

Bulldogs bite Hornets

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It was expected to be close, but it was anything but.

The Sir Winston Churchill Bulldogs crushed the Stamford Hornets 48-12 in Week 2 of The Niagara Falls Review's Thursday Night Lights high school football series presented by Falls Chevrolet Cadillac Buick GMC.

The game was a rematch of last season's dramatic Varsity 1 Division championship, which the Bulldogs won after a heartbreaking late-game fumble by the Hornets gifted Sir Winston a game-winning touchdown.

But if there was ever any doubt who was the better team after that contest, there's no debating who was superior Thursday on the artificial turf field at Kalar Sports Park in front of about 600 boisterous fans.

Quarterback Andrew Krzeczkowski capped off a powerful opening drive for the Bulldogs with a one-yard run into the end zone after Sir Winston methodically marched down the field for about six minutes.

Andrew Dunlop picked off Stamford quarterback Cam Brockwell's pass attempt on the following possession and returned the ball 48 yards for a score.

Brockwell made up for the pickoff on the next drive with a seven-yard touchdown run.

But it all went pretty much downhill for the Hornets after that.

Dunlop took the resulting kickoff 70 yards into the Stamford end zone, deflating any confidence the Niagara Falls high school may have gained from the previous drive.

Sir Winston running back Alexander Christie then busted through the Stamford defense late in the second quarter for a 53-yard touchdown run, sending the Bulldogs into the halftime break with a 27-6 lead.

Christie's strong play in the third quarter, increasing the St. Catharines high school's lead with a six-yard score.

And it wasn't just Sir Winston's ground game that posed problems for Stamford. Krzeczkowski and back-up quarterback Nathan Fawcett threw for 30-yard and 21-yard touchdown passes respectively in the fourth quarter.

Brockwell put up the Hornets' only other points, a one-yard quarterback sneak for a touchdown.

Dunlop was named most valuable player of the game for Sir Winston Churchill (2-0), while Stamford (1-1) running back Rob Farquharson was named his team's MVP for a number of impressive carries.

Dunlop was surprised with the margin of victory, but said the Hornets' performance isn't indicative of that team's talent level.

"They've got a great team with great players and great coaches," said the 18-year-old. "Games between us are always tough, but our O-line and our D-line were exceptional tonight. That was the difference."

Entering Thursday's contest, neither team had lost a regular season game since 2007.

Dunlop said the leadership provided by Sir Winston's coaching staff and club captains are what keeps the team motivated.

"They help keep us grounded. We're not individuals, we're a team. That's our mentality. "

Meanwhile on the other side of the ball, Farquharson said he was disappointed his side didn't come out with the jump they expected, and needed.

"It was like we thought it would be easy," he said. "A lot of players didn't step up tonight. We need a whole team effort."

That being said, the Hornets know it's still early in the season.

"We're not going to respond negatively to this," said Farquharson. "We'll learn from this and move on."

Week 3 of The Review's Thursday Night Lights series will once again feature the Stamford Hornets, as they will take on city rivals Westlane Oct. 8. NOTE: The United Way's 50/50 prize was not claimed Thursday night. The winning ticket number was 298473. To claim it, contact the United Way at 905- 354-9342.

Marauders 21, Eagles 7

Visiting A. N. Myer improved to 1-1 in Varsity 1 by defeating Grimsby (0-2).

Myer led 21-0 at the half before Grimsby quarterback Lucas Spagnuolo hit Nathanyl Awram for a 50-yard scoring strike.

Spartans 7, Flyers 6

With many of their Grade 12 players benched because of failing to attend practices, the Eden Flyers dropped a 7-6 decision to the visiting Westlane Spartans in a Varsity 1 game.

Warriors 50, Falcons 20 In varsity 2 play, the West Park

Warriors (2-0) beat the Fort Erie Falcons (0-2) 50-20. Kevin Beardwood threw six TD passes to lead the Warriors to the win.

Gators at Patriots

The Lakeshore Catholic Gators visited the Saint Paul Patriots under the lights Friday night in Niagara Falls. The score was not available at press time.