

Bulldogs win battle of unbeaten teams with Bucs

Posted By JOSEPH CASSIDY, SPECIAL TO THE STANDARD

Alexander Christie is one tough cookie.

On Thursday afternoon at Sir Winston Churchill, the 16-year-old running back rumbled for 172 yards and one touchdown to help the Bulldogs (5-0) defeat the (4-1) Beamsville Bucs 22-13 in Varsity 1 football action.

"(Beamsville) is a good team with a strong defence," Christie said. "They laid some good hits on us."

After moving with his parents to St. Catharines from Manitoba two years ago, Christie has found a home in the Bulldogs' backfield.

"It's different in Manitoba, but these guys here are big and tough also," he said.

If Christie continues to run through defenders like he did on Thursday, he will play at the next level in the not too distant future.

"I would love to go further," he said. "It would help to pay for my schooling."

Bulldogs head coach Peter Perron has seen his share of good players during his team's back-to-back Varsity 1 championships, and he thinks the best is yet to come for Christie.

"(Christie) is an outstanding player, and you have seen his moves," Perron said. "Give (Christie) two more years, and I can't imagine how good he will be."

The battle between the two unbeaten teams was a great contest that was not decided until the final minute of the game when Christie scored on an 18-yard run.

"Christie really stepped-up his game in the second half," Perron said.

Beamsville arrived at the field ready to play and scored a touchdown on their first possession after a 60-yard drive that ended with a fake field goal attempt and a 22-yard Austin Glover pass for a touchdown.

"We came out fired up, and I think we caught them back on their heels, but (Sir Winston) buckled down," said Beamsville coach John Pellow. "I look forward to meeting them in the playoffs."

After an unsuccessful onside kick attempt by Beamsville, the Bulldogs took advantage of a short field and scored a quick touchdown with a 12-yard Andrew Dunlop run.

In the second quarter, a botched punt gave the Beamsville Bucs the ball on the Bulldogs eight-yard line, and two plays later Beamsville running back Adam Cherrie punched the ball into the end zone to give his team a 13-8 half-time lead.

After the Bulldogs punted the ball to the Bucs two-yard line, the Bulldogs running back fumbled the ball while driving for a touchdown, but Bulldogs offensive lineman Danny Ida jumped on the fumbled ball in the end zone to give his team a 15-13 lead.

The Bulldogs defence then took over and held the Bucs from scoring again on their next three possessions.

"We talked to the kids at half time and told them to step it up a notch," Perron said. "We had to jack up the intensity, and they did."

Eden 8 at Ridley 6

The Eden defence held the Tigers on 12 consecutive goal-line plays, and with less than a second left in the game, the Flyers (2-3) won the defensive battle by blocking a Tigers (0-5) field-goal attempt.

Joey Carruso scored for Eden and Jonathon Briggs kicked the extra point.

"Our defence played an amazing game," said Eden head coach John Riley. "It was really a team effort."

Varsity 2 Thorold 8 Fort Erie 10

Thorold (2-3) lost a close battle with Fort Erie (1-3-1). Thorold trailed 10-6 at half time and scored a safety in the second half, but failed to score the go-ahead touchdown.

For Thorold, Alax Perrin threw a touchdown to Chris Rakus.

"It was disappointing," said Thorold head coach Carey Spiece. "Turnovers were a problem and penalties hurt us late in the game."

The Scoop

Bulldogs 22 Bucs 13

Standard Star of the Game: Bulldogs running back Alexander Christie who ran for 172 yards and scored the game-clinching touchdown.

For the Bulldogs: Christie scored on 18-yard run; Danny Ida scored on a fumble recovery in the end-zone; Andrew Dunlop scored on a 12-yard run.

For the Bucs: Adam Cherrie scored on a two-yard run; Zach Seguin caught a 22-yard pass from Austin Glover.