

What To Watch For: Brighton-Canton football

Brighton

Record: 4-3 overall, 3-2 KLAA Black (T-2nd place)

Points Scored: 25.7 ppg

Points allowed: 16.0 ppg

Players to Watch: Brighton's front seven

If only it was as easy as saying, 'Stop the run.' Opposing teams game plan all week to stop Canton's unique style of rushing the football. Then, at the end of the week, the Chiefs still have a way of making those teams look silly. Brighton certainly doesn't plan on being made to look silly Friday night. The defensive line and linebackers need to have their best games of the season against a team that just pinned 393 rushing yards and five rushing touchdowns on Howell.

Canton

Record: 6-1 overall, 5-0 KLAA Black (1st place)

Points Scored: 44.1 ppg

Points Allowed: 17.6 ppg

Players to Watch: Pick a running back

Seriously, pick a running back on Canton's team, any running back, It could be Steven Walker, Colin Troup, Nick Polydoros — they all have taken turns going off. Last week vs. Howell, it was Polydoros racing for 280 yards on 19 carries. Against Stevenson, Walker had 155 yards on 19 carries. And in the Salem game, Troup had two TDs and 155 yards on 25 attempts. This Chiefs team has an incredible amount of weapons at their disposal, especially in the backfield.

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Brighton's playoff lives could be on the line

Now, more than likely, if Brighton gets to five wins, the strength of schedule should be enough to put it in the playoffs. But five wins is no guarantee if the Bulldogs fall to Canton on Friday night, as a date with one of the KLAA Gold's top teams — right now Livonia Churchill, Grand Blanc or Livonia

Franklin — is slated for the regular-season finale. So this game is absolutely pivotal to the Dogs, who would ideally like to cement their spot by winning out and getting to six victories.

Key to the Game

Canton's run offense vs. Brighton's run defense

No surprise here. The Bulldogs certainly aren't expected to eliminate the Chiefs' rushing attack entirely, but keeping them from the ridiculous 250-plus yard rushing total is the most crucial aspect of the game. The good news for the 'Dogs is that they're allowing just 110 per game on the ground this season, and have held their best two opponents, Belleville and Livonia Stevenson, to 65 and 60 yards, respectively