



Media Release – June 3, 2006.

Niagara Spears Shut Out Halton

The Niagara Varsity Spears (2-0) posted their second straight shutout Saturday, beating a depleted Halton Invictas squad (0-2) 35-0 at West Park High School in St. Catharines.

Spears quarterback David Benner connected with Giancarlo Rampanaro on a 31-yard TD pass and slotback Brett Maitland ran into the end zone from 12 yards out to give Niagara a quick 14-0 first quarter lead. Running back Jerimy Hipperson added two more majors in the second quarter, with rushing TDs of 14 and 10 yards, and Jordan Barker completed the scoring with a 2-yard TD plunge. Spears kicker Carlo Turavani was 5/5 on conversions for the day.

With only 17 Invictas players making the road trip, it proved to be a long and very wet day for the troubled Halton club. Once again, Spears Head Coach Dave Howe was able to go to the bench early. “I give a lot of credit to the Invictas, they showed a lot of heart”, said Howe. “I’ve been where they were today, and it’s important to show respect through restraint. We were able to shuffle a lot of players around and do some experimenting.”

The competition will get a little tougher for the Spears as they hit the road next Sunday for a game against the Wentworth Panthers. “We pulled out a last minute win over Wentworth last season. They’re very athletic and I know they’ll be ready for us”, said Howe.

Offensive Stats (Varsity):

QB David Benner (Lakeshore): 3/3 passing for 58 yds, 1 TD

QB Evan Burke (A.N. Myer): 1/2 passing for 29 yds

RB Jerimy Hipperson (Denis Morris): 57 yds rushing on 9 carries, 2 TDs

RB Jordan Barker (Sir Winston Churchill): 14 yds rushing on 3 carries, 1 TD

SB Brett Maitland (Denis Morris): 12 yds on 1 carry, 1 TD

WR Giancarlo Rampanaro (St. Paul): 31 yds receiving on 1 catch, 1 TD

K Carlo Turavani (Holy Cross): 5/5 PAT

Defensive Stats (Varsity):

LB Samuel Hayden (Denis Morris): 3½ tackles, fumble recovery

LB Ryan Chmielewski (St. Francis): 5 tackles, blocked kick

DT Shane Baxter (Governor Simcoe): 4 tackles

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In Saturday's Junior Varsity game, a last minute TD pass from 30 yards out vaulted the Limestone (Kingston) Grenadiers (2-0) to a 19-15 win over the Spears (0-2).

Running back Corey Davidson got the Spears on the board in the first quarter, with a 61-yard TD run. After the Grenadiers answered with their own TD in the second quarter, Spears linebacker Anthony Francis gave the Spears a 9-7 halftime lead, tackling the Limestone QB in the end zone for a safety. Saturday's steady rain caused havoc for both teams, with several fumbles and slips on the slick field. After Limestone opened the fourth quarter with a 23-yard TD pass, Aaron Sexton grabbed the lead back for the Spears with an OVFL record-shattering 105-yard TD return on the ensuing kickoff. Both teams traded fumbles before Limestone passed for the winning touchdown with only a minute left to come away with the win.

Despite the loss, JV Head Coach Brian Duguay was encouraged by his team's improved performance over last week's effort against Brantford. "The defense really played well today, we stayed out of penalty trouble and we certainly had some big plays", said Duguay. "But the O-Line is still struggling and the weather certainly didn't help our offense". Both Limestone TDs came on the heels of Spears fumbles and the Spears had trouble sustaining any serious offensive drives.

Offensive Stats (Junior):

- QB Matthew Beardwood (West Park): 1/5 passing for 15 yds
- QB Derrick Peachey (Denis Morris): 2/4 passing for 22 yds
- RB Corey Davidson (Lakeshore): 9 carries for 76 yds, 1 TD
- RB Josh Hipperson (Denis Morris): 8 carries for 51 yds
- RB Aaron Sexton ((St. Paul): 105 yd KO return for TD (OVFL record)

Defensive Stats (Junior):

- LB Adam Grilj (Blessed Trinity): 12 tackles (incl. 20 assists - an OVFL record), 1 sack
- DL Jordan Weldon (Lakeport): 7½ tackles
- LB Anthony Francis (Collegiate): 4 tackles, 2 sacks

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Next Up... Both Spears teams are on the road to visit the Wentworth Panthers next Sunday, June 11th. The Varsity game gets under way at 1:00pm and the Juniors take the field at 4:00pm.

Both Head Coaches would be pleased to speak with the media and may be contacted directly. Junior Varsity Head Coach Brian Duguay may be reached at (905)687-9396 (h), (905)327-2465 (c), or via e-mail at duguay@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 .

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

Niagara Spears Media Contact:
Jamie Saunders
(905)684-5785 - home
(905)988-2104 - cell
saunders@niagaraspears.com