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Niagara Spears To Add Pee wee Team in 2010

The Niagara Varsity Football Club (NVFC) is pleased to announce that the Niagara Spears will be fielding a Pee wee team in the Ontario Varsity Football League in 2010. Aimed at 13 and 14 year-olds, the Pee wee squad will likely be part of a gameday tripleheader along with the Junior and Varsity Spears. The Niagara Spears first entered the league in 2004 with a Junior team, and added a Varsity team a year later.

“We’re very excited to be able to introduce OVFL rep football to the Region”, said NVFC President Alex Tacinelli. “This was the next logical step for our organization. We were asked to enter a Pee wee team when the OVFL added the age group in 2007, but the timing just wasn’t right. In giving it more serious consideration last year, we consulted with the Niagara Minor Football Executive, but ultimately decided to wait one more year.” Tacinelli says he hopes that by making the commitment before the 2009 season is even over, the new team will be able to extend momentum and get an early start on fundraising and the all-important selection of a coaching staff. “We have an incredible number of highly qualified and experienced coaches in the Region, and we’re eager to get a staff in place.” Tacinelli concedes that the new team hasn’t exactly been a well-kept secret, as the Club started receiving coaching inquiries several months ago.

The OVFL’s Pee wee division featured 17 teams in 2009, almost all of whom also have Junior (ages 14-16) and/or Varsity (ages 17-19) programs. While the new team’s application still needs league approval, Tacinelli is confident it will be a quick and painless process. “Our track record, both on and off the field, is well known and respected”, said Tacinelli. “We are the only major centre in the league without a Pee wee team, so I can tell you there’s been no shortage of ‘friendly persuasion’ to correct that”.

Tacinelli believes the new team will have little impact on the success or popularity of either the Niagara Minor house league program or the Niagara Storm, who play in the South Central Ontario Football League (SCOFL). Niagara Minor Football fields a 10-team Pee wee division, in addition to Tyke and Atom programs. The Niagara Storm also play in a 10-team league and also offer a Junior Varsity program. Tacinelli says the door is still open to run the new team in conjunction with Niagara Minor Football. “Most of the NVFC executive and coaches have deep roots in the Niagara Minor system, so we’d like nothing more than to have them involved with the new team in every way possible”, said Tacinelli. “We hope to meet with them soon to discuss any and all possibilities.”

Information regarding coaching and executive opportunities will soon be available on the Niagara Spears website at www.niagaraspears.com . It is expected that registration for all three Niagara Spears teams will take place in November.

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Niagara Varsity Football Club President Alex Tacinelli would be pleased to speak to the media and may be contacted directly at tacinelli@niagaraspears.com or 905-684-9122.

Additional information on the Niagara Spears may be found at www.niagaraspears.com.
Additional information on the Ontario Varsity Football League may be found at www.ovflontario.com.