

Chiefs save best for last against Brighton, 31-10

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and a couple long gainers enabled Canton to ward off pesky Brighton 31-10 in a Thursday night KLAA varsity football matchup.

Both teams were tied 10-10 entering the fourth quarter of the game, played on the junior varsity grass field at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

But barely a minute after the Bulldogs evened the score on a 29-yard field goal, 5-5 senior running back Malcolm Hollingsworth came up huge. He broke free for a 77-yard touchdown to give the Chiefs a 17-10 advantage.

“And then our defense held,” Canton head coach Tim Baechler said. “They had a bad snap and we recovered on the four-yard line.”

Making the fumble recovery was Canton senior Benjamin Slater.

A play later, junior tailback Joe Grinage punched it in from one-yard out, opening up a 24-10 lead.

Brighton tried to rally, and drove the ball 77 yards down near Canton's goal line with under three minutes to play.

“They had a great drive and we had a great goal-line stand,” Baechler said. “They had it first and goal ... and we stopped them on four downs. And then we drove it out.”

Grinage, who augmented Hollingsworth (13 rushes, 173 yards, two TDs) and James Hall (3-48), sealed the victory with a 56-yard touchdown run with 59 seconds on the clock. Baechler credited the defense, specifically seniors Matt Suppelsa (14 tackles, 11 solos) and Matt McKoy (12 tackles, nine solo).

On the offensive side of things, the coach singled out Hollingsworth and Grinage.

It was Hollingsworth who got the Chiefs (1-1) off to a 7-0 start just 2:26 into the game. He scored on a 26-yard run to close out an 80-yard march.

Chipping in with a 39-yard field goal with 2:51 to play in the half was Canton senior kicker Connor Shennan, to make it 10-0.

Brighton (1-1) made it 10-7 at halftime, scoring on a one-yard run with just 12 seconds left before intermission.

Next up for Canton is a Sept. 7 home game against Wayne Memorial.

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