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Junior Spears Lose to Ottawa Cumberland

The Niagara Junior Spears fell to 2-3-1 with a 35-7 road loss against the Ottawa Cumberland Panthers Saturday. The Ontario Varsity Football League game was played at Millennium Park in Ottawa.

After Ottawa jumped out to 7-0 lead in the first quarter, Spears linebacker Jack Rush returned an interception 80 yards to tie the game at 7-7 going into halftime. It was all Panthers in the second half however, as Ottawa posted 28 unanswered points. The Panthers are now a perfect 6-0 with two regular season games remaining. The Spears managed only two first downs on the day. "Our offense really struggled to move the ball", said Head Coach Brian Duguay. "Our defense kept us in it going into the second half, but they were on the field too long on a very hot day. Ottawa brought a strong passing game and eventually wore us down."

The Spears need to win both of their remaining two games to clinch a playoff spot – if they win only one, they'll need help to squeeze into a wildcard playoff spot. The single point the Spears earned in a week two overtime loss to Brantford may well make the difference.

OFFENSIVE STATS - JUNIOR

QB Matt Woehl: 4/13 passing for 23 yds, 2 interceptions
RB Jordan Kewll: 9 carries for 42 yds
RB David Handley: 7 carries for 16 yds
WR Curtis Kelly: 3 catches for 35 yds
WR Mitch Taylor: 1 catch for 1 yd
K Mitchell McMullen: 0/2 FG (missed from 27 and 13 yds), 1/1 PAT

DEFENSIVE STATS - JUNIOR

LB Patrick Brunet: 6½ tackles
LB Jack Rush: 1 tackle, 2 interceptions (returned for 33 yds and 80 yds-TD)
DB Cory Pattison: 4 tackles, 2 interceptions, (returned for 55 and 0 yds)
DB Justin Hipperson: 5 tackles
DL Ian Marouf: 2½ tackles, 1 sack
DB Devon Miler: 4½ tackles, 1 batted ball

NEXT UP: Both Spears teams travel to Windsor on Saturday 12th for a doubleheader against the Essex Ravens. The Junior Spears (2-3-1) take on Essex (2-4) at 4pm, while the Varsity Spears (5-1) take on the senior Ravens (5-1) at 7pm. Both teams will finish the regular season at home with a doubleheader against the London Falcons on July 19th.

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.ovflontario.com (note new website address).

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

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