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Prep boys' basketball: Brighton's Brandon Miller making his own way

Region 3 » Junior guard Brandon emerges from older brother Corbin's shadow.

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At A Glance

Name of the game

- Brighton's Brandon Miller has emerged as Brighton's top scorer — the same role his brother Corbin played for the Bengals the past two seasons.
- Miller is shooting nearly 50 percent from the field and has 39 of the Bengals' 78 3-pointers entering the week.
- Miller heads a talented junior class that should make Brighton a serious contender for a state title next season.

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BY JON CLIFFORD
Special to The Tribune

First published Jan 24 2012 04:51PM
Updated Jan 25, 2012 04:33PM

In his first two seasons at Brighton, Brandon Miller was known as Corbin Miller's brother.

It could be worse than to be known as the younger brother of one of the state's top players, who now plays at Harvard.

But Brandon has quickly made a name for himself this season and it might not be long before it's Corbin who will be known as Brandon's brother.

The junior guard enters the week third in Class 5A in scoring at more than 21 points per game, and his scoring efficiency is a key ingredient in the Bengals' success.

"Last year he didn't get as many shots," said teammate Travis Devashrayee, the Bengals' second-leading scorer. "But this year, he is our main shooter. He gets his shots, and gets good looks."

With his older brother playing 2,500 miles away, Miller has stepped in as the Bengals' top scoring threat. After averaging just 8 points as a sophomore, Miller is shooting nearly 50 percent from the field and has half of the Bengals' 3-point baskets.

It's a role Miller was born to play. His father, Brett, played for Brighton and BYU-Hawaii. Younger brother Brock is a freshman guard for the Bengals, and oldest brother Larry played at Jordan.

Brett coaches the Salt Lake Metro summer league team for which Miller and Devashrayee play.

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"It's been basketball my whole life," said Miller, who started playing in SuperLeague at age 7. "Golf is sort of my fallback sport."

Miller, whose career-best was 18 points as a sophomore, already has topped 20

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points nine times this season, including 29 points against Layton in December.

He entered the week with 39 of the Bengals' 78 3-pointers this season, shooting at a 45 percent clip.

Coach Jeff Gardner, in his first year at Brighton, said the family support and competition has helped Miller's game.

"I know they spent a lot of time in the summer working out together — lifting, running and playing," Gardner said. "And I think Corbin's been a really good mentor for Brandon. I know the two of them really have helped each other improve."

Miller heads a strong class of Bengal juniors that includes Devashrayee and Bryce Callahan. The three are among Brighton's top four scorers this season and are generating some excitement about what the 2012-13 season might bring.

"We definitely have a lot of younger talent," Devashrayee said. "The freshmen are really good, and sophomores and our junior class. We have a lot of talent coming up and it makes it exciting."

Added Miller: "Our chemistry this year is great. We have a lot of juniors and we're all really close. I think sky's the limit, and I think it's going to be really fun."

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