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SPEARS WIN BATTLE OF THE UNDEFEATED

The Niagara Landmark Window Spears Junior Varsity squad pushed their record to 4-0 Saturday with a convincing 34-14 win over the previously undefeated Brantford Bisons. Meanwhile, the Varsity Spears also kept their perfect season alive, easily handling the senior Bisons 31-11. Both Ontario Varsity Football League games were played before a crowd of about 300 fans at West Park High School in St. Catharines.

In the Junior game, Spears fullback Nick Moreau capped an 80 yard opening drive with a 1 yard TD run. Running back Matt Socholotiuk responded for the Bisons in the second quarter with a 34 yard TD run and the teams headed into halftime deadlocked at 7-7. It was all Spears in the second half however, with two rushing touchdowns from running back Paul Ricci, a second touchdown for Moreau and an impressive 55 yard major from fullback Ben DiMartino. On defense, Mat Stayzer's two interceptions and an impressive 14 tackles from linebacker Steve Cecchini shut down the Bisons offense.

Having twice surrendered three touchdown leads this season, Spears Head Coach Randy Nunn felt like the team has begun to answer the critics. "We're getting closer to playing four full quarters of football", said Nunn. "The players rose to the challenge in the second half. The execution and discipline were key." Nunn was also pleased with the depth his squad showed in the fourth quarter when some of his starters came out for breathers. "We didn't miss a beat. I think this game will give our whole team a real boost of confidence", said Nunn.

Offensive Highlights (Junior Varsity):

QB Jordan Nunn (Holy Cross): 5/10 passing for 60 yds
FB Nick Moreau (Stamford): 93 yds rushing on 13 carries, 2 TDs
RB Paul Ricci (St. Michael): 30 yds rushing on 6 carries, 2 TDs
RB Jordan Barker (Sir Winston Churchill): 92 yds rushing on 13 carries
FB Ben DiMartino (St. Michael): 75 yds on 2 carries, 1 TD

Defensive Highlights (Junior Varsity):

LB Steve Cecchini (Denis Morris): 14 tackles, 1 fumble recovery
LB Ryan Chmielewski (St. Francis): 9½ tackles, 1 sack, 2 batted balls
DB Mat Stayzer (Holy Cross): 4½ tackles, 2 INTs, 1 batted ball

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In the Varsity game that followed, the Spears scored early and often, as Brantford miscues helped the Spears to a 28-0 halftime lead. Defensive back Blake Allen had another standout game with an interception and a fumble recovery, both returned for touchdowns. “Blake’s such a smart, very athletic player”, said Spears Head Coach Dave Howe. “He has an uncanny ability to see the whole field and be in the right place at the right time”. Spears back Jerimy Hipperson also had a first quarter rushing major from 5 yards out, and QB Ben Wilsack connected with receiver Adam “Elmo” Petrina for a huge 81 yard TD catch in the second quarter to put the game out of reach. Spears kicker Carlo Turavani’s 19 yard FG completed the scoring in the third quarter.

Howe is looking forward to the challenge of facing OVFL rushing leader Matt Henry next week in Etobicoke. “We know Henry’s going to get a lot of touches, so controlling him will certainly be key. He’s the real deal, a great running back”, said Howe. Henry has a staggering 751 yards rushing and six touchdowns through four games for the senior Eagles.

Offensive Highlights (Varsity):

QB Ben Wilsack (Blessed Trinity): 2/3 passing for 88 yds, 1 TD
FB Rick Savage (Port Colborne): 93 yds on 15 carries
K Carlo Turavani (Holy Cross): 4/4 in PATs, 19 yd FG, single

Defensive Highlights (Varsity):

DB Blake Allen (A.N. Myer): 3 tackles, 1 INT, 1 fumble recovery, 2 TDs
LB Dan Egerter (Blessed Trinity): 10 tackles, 1 fumble recovery
LB Kirstyn Carruthers (Blessed Trinity): 6 tackles, 1 fumble recovery

Next Up... Both Niagara Spears teams travel to Etobicoke on Saturday, June 25th for games against the Etobicoke Eagles. The Junior Varsity game gets under way at 2:30pm and the Varsity games begins at 5:30pm.

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Pictures are available upon request. Additional information on the Niagara Landmark Window Spears may be found at www.niagaraspears.com . Additional information on the OVFL, including standings, schedules and comprehensive individual and team statistics may be found at www.ovfootball.ca .

Both Head Coaches would be pleased to speak with the media and may be contacted directly. Junior Varsity Head Coach Randy Nunn may be reached at (905)685-0135 (h), (905)980-1210 (c), or via e-mail at rnunn@niagaraspears.com . Varsity Head Coach Dave Howe may be reached at (905)937-4699 (h), (905)321-0973 (c), or via e-mail at howe@niagaraspears.com .