

## Bucs QB puts his best foot forward

### Ryan Dalley learns to think on his feet

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Ryan Dalley is hard to miss on a football field and it's not just because of his size 12 1/2 red high-top football cleats.

"He's one helluva athlete," Sir Winston Churchill coach Peter Perron said. "He has some nice outside speed and when he gets some blocking up front and turns it up, he does a nice job."

Perron made his comments after the visiting Bulldogs opened defence of their Varsity 1 football title with a 34-0 win over Dalley and the Beamsville Bucs.

The 18-year-old Dalley was the Bucs' best player in the season-opener and would have scored a long running touchdown if not for an illegal block called far away from the action.

"Ryan on the field at any given time can be the best player," Beamsville head coach John Pellow said. "We need to work a little better as a unit, set up blocking for him and give him the opportunities to score for us."

Pellow has seen the 5-foot-9, 165-pound pivot make significant strides in the three years he has started at quarterback for Beamsville.

"It's his knowledge of the game and his ability to think on his feet. Before he just relied on his natural talent."

The second-year Grade 12 student agrees wholeheartedly with his coach's assessment.

"Now it's more like I see the plays opening up and I can see it forming. Before, when I was young, when I saw something I wanted to do it right away," Dalley said.

Dalley, who also plays soccer, baseball and hockey, thinks he has improved every year at Beamsville.

"And this is my last year and I want it to be my best year."

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And as for those large red hightops. "My buddy had an extra pair kicking around his house and I didn't have a good pair. They have good support for my ankles," Dalley said.

Sir Winston Churchill's offence and defence supported each other in a game that was closer than the score indicated, Churchill only led 14-0 at the half and put the game away with two fourth-quarter scores.

"This was a good test. They are a good team and we just exploited some of the things we saw," Perron said.

It was a good start towards a championship repeat.

"It was nice to get one under our belt because we didn't have any exhibitions this year," Perron said.

Beamsville was also OK with the result.

"We played hard. They have a more experienced team and they took advantage of their experience," Pellow said.

Spartans 24 Raiders 13

Jimmy Farhat had two interceptions and caught 10-and 19-yard TD passes from Brandon Legault to lead Westlane to a 24-13 over visiting Holy Cross Thursday in the Varsity League debut for both schools.

David Handley added an eight-yard run for Westlane and Clayton Legacy booted a 37-yard field goal.

For Holy Cross, Brendan Labrash tossed a 43-yard scoring strike to Dillon Hendsbee and a 35-yard TD pass to Tyler Gamble.

Phoenix 17 Falcons 0 St. Francis opened the Varsity 1 football season Thursday with a 17-0 blanking of visiting Fort Erie.

Sandro Sferrazza rushed for more than 100 yards, including TD runs of three and 40 yards, and Cole Cheropita booted a 15-yard field goal. Bobby Vander Zalm had a fumble recovery and QB David Donnelly played well.

Fort Erie moved the ball well but was hurt by numerous penalties.

Bears 26 Eagles 7 Nick Ruhloff scored on two short runs and tossed a one-yard TD pass to Duncan Given to lead South Lincoln to a 26-7 victory over Eastdale in Varsity 2 football action Thursday.

Caleb Travis added a three-yard TD run for South Lincoln and the Bears' defence forced four fumbles.

Golden Eagles 20 Blue Bears 7 Running back Nathan Lewis scored

three touchdowns for the defending champion Thorold Golden Eagles as the flew over the Blue Bears 20-7.

Blue Bears quarterback Eric Pipher hooked up with receiver Alex MacKinnon for a touchdown.

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#### THE SCOOP

Bulldogs 34 Bucs 0

Winter.Standard Star of the Game: Churchill's Ryan Saunders with six carries for 55 yards, including TD runs of five and three yards, an interception and a fumble recovery.

For Sir Winston Churchill Bulldogs: Saunders, two TDs; Gary Spero, 12 runs for 162 yards, including TD carries of 39, 1 and 34 yards; sack by Jarod Cardas; sack by Andrew Gordon and Jordan

For Beamsville Bucs:Ryan Dalley, 45 passing yards and 36 net rushing yards; interception by Nathan Zavarella; fumble recovery by Nathan Glover.

Game stats:First downs SWC 13, BM 8; Net offence (pass-run-total): SWC 22- 272-29, BM 45-63-108. Turnovers: SWC 3 BM 2. Penalties: SWC 4-45 yards, BM 2-10 yards.

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