

Undefeated Bulldogs blank Redcoats

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Posted By BERNIE PUCHALSKI , STANDARD STAFF

Jeff Finley has the potential to pursue a post-secondary scholarship in rowing and football.

But the 17-year-old Sir Winston Churchill student will likely have the decision made for him by genetics.

"It's probably going to be football because I'm getting a little too big for rowing," the 6-foot-3, 240-pounder said.

The Henley gold medallist is the right height to excel in rowing but his girth isn't ideal.

"There's a lot of tall guys, but I wouldn't say they're as stocky. I have the biggest single you can buy," the Grade 12 student said.

Finley has already seen interest from Canadian schools but would love to pursue an American football scholarship. He plans to write the SATs in December and won't be fussy about what NCAA level he plays at.

"If they take me down in the States, I'll go to the States," he said.

Finley's offensive and defensive abilities were on display Thursday as the Bulldogs (3-0) recorded a 37-0 victory over the host Governor Simcoe Redcoats (1-2) in Varsity 1 football play.

Playing defensive end, he recorded a sack and he also had a 15-yard touchdown reception from his tight end position.

"He has great hands as a tight end and on defence he's aggressive. And the nice thing is as a captain, he keeps a level head," Churchill coach Peter Perron said.

Perron believes the multi-talented athlete will be a success at rowing or football.

"He could go south, and there's people already in Canada looking at him. When they start doing that after the first game, it's fun for the coaches to have someone with that ability," he said.

Perron was pleased with his team's play Thursday but not ecstatic.

"We still made a lot of mistakes, and we're not where I'd like to be right now. We pitched a shutout, but what's disturbing is we had a lot of penalties today."

Twelve for 125 yards to be precise.

"I think there were three touchdowns called back because of bone-headed errors," he said.

The Redcoats struggled on offence but played well on defence despite a flu bug making its way through the team.

"I'm proud of our kids and I wish Sir Winston luck with the rest of the year. It was a moral victory for us. That's the least amount of points they've scored all year," Simcoe coach D'Arcy McCardle said.

Bears 33 Warriors 8

The South Lincoln Bears (3-0) scored on all but two of their drives Thursday to record an impressive 33-8 victory over the defending champion West Park (2-1) Thursday in Varsity 2 football action.

"For the program, it's a huge win. It has been three years of rebuilding and the rebuilding must have worked," South Lincoln coach Chris Freure said.

The Bears built a 13-0 first-quarter lead against the wind and never looked back.

"We played a ball control game and it must have worked," Freure said.

Jeremy Muizelaar led the way for South Lincoln with TD runs of two, 14 and 12 yards. Duncan Given caught a 40-yard TD pass from Dan Macaro and added a one-yard TD run.

Mark DiDonato scored for West Park on a 33-yard run.

Saints 36 Golden Eagles 6

Josh Barbas had his second three-touchdown game of the season to lead visiting St. Catharines Collegiate (3-0) to a 36-6 victory over Thorold (2-1) Thursday in Varsity 2 football play.

Barbas caught a 50-yard screen pass from Pierce Mitchell for a TD, ran a punt back 75 yards for a score and also scored on a 35-yard run. Mike Schram scored on a 40-yard run and booted a 15-yard field goal for the Saints and D. J. Gagnon scored on a four-yard run.

Thorold's lone major came when the Golden Eagles blocked a punt and Dan Savoia fell on it in the end zone.

"They're a well-drilled team, and they were bigger, better and faster than us today," Thorold coach Carey Spiece.

Not taking anything away from the Saints but Thorold was dealing with a severe flu bug this week. It hurt attendance at practice and knocked out the team's two best running backs plus a number of linemen for Thursday's game.

Collegiate celebrated its victory by dumping a water bucket over head coach Chris McBride's head.

"The team is playing as a cohesive unit and a lot of unity with the guys and we hope to keep rolling," McBride said.

The Saints have found a home in Varsity 2 after many seasons in Varsity 1.

"It's tremendous we have four different football leagues (three senior and one junior). That's a lot of players and a lot of coaches who are volunteering a lot of hours. I think it's tremendous we have so much football being played in this region," McBride said.

Blue Bears 42 Trojans 12

Niagara District's Ethan Steip ran back the opening kick 80 yards for a major but it wasn't enough as the Niagara District Trojans (0-3) fell 42-12 to the visiting Port Colborne Blue Bears (1-2) Thursday in Varsity 2 football action.

Steip, who carried the ball 18 times for 150 yards, also had a 12-yard TD run for the Trojans who trailed 14-12 at the half.

It was the first league game for Niagara District after two controlled scrimmages.

"The final score wasn't indicative of the game. It was our game to win but we were stopped inside the 10 two times," Niagara District coach Nathan Greene said.

Falcons 33 Eagles 33 Matt Woehl scored two rushing touchdowns and sister Caroline added another as the visiting Fort Erie Falcons (0-2-1) played to a 33-33 tie against Eastdale (0-2-1) Thursday in Varsity 2 football play.

Tyler Carriere added a pair of rushing TDs.

For Eastdale, Diaolo Abbourahmane scored three rushing majors and Steve Cowell added a pair.

Marauders 15 Cougars 14 A late interception by Patrick Nadeau sealed a 15-14 victory for the A. N. Myer Marauders (2- 1) over the visiting Centennial Cougars (0-3) in Varsity 1 football action under the lights Wednesday.

Nick Williams scored on runs of two and 12 yards, including the game-winning score with four minutes left in the game.

Steve Claus caught a five-yard TD pass for the Cougars and Mike Boyd scored on a 25-yard run.

Thunder 13 Junior Redmen 12 The Denis Morris Redmen junior football team dropped a 13-12 decision to Blessed Trinity Wednesday.

For the Redmen: Jonny Marchione rushed for 155 yards and scored one touchdown; Matt Coppola blocked a punt and had eight tackles; Matt DiSimoni had five tackles; and, Joey Kordos and Chris Kenny both recovered fumbles on punts.

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The Scoop

BULLDOGS 37 REDCOATS 0

Standard Star of the Game: Churchill's Jeff Finley with a sack and a 15-yard TD reception.

For the Sir Winston Churchill Bulldogs: Finley, TD; Andrew Krzeczkwski, 5-7 passing for 94 yards, including TD passes to Finley and Max Cameron (18 and 29 yards); 80-yard punt return for a TD by Josh Brown-Myrie; Alex Christie, 9 carries for 86 yards, including six-yard TD run; fumble recovery by Andrew Dunlop; interception by Jarod Cardas.

For the Governor Simcoe Redcoats: sack by Steve Sulyatycky.

Game stats: First downs: SWC 11, GS 4. Net offence (pass-run) total: SWC (120-98) 218, GS (23-minus 17) 6. Turnovers: SWC 0, GS 3. Penalties: SWC 12 for 125 yards, GS 5 for 20 yards.

Up next: Westlane is at Beamsville and Eden is at A. N. Myer next Thursday at 3 p. m.