

# A look at this year's teams

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Following is a preview of the Varsity 1 football league:

## A. N. MYER

History lesson:Went 3-4 in regular season, beat Westlane 21-7 in a quarter-final and lost 30-7 to Stamford in a semifinal.

Coaching staff:Dave Sauer, Nico Marino, Dave Buchanan, Dan Hagar and Kory Knox.

Expectations:"We want to be in the top four again and have a chance at the end," Sauer said.

Scouting report:Twenty returning players, including 13-14 starters; athletic team will need to use its speed to make up for a lack of size.

Key players:RB Nick Williams; QB Thomas Duhtiar; slotback Brandon Ward; nose tackle Tyler Gayman; LB John Foss; cornerback Jeremy Gemuend.

Teams to beat:Churchill, Stamford and Westlane.

Last five years:36-9 (.800) in Varsity 1.

## BEAMSVILLE

History lesson:3-4 in regular season and lost 42-7 to Churchill in a quarter-final.

Coaching staff:John Pellow, Frank Schilte, Jon Gemella, Chris Brown and Paul Hurd.

Expectations:"We want to play well enough in the regular season to make the playoffs and hopefully create a few upsets," Pellow said.

Scouting report:Twenty-six returning players, including 12 starters; speed, skill and toughness at key positions.

Key players:RB Adam Cherrie; OG Colton Cook; FB Drew Christie; MLB Mike Parker; DL Steve Turl; DE Colin Comfort.

Teams to beat:Churchill, Westlane, Ridley College.

Last five years:17-22-1 (.438) in Varsity 1.

## CENTENNIAL

History lesson:Went 2-5 and missed playoffs.

Coaching staff:Phil Mosley,

Dom Nero, Drew Penwarden, Cole Richards, Mike Vallee and David Lavictoire.

Expectations:"We're hoping to make the playoffs, but we're in an extremely competitive division (includes Myer, Stamford and Westlane)," Mosley said.

Scouting report:Twenty to 25 returning players, including 12 starters; good athleticism, speed and depth at skill positions; lacking size.

Key players:RB Mike Boyd; OLs Dylan Killingbeck and Rob Lariviere; LB Blake Miller; safety Pat Dignard.

Teams to beat:Churchill and Stamford.

Last five years:20-20-1 (.500) in Varsity 1.

#### EDEN

History lesson:Lake- port/Eden squad was 4-3 in Division 3 last season and lost 28- 7 to West Park in a semifinal.

Coaching staff:John Riley, Jeremy Walsh, Connor Shaw, Neil Krulik and Quinn Hofland.

Expectations:"We're willing to take any challenge and we will definitely have a challenge this year, moving to Varsity 1 from Varsity 2," Riley said.

Scouting report:Eleven returning players, including five starters; 50 players in camp, including 30 Grade 9s; lack of size will need to be made up with speed and determination.

Key players:LB Calvin Mech; LB/RB Mitch Punton; K/FB John Brugsy; QB Dayton Kruitbosch; DL/FB Mike Hofland; WR Joey Caruso.

Teams to beat:New to league, so not sure of competition.

Last five years:13-25 (.342) in Varsity 1 and 2.

#### GOVERNOR SIMCOE

History lesson:Went 2-5 in regular season and lost 22-0 to Stamford in a quarter-final.

Coaching staff:D'Arcy Mc- Cardle, Jamie Brophy, Cam Donevan and Andrew Watson.

Expectations:"Our expectations are to finish .500, make the playoffs and continue to build for the future," McCardle said.

Scouting report:Twenty-five returning players, including eight starters; good size and speed; athletic and coachable; 10 new starters on defence.

Key players:RBs Carlos Williams, Jordan Clout and Travis McAlpine; LBs Alex Bryson and Dave Roy; corner Paul Hookings.

Teams to beat:Churchill and Stamford.

Last five years:21-18-2 (.512) in Varsity 1.

#### GRIMSBY

History lesson:Went 2-5 in regular season, missed playoffs.

Coaching staff:Pete Mitchell, John Kent, Mark Walker, Gino Mosca, Brian Hutchings and Andre Breberina.

Expectations:"We're very much a work in progress," Mitchell said. "We were a young team, so we're a year older."

Scouting report:Twenty-eight returning players, including eight to 10 starters; decent speed, lots of good athletes; most of offensive line returns; QB Lucas Spagnuolo back, team started 2-1 last season before he was injured.

Key players:Spagnuolo; RB Brandon Barr; OLs Will Meinzingler and Grant Seaman; LB Mike Moran; DB Jake Turl; DL Colton Breberina.

Teams to beat:Churchill, Stamford and Myer.

Last five years:4-31 (.114) in Varsity 1.

#### HOLY CROSS

History lesson:Went 5-2 in first regular season in Varsity 1, beat St. Francis 30-0 in a quarter- final and lost 28-3 to Churchill in a semifinal.

Coaching staff:Jim Craig, Dave Thomson, Brian O'Rourke, Sean Howe, Jerry DiSanto, Mike MacIntyre and Taylor Ingham.

Expectations:"Our expectations are to be competitive in all our games and be a playoff team at the end of the season," Craig said.

Scouting report:Twelve returning players, including eight starters; good team speed and plenty of size.

Key players:QB Matt Sills; RB Jordan Davis; WR Dillon Granger; LB Brandon McIntyre; DL Jason Veide; cornerback Cory Pattison.

Teams to beat:Churchill, Stamford, Westlane and Myer.

Last five years:12-27 (.308) in Division 1 and Varsity 1.

#### RIDLEY COLLEGE

History lesson:Had winning record in exhibition play last season. Hasn't played in Canadian Independent Schools Athletic Association league last two seasons.

Coaching staff:Rick Rasmussen, Rhys Jenkins, Paul Filion, Jason Prickett, Derek Dunkley and Nick Ronald.

Expectations:"We want to place ourselves appropriately and be challenged," Rasmussen said.

Scouting report:Fifteen returning players, including seven to eight starters; average size means team will have to rely on athleticism and speed.

Key players:RB Max Fischer; WR Mike Stratton, QB Brad Burgess; MLB Ken Wismer; DLs Chet Chung and Nick Chilvers.

Teams to beat:New to league so not sure.

Last five years:Not available. SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

History lesson:Went 7-0 in regular season, beat Beamsville in a quarter-final, Holy Cross in a semifinal and defeated Stamford 15-14 in the final.

Coaching staff:Peter Perron, Peter Partridge, Steve Cook, Scott Hill, Jim Thibodeau and Bob Krzeczkowski.

Expectations:"Be competitive, work towards the championship again and try to defend," Perron said. "I expect everyone to come after us."

Scouting report:Thirty-eight returning players, including 12 starters; good size; athletic but not as much depth at skill positions.

Key players:RB Alex Christie; RB Gary Spero (just kidding); WR Max Cameron; OL Andrew Gordon; safety Andrew Dunlop; LBs Ryan Saunders and Jarod Cardas; DB Jeff Finley.

Teams to beat:Stamford, Simcoe, Centennial and Holy Cross.

Last five years:28-14 (.667) In Varsity 1.

## STAMFORD

History lesson:Went 7-0 in regular season, beat Simcoe in a quarter-final and Myer in a semifinal before losing final to Churchill.

Coaching staff:Brad Martin, Matt Garnett, Pat Langdon, Adam Grant, Gary MacDonald and Kitchener Howard

Expectations:"Our goal every year is to make the playoffs," Martin said. "It will be tough this year because we lost 15 seniors."

Scouting report:Seven returning players, including five starters; will be very young this season.

Key players:RB/LB Robbie Farquharson; QB Cam Brockwell; LB/C Eric Michitsch; slotback/ LB Remi Moreau; DL Hunter Bowman.

Teams to beat:Churchill, Governor Simcoe and Centennial as darkhorse.

Last five years:31-12-1 (.716) in Varsity 1.

ST. FRANCIS History lesson:Went 4-3 in regular season before losing to Holy Cross in a quarter-final.

Coaching staff:Gord Barber, Sean Jones, Glen Timluk, Jay Lennox and Vito Gicante.

Expectations:"We'd like to be competitive and make the playoffs," Barber said.

Scouting report:Ten returning players, including seven starters; good team speed; lacking size.

Key players:WR Alex Charette; QB David Donnelly; RB Rob DiPietro; LB Dakota Wilcox; DE Alan Flores; DB Brian Schenck.

Teams to beat:Churchill, Holy Cross, Stamford, Myer and Westlane.

Last five years:22-21-1 (.511) in Varsity 1 and Division 1.

## WESTLANE

History lesson:Went 6-1 in regular season and lost to Myer in a quarter-final.

Coaching staff:Jason Babony, Josh Elliott, Scott Ellis, Bruce Litke, Stan Reid and Tim Hough.

Expectations:"I think we will do pretty well," Babony said. "We have a really young team and our goal is to make the playoffs."

Scouting report:Fifteen returning players, including six to seven starters and two 12Bs.

Key players:FB David Handley; RB Kadeem Allen and Gerard Landrum; LBs Greg Anderson and Max Howard; DB Chris D'Albiano.

Teams to beat:Myer, Stamford and Sir Winston Churchill.

Last five years:13-26 (.333) in Varsity 1 and Division 1.

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### Varsity 1 Power Poll

Following are rankings for the teams in Varsity 1 football, based on comments from coaches in the league (Rating points are in brackets):

1. Churchill (3.11).
2. Stamford (2.7). **3.Westlane** (1.11).
4. A. N. Myer (1.11).
5. Governor Simcoe (0.88).
6. Centennial (0.58). 7. Holy Cross (0.45).
8. Ridley (0.33).
9. Beamsville.
10. St. Francis.
11. Grimsby.
12. Eden.

Team is awarded one point if opposing coach mentions it as only team to beat, a half-point to each team if coach mentions two teams to beat and so on. Ties are broken based on last season's record and number of returning starters.

