

'Hail Mary' answered for Cottonwood

Colts steal a victory on game's final play

By Brandon Carter
Deseret News

The Cottonwood Colts and their fans will be talking about this one for years to come.

It was second down, with a 38-35 deficit, and nine seconds on the clock. The play was called "Menu 9," and the premise was simple: send four receivers deep, chuck the ball to one and pray he catches it.

Cottonwood quarterback Cooper Bateman took the snap and rolled right. Nearly 50 yards downfield, he spotted a miraculous sight: a Colts receiver had gotten behind West Jordan's "prevent" defense.

"We just knew we had to make something happen," Bateman said afterward, amidst a jubilant postgame celebration, in which the students rushed the field. "We sent four guys deep, and the line gave me enough time to make a play."

Bateman's pass carried over 55 yards in the air until finally meeting the open hands of Sione Moli, who sprinted to the end zone as time ran out. It was a 78-yard Hail Mary, and Cottonwood pulled off one of the most improbable victories of the year, 41-38.

"I thought they were going to try and cover me, but

Perhaps we should call it a "Hail Moli"

Sione Moli's 78-yard touchdown reception was his only catch of the game and the longest Cottonwood reception so far this season. Afterward, he was mobbed by his teammates and students who came out of the stands.



TOP: Sione Moli is congratulated by a Cottonwood teammate as an official signals the winning touchdown.



BOTTOM: Moli shows his exuberance as he races toward the goal line ahead of West Jordan's Landon McMorris.

they didn't," Moli said. "I just wanted to try and do something to make a name for myself."

As joyous as the team was after the game, just 22 seconds earlier it was West Jordan that was celebrating as the Jaguars had a stellar late drive of their own.

Down 35-31 with 1:22 remaining, quarterback Michael Moorehead completed a 35-

yard pass to Michael Duckworth, then salvaged a four-yard completion out of what looked to be a sack.

With 22 seconds left, Moorehead found Martavius Redmond covered in the corner of the end zone, but the senior used his body to shield the Cottonwood defender for a

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COTTONWOOD FOOTBALL: Colts 41, West Jordan 38



LEFT: Hunter Hanks scored in his first game back from injury. RIGHT: Cooper Bateman fires a pass.

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stunning touchdown and a 38-35 lead to seemingly seal the game.

The last two touchdowns were just the grand finale to a fourth quarter full of theatrics by each team. Tied 21-21 heading into the final stage, the game had previously been marred by penalties and defensive pressure. Cottonwood had battled back from a 21-7 deficit behind two touchdown passes by Bateman and another on the ground from running back Gabe Hosea.

The Jaguars jumped ahead 24-21 on Alex Giordani's 26-yard field goal. The Colts then took four minutes to methodically drive the ball, mostly behind Bateman's running ability. Hosea would punch the ball in from the one for his second touchdown of the night and a 28-24 lead.

West Jordan quickly went back to work behind Moorehead, who finished with 417 yards passing on the night. His completions to Cameron Peacock and DeShawn Perkins brought the ball to the Cottonwood 32. Peacock then carried the ball five consecutive times, eventually scoring from two yards away for a 31-28 margin.

Hosea then broke a 34-yard run to bring the Colts within striking distance, then finished the drive with a 10-yard touchdown and a 35-31 lead with 1:22 left in the game. At the final tally, the two teams combined for four touchdowns in less than three minutes to end the game.

Bateman finished with 345 yards passing and three touchdowns, perhaps none as important or memorable as the last one that left his hand.

GAME SUMMARY

West Jordan	0	14	7	17	- 38
Cottonwood	0	7	14	20	- 41

- C – Hunter Hanks 15 pass from Cooper Bateman (Jose Perez kick)
- WJ – Cameron Peacock 45 run (Alex Giordani kick)
- WJ – Martavius Redmond 4 pass from Michael Moorehead (Giordani kick)
- WJ – Redmond 26 pass from Moorehead (Giordani kick)
- C – Gabe Hosea 12 run (Perez kick)
- C – Inoke Lotulelei 53 pass from Bateman (Perez kick)
- WJ – FG Giordani 26
- C – Hosea 1 run (Perez kick)
- WJ – Peacock 2 run (Giordani kick)
- C – Hosea 10 run (Perez kick)
- WJ – Redmond 11 pass from Moorehead (Giordani kick)
- C – Sione Moli 78 pass from Bateman (no kick attempted)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: WJ – Peacock 23-186, Deshawn Perkins 2-(-2), Moorehead 9-(-8). Cotton – Hosea 21-190, Bateman 12-66, Moli 1-22.

PASSING: WJ – Moorehead 26-42-0-417 yards. Cotton – Bateman 23-41-1-345 yards.

RECEIVING: WJ – Redmond 9-158, Perkins 5-91, Michael Duckworth 4-74, Kade Maddox 1-37, Peacock 5-36, Cody Paraso 2-1. Cotton – Lotulelei 12-168, Moli 1-78, Hanks 6-61, Alex Walton 3-25, Hosea 1-21.