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## Spears Split Doubleheader in Brantford

It was do-or-die time for the Niagara Spears in Brantford Saturday, as both teams needed wins to stay alive in the hunt for an Ontario Varsity Football League playoff spot. While the Varsity squad is now a step closer, thanks to their 35-0 thrashing of the Bisons, the Junior Spears' 20-12 loss sealed their post-season fate.

In the Junior game, the Bisons got off to a quick 9-0 first quarter lead, with a single on a missed 30-yard field goal, an 8-yard rushing TD from tailback Tyson Leeb, and another single on the ensuing wind-fueled kickoff, which sailed through the Spears end zone. The Spears dominated the second quarter however, as quarterback Matt Woehl connected with Lucas Schinkel on a 61-yard TD bomb and Alessandro Arghittu nailed a 23-yard field goal to give Niagara a 10-9 halftime lead. Niagara looked to be on a roll to start the third quarter, driving the length of the field only to have a Matt Woehl pass tipped at the goal line and intercepted in the end zone. Brantford then put together an 80-yard drive of their own, taking the lead on quarterback Brock Borrie's 1-yard keeper. A successful two-point convert gave the Bisons a 17-10 lead after three quarters. A 26-yard field goal off the toe of Brantford kicker Ben Hall extended the lead to 20-10 early in the fourth quarter. Niagara's only other points came off a conceded safety with 27 seconds left in the game. Brantford used double coverage to limit Spears receiver Max Cameron to just 45 yards on 5 catches. The Bisons also shut down the Spears ground game, as Woehl accounted for 51 of the Spears 59 rushing yards.

**Comments from Junior Head Coach Brian Duguay:** *"We just didn't come out to play today. There was no urgency, no hunger at all. The Bisons brought all of the intensity I expected to see from our team. Our hats are off to them...they came in with a really smart gameplan today, shutting down our passing and running games and taking away our strengths on defense. A lack of discipline hurt us today as well, not just the number of penalties, but the nature of the penalties. I'm disappointed for the players and coaches alike...we're a much better team than we showed today. We've got one more game at home and we'll be playing for pride, if not a playoff spot."*

### **OFFENSIVE STATS - JUNIOR**

QB Matt Woehl: 16/38 passing for 256 yds, 1 TD, 4 INTs; 4 carries for 51 yards rushing  
RB David Handley: 5 carries for 12 yds  
WR Lucas Schinkel: 3 catches for 101 yds, 1 TD  
WR Dylan Howard: 5 catches for 94 yds  
WR Max Cameron: 5 catches for 45 yds  
K Alessandro Arghittu: 1/2 field goals (made from 23 yds, missed from 37 yds, 1/1 PAT)

### **DEFENSIVE STATS - JUNIOR**

LB John Rush: 11½ tackles  
LB John Lapenna: 6½ tackles, 1 sack  
DB Josh Doucet: 6 tackles, BB  
DB Jacob Bromhall: 5½ tackles  
DL Kevin Denhollander: 5½ tackles, BK

In the senior half of the doubleheader, the Spears scored touchdowns on their first three possessions and coasted to an easy 35-0 victory over a depleted Bisons team. Kyle Mataya got the ball rolling with a 1-yard TD plunge before quarterback Matt Beardwood connected with receivers Jake Harper (6 yards) and Jimmy Farhat (30 yards) to give the Spears a 21-0 lead after one quarter. In the second quarter, Beardwood connected with receiver Daniel Tisi for a 20-yard major to extend the Niagara lead to 28-0 at halftime. The Spears went to the bench for most of the second half, as both Kyle Mataya and Brandon Legault both saw action at quarterback. After spending the third quarter at pivot, Mataya reverted to the backfield just in time to close the scoring with his second rushing TD of the game, this time from 3 yards out. On the defensive side of the ball, Spears defensive back Justin Hipperson tied an OVFL record with four interceptions in the game for a combined return yardage of 139 yards. Spears kicker Lirim Hijrullahu, fresh from a two-week stint with Team Canada, was a perfect five-for-five in point-after attempts and was a major factor in the battle for field position.

**Comments from Varsity Head Coach Dave Howe:** *“We executed very well today. We played our game in terms of ball control and defense, and showed a lot of discipline. Keeping penalties and mental mistakes to a minimum is always a big part of our gameplan and we were able to do that today. We have a must-win game against a very tough Guelph team next week. We’re both fighting for the post-season, so we expect a very intense game.”*

**OFFENSIVE STATS - VARSITY**

QB Matt Beardwod: 5/6 passing for 86 yds, 3 TDs  
RB Nathan Zavarella: 14 carries for 70 yds  
SB/QB Kyle Mataya: 11 carries for 38 yds, 2 TDs  
FB Stephen Muzamhindo: 6 carries for 22 yds  
WR Jimmy Farhat: 2 catches for 44 yds, 1 TD  
WR Daniel Tisi: 1 catch for 20 yds, 1 TD  
WR Jake Harper: 1 catch for 6 yds, 1 TD  
WR Alex Charette: 1 catch for 16 yds  
K Lirim Hijrullahu: 5/5 PAT

**DEFENSIVE STATS - VARSITY**

LB Jack Rush: 8 tackles  
DB Justin Hipperson: 4½ tackles, 4 INTs (ties OVFL record) 139 return yards  
DB Keil Elliott: 1 tackle, 2 BBs  
LB David Postman: 3 tackles  
DB Dan Savoia: 3 tackles  
LB Matt Sigfrid: 2 tackles, INT

**NEXT UP:** The Junior Spears (2-5) and Varsity Spears (4-3) will host the Guelph Bears in a doubleheader on Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> at West Park in St. Catharines. The Varsity game gets under way at 12:00pm and the Junior game starts at 4:00pm (**NOTE NEW GAME TIMES**).

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The complete 2009 Niagara Spears schedule, with results to date, 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](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). **Gameday pictures are available upon request.** Additional information on the Ontario Varsity Football League may be found at [www.ovflontario.com](http://www.ovflontario.com).

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

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# 2009 Schedule

Current as of July 12, 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            | Georgetown Crimson Tide - 7 | Niagara Spears - 57             |
| Varsity        | Sat Jun 13        | 4:00                                      | West Park            | York Simcoe Storm - 8       | Niagara Spears - 43             |
| Junior         | Sat Jun 20        | 12:00                                     | West Park            | Halton Cowboys - 0          | Niagara Spears - 61             |
| Varsity        | Sat Jun 20        | 4:00                                      | West Park            | Halton Cowboys - 7          | Niagara Spears - 37             |
| Junior         | Sat Jun 27        | 3:30                                      | Essex High School    | Niagara Spears - 29         | Essex Ravens - 38               |
| Varsity        | Sat Jun 27        | 7:00                                      | Essex High School    | Niagara Spears - 26         | Essex Ravens - 42               |
|                | Sat Jul 4         | B Y E W E E K                             |                      |                             |                                 |
| Junior         | Sat Jul 11        | 2:00                                      | Gretzky Centre       | Niagara Spears - 12         | Brantford Bisons - 20           |
| Varsity        | Sat Jul 11        | 8:00                                      | Gretzky Centre       | Niagara Spears - 35         | Brantford Bisons - 0            |
| <b>Junior</b>  | <b>Sat Jul 18</b> | <b>4:00</b>                               | <b>West Park</b>     | <b>Guelph Bears</b>         | <b>Niagara Spears</b>           |
| <b>Varsity</b> | <b>Sat Jul 18</b> | <b>12:00</b>                              | <b>West Park</b>     | <b>Guelph Bears</b>         | <b>Niagara Spears</b>           |
| 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       |                      |                             |                                 |