

Welcome to the big leagues

The four Varsity League teams that joined the former Premier League squads in the newly-created AAA/AAAA league received a rude welcome to three-down football and the highest level of high school football in Niagara last week.

Sir Winston Churchill, A.N. Myer, Westlane and Stamford were out-scored 200-48 in last Friday's opening games, an average score of 50-12. Hopefully, the Varsity League refugees will be able to raise their level of play as they become accustomed to the intricacies of three-down football. Friday's results were probably not what the members of the Niagara Region High School Athletic Association's football committee were looking for when they decided the new AAA/AAAA loop was the fair and equitable way to handle high school football. Expect at least one similar result when the AA league begins play this week. Did I mention the old adage of not fixing what wasn't broken?

Faring the best of all the Varsity squads last week was three-time Varsity champion Churchill.

"Lots of positives for us and we will regroup," Churchill head coach Peter Partridge said of his team's 45-24 loss to Notre Dame.

Partridge left no doubt as to where he thought the game was won and lost.

"We were dominated on the lines. They were very big and controlled the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball. We got very little pass rush and we didn't give our QB much time," he said.

Below are brief summaries of the other AAA/AAAA league games not reported on in The Standard last week.

Redmen 14 Mustangs 7 Paolo Sirianni had a

successful debut as the head coach of the Denis Morris senior football team as the visiting Redmen doubled the St. Mike's Mustangs 14-7.

T.J. Buck scored both touchdowns for Denis Morris and Matt Selby recorded a pair of interceptions. Kevin Denhollander had a great defensive game for the Redmen.

Next up for Sirianni and the Redmen is a Friday 3 p.m. home date against St. Paul.

Sirianni spent eight years as an assistant at St. Paul and was an all-star player for the Niagara Falls school back when the internet was thought to be a passing fad.

Thunder 45 Hornets 12 Stamford, a finalist in the

Varsity 1 league last season, was thumped 45-12 by Blessed Trinity last week.

"They out-muscled us, ran the ball very well and didn't make many mistakes. They're a very good team," Stamford head coach Brad Martin said.

Zack Allen scored both majors for Stamford on a 98-yard kick return and a 30-yard pass reception.

Blessed Trinity's scorers were not reported by the school.

Patriots 51 Marauders 0 Leading the offence for St.

Paul were Harry McMaster, Andrew Oreskovich, Evan Murzda, Ryan Niewesteege and Corey Kemp.

Rankings: 1: Lakeshore Catholic (1-0); 2. Notre Dame (1-0); 3. Blessed Trinity (1-0); 4. St. Paul (1-0); 5. Denis Morris (1-0); 6. St. Mike's (0-1); 7. Churchill (0-1); 8. Stamford (0-1); 9. Westlane (0-1); 10. A.N. Myer (0-1).