



www.niagaraspears.com

Media Release – August 21, 2006.

Spears Lose Heartbreaker to Etobicoke in OVFL Final

The defending OVFL Champion Niagara Spears finally met their match Saturday, losing 15-14 to the Etobicoke Eagles in the 2006 Ontario Varsity Football League championship game, played at Ivor Wynne Stadium in Hamilton. The loss also ended a 16-game winning streak stretching back to June of last year when the Spears lost to the Eagles during regular season play. “We were really looking forward to seeing the Eagles again - a little extra incentive”, said Head Coach Dave Howe. “Both teams played well and left it all on the field. We just came up a little bit short”.

The Spears jumped out to a 4-0 first quarter lead when Carlo Turavani nailed a 32-yard field goal and collected a single after missing from 38 yards out. Spears tailback Jerimy Hipperson extended the lead to 11-0, opening the second quarter with a 26-yard TD run. But wet weather began to take its toll, as each team turned the ball over twice in the quarter. Jacob Appiah finally got the Eagles on the scoreboard late in the half, capping a 75-yard Eagles drive with a 1-yard rushing touchdown. Appiah also hauled in a pass on the subsequent two-point conversion to narrow the lead to 11-8 at halftime.

Carlo Turavani’s 35-yard field goal early in the third quarter extended the Spears lead to 14-8. But Eagles running back Matt Henry, who the Spears had successfully contained earlier in the game, began to find his stride. Moving the ball effectively with a balanced attack, the Eagles looked poised to score before fumbling the ball deep in Spears territory with about five minutes left in the game. Struggling on offence, the Spears were forced to punt and the Eagles again moved the ball into the Spears end zone. Needing a major, the Eagles failed to find the end zone on fourth down and the Spears took over on downs. But again the Spears were forced to punt, and with only 20 seconds left, Jacob Appiah crossed the goal line on a 1-yard plunge to tie the game at 14. The Spears appeared to block the game-winning point-after attempt, but a controversial offside call gave Etobicoke a second chance they would not squander, winning 15-14 in dramatic fashion.

“This was an intense, very physical game that could have gone either way”, said Howe. “We had a great season and I couldn’t be prouder of the players or my coaching staff. We’ll be back next year, and I hope Etobicoke’s on our schedule.”

++++
Head Coach Dave Howe would be pleased to speak with the media and may be contacted directly at (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