



www.niagaraspears.com

Spears Drop Doubleheader to Hamilton

It was a long, frustrating day for both Niagara Spears teams Saturday, losing both ends of an Ontario Varsity Football League doubleheader to the visiting Hamilton Ironmen. The Junior Spears (0-1) fell 42-7 in the opener, while the Varsity Spears (0-1) lost 39-7.

The Junior Spears struggled to gain yards on the ground, as a stingy Ironmen defense held the red and gold to only 11 yards rushing on the day. The Niagara air attack showed signs of promise however, as quarterback Matt Woehl connected with receiver Max Cameron on consecutive passes of 24 and 36 yards in the 3rd quarter, the latter accounting for the Spears only score of the day. Running back Mike Smith scored three touchdowns for Hamilton, including a 67-yard streak to begin the fourth quarter. Niagara gave up four interceptions and two fumbles in the loss.

Head Coach Brian Duguay chalked up the day as a learning experience for his players, many of whom were seeing their first OVFL action. “Today was a bit of a reality check”, said Duguay. “We need to spend some time on our special teams, and our running game. Matt played a nice game, but there were a lot of dropped balls. There almost seemed to be some overthinking going on – they just need to relax, keep their heads up and rely on their instincts. Hamilton played a great game – they were ready for us.”

OFFENSIVE STATS - JUNIOR

QB Matt Woehl: 12/26 passing for 175 yds, 1 TD, 2 INT
WR Max Cameron: 2 catches for 60 yds
RB David Handley: 7 carries for 10 yds
K Mitchell McMullen: 1/1 PAT

DEFENSIVE STATS - JUNIOR

LB John Rush: 11½ tackles
S Matt Furgiuele: 5½ tackles, BK
DL Donnie Egerter: 4½ tackles, ½ sack
DL Kevin Denhollander: 4 tackles, ½ sack
LB Tyler Lahey: 3½ tackles

In the senior game, Niagara got off to a good start, as DB Keil Elliott snuffed out Hamilton’s opening drive with his first of two interceptions on the day. On their next possession, the Ironmen drove the ball 90 yards, setting up a Ryan Kotar 1-yard plunge for the major. The Spears answered back however, as quarterback Kyle Mataya opened the second quarter with a 29-yard TD pass to receiver Jimmy Farhat to knot the game at 7. Hamilton quarterback Danny Cerino took over the rest of the half however, throwing TD passes of 64, 46 and 19 yards to give the Ironmen a 26-7 halftime lead. Cerino extended the lead with a 45-yard TD toss early in the third quarter. A pressing Spears offense gave up four second half interceptions, one of which was returned 45 yards for a touchdown.

Head Coach Dave Howe called the game a humbling experience, the first regular season home loss in the senior Spears’ five year history. “You always learn the most from a loss”, said Howe. “I’d always rather lose the first game of the season than the last. We lost momentum a couple of times – mental mistakes and penalties. No one’s going to give you anything in this league – you’ve got to work hard and be disciplined. We’ve got a lot of potential personnel-wise – they’re still coming together as a team. We get to pay a visit to the defending champs next week – Mississauga is always tough and we’ll need a good week of practice”.

OFFENSIVE STATS - VARSITY

QB Kyle Mataya: 4/19 passing, 1 TD, 5 INT, 8 carries for 22 yds
RB Nathan Zavarella: 4 carries for 21 yds
RB Devon Egerter: 12 carries for 20 yds
WR Jimmy Farhat: 1 catch for 29 yds, 1 TD
K Liram Hajrullahu: 1/1 PAT

DEFENSIVE STATS - VARSITY

LB Adam Grilj: 7 tackles, 2 BB, 1 FR
LB Ryan Saunders: 5 tackles
DB Jack Rush: 3½ tackles, 1 INT
DB Justin Hipperson: 2½ tackles, 2 BB
DB Keil Elliott: 1½ tackles, 2 INT, 1 FR
DL Bryan Summers: 2 tackles, 1 sack

Both teams head to Mississauga next week, taking on the Warriors for a doubleheader on Saturday May 30th. The Junior game gets under way at 1:00pm and the Varsity game follows at 4:00pm. Both games will be played at St. Marcellinus High School in Mississauga.

+++++

The complete 2009 Niagara Spears schedule is attached

Both Spears teams practice at 6:00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at West Park. Members of the media are welcome to stop by to speak with coaches and players.

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), (289)213-6791 (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 Ontario Varsity Football League may be found at www.ovflontario.com.

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

Jamie Saunders
Niagara Spears Football Club
(905) 684-5785 (home)
(905) 329-7104 (cell)
saunders@niagaraspears.com



2009 Schedule

Current as of May 19, 2009.

TEAM	DATE	TIME	VENUE	VISITOR	HOME
<i>Junior</i>	<i>Sat May 23</i>	<i>12:00</i>	<i>West Park</i>	<i>Hamilton Ironmen 42</i>	<i>Niagara Spears 7</i>
<i>Varsity</i>	<i>Sat May 23</i>	<i>4:00</i>	<i>West Park</i>	<i>Hamilton Ironmen 39</i>	<i>Niagara Spears 7</i>
Junior	Sat May 30	1:00	St. Marcellinus HS	Niagara Spears	Mississauga Warriors
Varsity	Sat May 30	4:00	St. Marcellinus HS	Niagara Spears	Mississauga Warriors
Junior	Sat Jun 6	1:00	Loyalist Collegiate	Niagara Spears	Kingston Grenadiers
Varsity	Sat Jun 6	7:00	Rocky Dipietro Field	Niagara Spears	Sault Ste. Marie Sabrecats
Junior	Sat Jun 13	12:00	West Park	Halton Hills Crimson Tide	Niagara Spears
Varsity	Sat Jun 13	4:00	West Park	York Simcoe Storm	Niagara Spears
Junior	Sat Jun 20	12:00	West Park	Halton Cowboys	Niagara Spears
Varsity	Sat Jun 20	4:00	West Park	Halton Cowboys	Niagara Spears
Junior	Sat Jun 27	3:30	Essex High School	Niagara Spears	Essex Ravens
Varsity	Sat Jun 27	7:00	Essex High School	Niagara Spears	Essex Ravens
	Sat Jul 4	B Y E W E E K			
Junior	Sat Jul 11	2:00	Gretzky Centre	Niagara Spears	Brantford Bisons
Varsity	Sat Jul 11	8:00	Gretzky Centre	Niagara Spears	Brantford Bisons
Junior	Sat Jul 18	4:00	West Park	Guelph Bears	Niagara Spears
Varsity	Sat Jul 18	12:00	West Park	Guelph Bears	Niagara Spears
Playoffs	Sat Jul 25	W I L D C A R D G A M E S			
	Sat Aug 1	C O N F E R E N C E S E M I - F I N A L S			
	Sat Aug 8	C O N F E R E N C E F I N A L S			
	Sat Aug 15	L E A G U E C H A M P I O N S H I P			