robinson. Against Alta, he scored on a 57-yard touchdown pass from **Derrick Newell** that gave Brighton a 14-3 lead. In the season finale, he started the game with a 90-yard kickoff return for a score.

Robinson was disappointed Brighton couldn't beat Jordan, but the 21-10 win over Alta was a game the Bengals had to win and it was full of highlights.

“The crowd was crazy in the Alta game,” he said. “We played out of our minds in that game. When it was over, nobody wanted to leave.”

Beating Alta was the pinnacle of the season.

Earlier, a 23-7 loss to Lone Peak had ended the Bengals' three-game winning streak and brought them back to reality.



Stephen Robinson looks for an opening while taking the kickoff back for a touchdown in the Bengals' game against Jordan.

“It (the team's success) got into our heads a bit,” Robinson said. “They (the Knights) were really pumped up and it was their homecoming and it was a really weird atmosphere. Their fans were really nice and cheered for us when we came onto the field. I wish it had been more normal.”

The Bengals battled reality in the state's toughest region for the rest of the season, and earned more wins, including a 35-12 beating of American Fork when Robinson scored on two long pass plays on offense, and returned an interception for a touchdown.

Still, it wasn't what he will remember most.

“Beating Alta and shutting out Davis is what I will remember most,” he said. “Alta is our rival, and we held them to their lowest points (10) in about four years. Davis really showed what we could do as a team.”