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Media Release – June 24, 2007.

Spears Sweep Halton in Doubleheader

Both the Junior and Varsity squads of the Niagara Spears will take perfect 5-0 records into week six of the 2007 Ontario Varsity Football League season. The Junior Spears held on to an early lead to defeat the Halton Invictas 42-20, while the Varsity Spears easily defeated the Invictas 50-0. Both games were played at West Park in St. Catharines on Saturday.

Running Back Devon Egerter dominated the ground game for the Junior Spears, staking them to an early 14-0 lead on two first quarter rushing touchdowns. Egerter finished the day with 242 rushing yards and four touchdowns. Quarterback Matt Beardwood extended the lead early in the second quarter when he connected with Jake Harper on an 11-yard TD pass. After Halton answered back with a passing touchdown, Beardwood hit Gary Spero with a 46-yard TD pass. A late 73-yard TD pass from Invictas quarterback Riley Wright to Riley Wright narrowed the Spears lead to 28-14 at halftime. Invictas running back Keith Legace closed the gap to 28-20 with an 11-yard rushing TD in the third quarter, but it was all Spears in the final quarter, as Egerter ran the ball into the end zone for two majors. **Final score: Niagara Spears – 42 Halton Invictas – 20.**

OFFENSIVE STATS - JUNIOR

QB Matt Beardwood: 9/12 passing for 183 yds, 2 TDs, 1 INT

RB Devon Egerter: 33 carries for 242 yds, 4 TDs

RB Andrew Barry: 10 carries for 52 yds

WR Gary Spero: 4 catches for 91 yds, 1 TD

WR Jake Harper: 4 catches for 41 yds, 1 TD

TE Andrew Birnie: 2 catches for 25 yds

DEFENSIVE STATS - JUNIOR

DB Justin Hipperson: 4½ tackles, 1 INT

DB Darren Butcher: 3 tackles, 1 INT

LB Cody Herbert: 5½ tackles

DL Zack Davis: 4½ tackles, 1 BB

DB Gordon Bradmore: 3½ tackles

The Varsity Spears got off to an uncharacteristically slow start Saturday, managing only 4 first quarter points, as Julian Tropea notched a 19-yard field goal and picked up the rouge on a missed attempt from 40 yards. Starting quarterback Nick Coutu connected with Brett Maitland on a 48-yard TD pass to start the second quarter and a 1 yd plunge from running back Brandon Carrier gave the Spears a 20-0 halftime lead. Quarterback Evan Burke started the second half for the Spears and connected with tight end Ben Blackadder for touchdowns on each the next three Spears possessions. Blackadder had a breakout game, with touchdown catches of 28, 13 and 28 yards. Running Back Ricky Savage finished off the Niagara scoring with a 59-yard catch and run for a TD. This marked the second straight shutout for the Varsity Spears. **Final score: Niagara Spears – 50 Halton Invictas – 0.**

→ OVER →

OFFENSIVE STATS – VARSITY

QB Nick Coutu: 6/14 passing for 108 yds, 1 TD
QB Evan Burke: 5/10 passing for 140 yds, 3 TDs
TE Ben Blackadder: 4 catches for 78 yds, 3 TDs
RB Ricky Savage: 3 carries for 13 yds, 1 TD
RB Brandon Carrier: 7 carries for 50 yds, 1 TD

DEFENSIVE STATS – VARSITY

DL Steve Cecchini: 4 tackles, ½ sack, 2 fumble recoveries
LB John Surla: 5 tackles, 1 fumble recovery
DB Sebastian Howard: 4 tackles
D Jordan Duncan: 4 tackles, 2 BB
DL Shane Baxter: 3 tackles, 1 sack, 1 BB

NEXT UP: The Varsity Spears (5-0) travel to Wentworth for a game against the Panthers (3-3) next Saturday, June 30th at 5:00pm. The Junior Spears (5-0) will host the battle of the undefeated on Sunday, July 1st at 3:00pm as they take on the Brampton Bulldogs (5-0) at West Park.

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)682-3754 (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 may be found at www.ovfootball.ca .

Thank you for your continued support. For more information, please contact:

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