

Cameron plays football to the Max for Bulldogs

For the past couple of football seasons, Max Cameron has made a name for himself as one of the most sure-handed and talented receivers in Niagara.

Teammates and opposition in high school football and the Ontario Varsity Football League have come to expect circus catches and receptions from Cameron in the face of double coverage. The 17-year-old has been a key cog in Sir Winston Churchill's string of Varsity 1 championships and his importance is now magnified with the Bulldogs and all leagues in Niagara switching to three-down from four-down football.

"Max is clearly one of the premier receivers in the province. He will be a big go-to player for us and he's a terrific kid with great enthusiasm for football," Churchill head coach Peter Partridge said.

Universities have been inquiring about Cameron since he was in Grade 10 and playing against all the top teams in Niagara will provide the modest teen a bigger stage to show off his skills.

"He's used to playing against better competition and playing against teams like Lakeshore Catholic will be a great test for him," Partridge said.

The six-foot, 170-pound receiver is coming off a summer playing for Team Ontario at the Canada Cup in Nova Scotia. Ontario finished with a 2-1 record, losing to Quebec, the runnerup at the tournament.

"It was just an amazing time," the Niagara Spears player said.

The provincial experience helped Cameron to take his game to another level.

"It was huge because it was just like what it would be like being in training camp at university. It was a week of football meetings and practices with the university coaches."

Cameron can't wait to use what he's learned this summer against the biggest and best teams in Niagara.

"I'm very excited. It's a bigger group with a lot better teams, but we still have a good team. We'll see if we can compete with the other teams, but I think we can," he said.

His confidence hasn't been hurt by the graduation of three key linemen.

"We lost a lot of key players, but we have a smaller, faster team this year and that takes advantage of three-down football."

The advent of three-down football should mean more opportunities for Cameron and the other Churchill receivers.

"It will be a bit more of a passing game, which is nice for me, but we're still going to run the ball a lot. That's the strong part of our offence."

Cameron has yet to decide whether this will be his swan song for high school football, but he's already decided he wants to play at the Canadian university level.

"I'm going to stay in Canada. I didn't really pursue football in the States and you have to when you're younger to get there. I don't think that's an option any more."

He can't wait for Friday's season- opener at Notre Dame.

"Being in Grade 12 this year and being a leader on the team, it's a big thing for me. I really want to win."