

Coin flip puts Bulldogs second

Posted By BERNIE PUCHALSKI

For the second straight year, the Sir Winston Churchill Bulldogs football team has ended up on the losing end of a crucial coin flip.

Last season, Churchill and Stamford tied for first in the Varsity 1 standings and the Niagara Falls high school won a coin flip for top seed and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

This season, Holy Cross and Churchill tied for first with 6-0 records, and the Raiders ended up winning the coin toss after a noon-hour flip Monday at Lakeport. Churchill lost by calling heads last year and tails this year.

Will the Bulldogs call for the coin to land on its edge next year?

A coin flip was also needed to determine sixth through eighth seeds in the playoffs with Eden, A. N. Myer and Governor Simcoe tying in the regular season with 3-3 records. After coin flips, Myer ended up sixth, Simcoe seventh and Eden eighth.

That means Thursday's 2 p. m. quarter-final games are: Eden at Holy Cross; Governor Simcoe at Churchill; A. N. Myer at Stamford; and Westlane at Beamsville.

And while the football teams will be battling on the field this week and next week, a boardroom battle royale is shaping up for next week's Niagara Region High School Athletic Association meeting.

A motion has been put forward to force teams to play other teams with the same populations, just like all the other high schools sports.

For the motion to pass, two-thirds of the member schools must be present for a quorum and a two-thirds majority is needed for the motion to pass. Schools that abstain don't count as a no vote.

The meeting is Monday. District School Board of Niagara athletic co-ordinator Rina Rode wouldn't say from where the motion originated.

"It's coming forward from two individuals within the NRHSAA," she said.

POWER POLL

VARSAITY 1

1. Sir Winston Churchill (6-0): Bulldogs are unbeaten, but penalties and mental mistakes are worrisome heading into playoffs.
2. Holy Cross (6-0): Some observers feel the Raiders are the team to beat.
3. Beamsville (5-1): Hardhitting Bucs have proven they're championship contenders, not pretenders.
4. Stamford (4-2): Hornets were thumped by Holy Cross last week. How will they respond?
5. Westlane (4-2): Spartans will be tough opponent for Bucs in a quarter-final.
6. Governor Simcoe (3-3): Redcoats have won two straight to make playoffs. Lost 37-0 in regular season to quarter-final opponent Churchill.
7. A. N. Myer (3-3): Injuries have decimated Marauders' quarterbacks and offensive backfield.
8. Eden (3-3): Flyers have won two straight heading into playoffs. Lost 34-1 in regular season to quarter-final opponent Holy Cross.
9. St. Francis (1-5): Only one win, but no one blew out Phoenix.
10. Centennial (1-5): New head coach Phil Mosley will need time to make team his own.
11. Ridley College (0-6): Tough first year in Varsity 1.
12. Grimsby (0-6): The last thing the Eagles needed was the rash of injuries that befell them.