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## Media Release – November 30, 2006.

### Eleven Spears Players Named to OVFL All Star Teams

Five Varsity players and six Junior Varsity members of the Niagara Spears have been named to the Ontario Varsity Football League's Adam Division All Star team. James Savoie, Matt Snyder and Alex Tacinelli were also honoured with MVP Awards for their respective positions. 2006 All Stars include:

#### Niagara Spears Varsity

James Savoie – Defensive Back – St. Michael (\*positional MVP\*)  
Steve Cecchini – Defensive Line – Denis Morris  
Matt Snyder – Offensive Line – Beamsville (\*positional MVP\*)  
Giancarlo Rapanaro – Wide Receiver - St. Paul  
Jerimy Hipperson – Running Back – Denis Morris

#### Niagara Spears Junior Varsity

Justin Hipperson – Defensive Back – Denis Morris  
Alex Tacinelli – Defensive Line – Denis Morris (\*positional MVP\*)  
Josh Hipperson – Fullback – Denis Morris  
Adam Grilj – Linebacker – Blessed Trinity  
Joe Cook – Offensive Line – Lakeshore  
Tyler Decou – Running Back – St. Michael

### Howe and Duguay Return for 2007 Season

In other Spears off-season news, the Niagara Varsity Football Club is pleased to announce that both Brian Duguay (Junior Varsity) and Dave Howe (Varsity) will be returning as Head Coaches for the 2007 season.

It's been a busy off-season for Coach Howe, much of it spent on the phone with University Coaches. "It's pretty clear that the word is out on the Spears program; we've had enormous interest from a number of CIS schools", said Howe. "It wasn't uncommon to have several coaches and scouts out to our games and at our practices; they're very aware of our program and our players". Since coming into the league only two years ago, the Varsity Spears have seen ten players take the field at the CIS level, and Howe is aware of interest in over a dozen of his returning players. "We'll have more than 30 returning players next year, so we expect to be a contender", said Howe. "And Giancarlo (Rapanaro) is the only one of the five all-star selections not returning, so we also expect to have some very strong leadership". Rapanaro played at Wilfred Laurier University this past fall.

On the Junior Varsity front, Head Coach Brian Duguay is also gearing up for an exciting season in 2007. "It's an honour to be back and a privilege to work with so many young players with so much talent and heart", said Duguay. "2006 was a bit of a rebuilding year for us, but we still made it to the second round of the playoffs. We'll have a lot of returning players in 2007; our goal this year will be to simply get better every game. We also made some huge strides in applying a program approach to everything we did last year. We did a lot of work with the Varsity team and their coaches and I'm looking forward to building on that this season."

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While several members of both the Varsity and Junior Varsity coaching staffs from 2006 are also expected to return, coaching vacancies on both teams are anticipated for the coming season. Interested candidates are encouraged to contact Coach Duguay and Coach Howe directly for more information on both potential vacancies and the application process.

The Club is also pleased to announce that Grant Phillips will be returning as Varsity Governor and General Manager, while Mark Fortier has been appointed Governor and General Manager for the Junior Varsity Spears.

Registration for the 2007 Niagara Spears will take place on February 10<sup>th</sup> and indoor practices will get under way in mid-March.

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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](mailto:duguay@niagaraspears.com). Varsity Head Coach Dave Howe may be reached at (905)682-3754 (h), (905)321-0973 (c), or via e-mail at [howe@niagaraspears.com](mailto:howe@niagaraspears.com).

Additional information on the Niagara Spears may be found at [www.niagaraspears.com](http://www.niagaraspears.com). Game action and player pictures are available upon request. Additional information on the OVFL, including comprehensive individual and team statistics may be found at [www.ovfootball.ca](http://www.ovfootball.ca).

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