

Bulldogs bounce back

By **BERNIE PUCHALSKI , STANDARD STAFF**

There were two winners at the end of Friday's AAA/AAAA football game at Sir Winston Churchill.

At one end of the field, the Lakeshore Catholic Gators were celebrating a 28-3 victory that gave them a perfect 8-0 record and home-field advantage in Thursday's battle with St. Paul (8-0) to determine who moves out of Niagara to compete for the Golden Horseshoe Bowl.

At the other end of the field, the Churchill Bulldogs (4-4) were celebrating the fact that they kept the majority of Lakeshore's starters in for the whole game while erasing the memories of an ugly 63-8 home loss to St. Paul in the fifth week of the season.

"I guess it was a good loss. We fought hard to the whistle and they didn't intimidate us. We knew they were a really good team and they would be really crisp and focused and we needed to match their intensity," Churchill head coach Peter Partridge said.

The Bulldogs' play Friday was nothing like its no-show against St. Paul, although, it helped having starting quarterback Andrew Krzeczkowski and linebacker Jarod Cardas back in the lineup. They both missed the St. Paul game.

"Against St. Paul, we had three captains out and I think we were a little over-hyped after our big win against DM. Perhaps we had them a little under-prepared, but we had two great weeks of practice and got some of our injured guys back. We seemed to have a renewed intensity and focus," Partridge said.

No one seemed more focused for Churchill than fullback/ linebacker Jurrell Gaddishaw, who had an interception and a number of bruising tackles.

"He's a great player on both sides of the ball and he has a lot of football sense for a guy who hasn't played a lot of football. He's very aggressive and he brings up our intensity every play," Partridge said.

The 16-year-old Grade 12 student's lack of football reps is the result of an injury he suffered playing for the Niagara Junior Spears after his Grade 9 year. He suffered a broken collarbone that required a steel plate and surgery. "It was a horrible break. I haven't played much and I'm just getting back into the routine," the 5-foot-11 190-pounder said.

Gaddishaw relished the chance to play a talented Lakeshore squad.

"Our coaches told us with every great challenge comes a great opportunity and we took that to heart. We've been practising hard all week and win, lose or tie, we were going to come out and play hard today. We weren't going down without a fight," he said.

The three points allowed by Lakeshore's defence were the first it allowed since giving up 14 Sept. 28 against Notre Dame. Because of a pre-season decision to not follow the SOSSA tie-breaking rules, Lakeshore was given home-field advantage against St. Paul by virtue of having allowed the least points. Lakeshore found out about the tiebreaker a few days before Friday's game.

"I wasn't too happy with the play, especially our offence, but we won the game. I give them credit. They came out hard and didn't quit. It was an eye-opener for us and a good game for us," Lakeshore head coach Rocky DiPietro said.

As usual, it was the Gator defence that looked dominant, holding Churchill to 44 net yards.

"We got some studs. They make us look good but everybody else has to pitch in and we'll have to be a team to beat St. Paul," he said.

One area of concern for Lakeshore was its passing game that completed only two of its first 11 passes.

"I'm not very happy with it. We've gone the whole year with it and it sputtered. We tried to work it out today and hopefully we're good enough to beat St. Paul," DiPietro said.

THUNDER 42 REDMEN 14

Cody Chemerika scored on an 80-yard kick return and runs of 50 and 70 yards Friday to power the Blessed Trinity Thunder (5-3) to a 42-14 win over the Denis Morris Redmen (2-6) in AAA/ AAAA football action.

Curtis Poos returned an interception 55 yards for a major, D.P. Mainse scored on a three-yard plunge and Ryan Lambert booted field goals of 15 and 32 yards to complete the Thunder scoring.

Adrian Bodnik threw TD passes of eight yards to Matt Selby and 65 yards to Cam Kudrinko.

Blessed Trinity will host Churchill in quarter-final action Thursday.

SPARTANS 9 MARAUDERS 2

The visiting Westlane Spartans (1-7) rode a field goal and a five-yard TD pass from Wilson Birch to Cory Kaine Friday to a 9-2 victory over the A.N. Myer Marauders (0-8).

Myer's lone points came on a safety.

IRISH 47 MUSTANGS 28

Jon Mataya threw TD passes to Mike Prytula (55 yards), Justin Gauthier (50 yards) and Chris Cote (60 yards) Friday to lead the Notre Dame Fighting Irish (6-2) to a 47-28 victory over the visiting St. Michael's Mustangs (3-5) in AAA/AAAA football action.

The two teams will meet again Thursday at Notre Dame in

quarter-final action. Johnny Augustine had TD runs of four and 10 yards for Notre Dame and Neco Costabile booted a pair of

field goals. For St. Mike's: Curtis Sauve had TD runs of 20 and 15 yards; Alex Nazartchuk scored on a three-yard run; and, Joe Lindsay added a 25-yard run.

BLUE DEVILS BLUE 34 BEARS 8

Gabe Elijah scored on a 91-yard kick return and a 28-yard run Friday to power the Ridgeway-Crystal Beach Blue Devils to a 34-8 victory over the Port Colborne Blue Bears in A League quarterfinal play.

Also scoring for the Blue Devils were: Drew Reinhart had a 65-yard rushing major on a fake punt; Matt Boboros caught a 45-yard scoring pass from Matt Boboros; and, Matt Martz returned a fumble 45 yards for a score.

Port Colborne's scoring came on a five-yard run and two-point convert by Frankie Morris.

Ridgeway-Crystal Beach will be at South Lincoln Friday at 2 p.m. in semifinal play.

PATRIOTS 49 HORNETS 6

Stephan Oreskovich scored a pair of touchdowns helping the St. Paul Patriots (8-0) complete an unbeaten AAA/AAAA football regular season with a 49-6 victory over the Stamford Hornets (3-5).

Ryan Nieuwesteeg, Daniel DeMizio and Andrew Oreskovich added majors for the Patriots, who lead 28-0 at the end of the first quarter. Jake Fiorucci booted field goals of 48 and 25 yards for St. Paul.

Stamford's lone major came on a 49-yard run by Brad Jenkins.

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THE SCOOP

Gators 28 Bulldogs 3

Standard Star of the Game: Lakeshore's Keaton Spratt with an interception and 12 carries for 120 yards, including TD runs of one, 12 and 23 yards.

For the Lakeshore Catholic Gators: Spratt, three TDs; Brandon Legault, one-yard QB keeper and 7-19 passing for 107 yards; Lucas Schinkel, two catches for 60 yards; interception by Jacob Foran; sacks by Ian Marouf (2), Jesse House and Chris Carver.

For the Sir Winston Churchill Bulldogs: Alex Christie, two fumble recoveries; Jurrell Gaddishaw, interception; Andrew Krzeczowski, 6-13 passing for 49 yards.

Game stats: First downs: LC 15, SWC 5. Net offence (pass-run= total): LC 107-187=294, SWC 49--4=45. Turnovers: LC 5, SWC 4. Penalties: LC 3-for-30 yards, SWC 1-for-10 yards.

Up next: Playoffs start Thursday with Lakeshore Catholic and St. Paul battling to see who represents the region in the Bowl play-downs and Churchill playing in the quarter-finals.