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Two Tough Road Losses for Spears

Both the Junior and Varsity squads of the Niagara Spears lost close road games in Ontario Varsity Football League action Saturday. In the Junior game, two late Niagara touchdowns tied the game at 14 before a rouge with seconds left on the clock gave the Kingston Grenadiers a dramatic 15-14 win over the Spears, whose record falls to 0-3. In Sault Ste. Marie, the Varsity Spears had trouble maintaining any offensive momentum, losing to the Sabrecats 24-14. The Varsity Spears record falls to 1-2 on the season.

Two first half touchdowns gave Kingston's Junior Grenadiers a 14-0 lead they would take into the fourth quarter. However, a 4-yard rushing major from Spears running back David Handley and a 20-yard TD pass from Niagara quarterback Matt Woehl to receiver Max Cameron knotted the game at 14 with time running out. With the ball on the Niagara 35-yard line, Kingston tried for a single point on a punt through the end zone. Niagara appeared to preserve the tie and force overtime when they successfully returned the ball out of their end zone. However a flag in the end zone for a Spears' hit from behind gave Kingston the single point and the win. Quarterback Matt Woehl and Max Cameron hooked up for ten completions on the day for 153 yards. Woehl was an impressive 12/13 passing for 179 yards.

Comments from Junior Head Coach Brian Duguay: *"The first half looked like the kids just climbed off the bus, but the second half was another story. I really feel badly for the players after the effort they showed in the last two quarters...they were really firing on all cylinders. We stopped them three times on fourth and short yardage in the second half, but we just had too much ground to make up. I don't think our record reflects how well we're playing right now. We had a very tough schedule to start the season, but we're looking forward to coming home for a pair and showing the home fans what we can do."*

OFFENSIVE STATS - JUNIOR

QB Matt Woehl: 12/13 passing for 179 yds, 1 TD

WR Max Cameron: 10 catches for 153 yds, 1 TD

RB David Handley: 20 carries for 98 yds, 1 TD

WR Jonathan Lue: 2 catches for 17 yds

K Alessandro Arghittu: 2/2 PAT

DEFENSIVE STATS - JUNIOR

LB John Rush: 10 tackles

LB Tyler Lahey: 4½ tackles

DE Rami Abdalla: 4 tackles

DE Alan Florez: 3½ tackles

DB Jacob Bromhall: 3 tackles

In senior action, tailback Zac Davis' 2-yard rushing major gave the Spears an early 7-0 lead. Sabrecats quarterback Mike Tassone's 5-yard TD pass to Joey Plastino narrowed the lead to 7-6. In the second quarter, a 19-yard field goal and a 34-yard TD pass from Tassone to Chris Tithecott gave the Sabrecats a 17-7 lead. But the Spears weren't done. With less than a minute to play in the half, quarterback Matt Beardwood connected on two consecutive passes of 52 yards to receiver Jimmy Farhat and a TD strike of 26 yards to Jake Harper, narrowing the Sault lead to 17-13 at the half. Punts and turnovers dominated the second half, as neither team seemed to be able to mount much of an offensive attack. The Spears turned the ball over on downs twice in the fourth quarter, but managed to get the ball back on back-to-back interceptions by Justin Hipperson and Jack Rush. However, with seconds on the clock and operating from deep in their own end, Niagara gave up an interception which was returned 26 yards for a touchdown, sealing the victory for the Sabrecats.

Comments from Varsity Head Coach Dave Howe: *“We just didn’t execute when we really needed it tonight. We had moments of brilliance, putting together a nice drive to end the first half. But we managed to keep shooting ourselves in the foot with inopportune penalties. Sault Ste. Marie played a very nice, very physical game. Overall, I thought we played well on both sides of the ball, but those penalties really hurt us.”*

OFFENSIVE STATS - VARSITY

QB Matt Beardwod: 12/24 passing for 201 yds, 1 TD, 3 INT
RB Zac Davis: 12 carries for 67 yds, 1 TD
RB Kyle Mataya: 17 carries for 45 yds, 2 catches for 13 yds
WR Curtis Kely: 4 catches for 29 yds
WR Nathan Lunn: 2 catches for 58 yds
WR Jimmy Farhat: 2 catches for 71 yds
WR Jake Harper: 1 catch for 26 yds, 1 TD
K Alex Charette: 1/2 PAT

DEFENSIVE STATS - VARSITY

DB Jack Rush: 6 tackles, 1 BB, 1 INT
LB Adam Grilj: 5 tackles
DL Ian Marouf: 4½ tackles, 1 BK
DL Bryan Summers: 4 tackles
DB Justin Hipperson: 2½ tackles, 1 BB, 1 INT

NEXT UP: The Junior Spears (0-3) host the Halton Hills Crimson Tide on Saturday June 13th at 12:00pm. The Varsity Spears (1-2) host the York Simcoe Storm at 4:00pm. Both games will be played at West Park in St. Catharines.

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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:

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2009 Schedule

Current as of June 7, 2009.

TEAM	DATE	TIME	VENUE	VISITOR	HOME
Junior	Sat May 23	12:00	West Park	Hamilton Ironmen 42	Niagara Spears 7
Varsity	Sat May 23	4:00	West Park	Hamilton Ironmen 39	Niagara Spears 7
Junior	Sat May 30	1:00	St. Marcellinus HS	Niagara Spears 6	Mississauga Warriors 24
Varsity	Sat May 30	4:00	St. Marcellinus HS	Niagara Spears 13	Mississauga Warriors 3
Junior	Sat Jun 6	1:00	Loyalist Collegiate	Niagara Spears 14	Kingston Grenadiers 15
Varsity	Sat Jun 6	7:00	Rocky Dipietro Field	Niagara Spears 14	Sault Ste. Marie Sabrecats 24
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	WILD CARD GAMES			
	Sat Aug 1	CONFERENCE SEMI-FINALS			
	Sat Aug 8	CONFERENCE FINALS			
	Sat Aug 15	LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP			