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SPEARS PLAYOFF MATCHUPS SET

While the players may have enjoyed a much deserved weekend off, the coaching staffs of both the Junior and Varsity squads of the Niagara Landmark Window Spears spent much of the weekend scoreboard-watching. Having earned first round Ontario Varsity Football League playoff byes, both teams had to await the results of this past weekend's wildcard games to know who they would face in Adam Division semi-final action next Saturday.

For the Junior Varsity Spears (8-0), their opponents will be the Brantford Bisons (6-2), who defeated the Cambridge Lions 34-10 in their wildcard game Sunday. While the Spears easily handled the Bisons 34-14 during the regular season, JV Head Coach Randy Nunn concedes that Brantford is a much-improved team. "They're on a four-game win streak and have beaten some very good teams (including Essex and Steel City) to get to where they are now", said Nunn. "We certainly won't be taking them lightly...we'll need to play four strong quarters if we want to move on". The London Falcons (7-1) will be hosting the Essex Ravens (5-3) in the other Adam Conference Junior Varsity semi-final.

On the Varsity side, Niagara (7-1) will be hosting the Essex Ravens (6-2) after Essex defeated the Wentworth Panthers 15-9 in weekend wildcard action. Varsity Head Coach Dave Howe expects a very tough game. "The Ravens are a physical, well-disciplined, ball-control kind of team", said Howe. "We'll need to be aggressive, but we can't afford to make any mental mistakes...no turnovers, no dumb penalties. I think home field is going to be a big advantage for us - we're undefeated at home and our fan support should be a factor". In the other Adam Conference semi-final, the Sault Ste. Marie Sabrecats (7-1) will host the Guelph Bears (5-3).

Saturday's doubleheader gets under way with the Niagara-Brantford Junior Varsity game at 12:00 noon, while the Niagara-Essex Varsity tilt is slated for a 4:30pm start. Both games will be played at West Park High School in St. Catharines.

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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.