

Churchill earns playoff bye

By **BERNIE PUCHALSKI**

The Sir Winston Churchill Bulldogs picked a good time to play their best football game of the season.

With a 29-6 victory over the visiting Stamford Hornets (3-2) Thursday at Kiwanis Field, the Bulldogs (4-1) clinched a first-round bye in the AAA playoffs.

"It was probably our best game of the year. We've been working at getting better and better and we've seen some improvement the last couple of weeks," Churchill head coach Peter Partridge said.

He didn't expect to beat the Hornets by 23 points.

"Generally with Stamford, they are really close games so we always anticipate a nail-biter going down to the wire. It was bit surprising when we had a two-touchdown lead at the half."

Partridge expects a different game if the two teams meet again in the semifinals.

"They'll come more prepared and we better come more prepared as well."

He's not sure the one-week bye will be good or bad for the Bulldogs.

"It is what it is and we have to make the best of it. We have to keep the guys focused, use the bye to our advantage and come out prepared."

Scoring for the Bulldogs were: Ryan Mattei on a seven-yard TD pass from Andrew Krzeczkowski; Alex Christie on a 80-yard kick return and a one-yard run; and, Alex Coutu on a 32-yard scoring strike from Krzeczkowski.

Defensively: Eric Haslam and Matt Dobson blocked punts; Ben Cobb recorded a sack; and, Brett Saxton recovered a blocked punt.

Stamford certainly wasn't at its best Thursday.

"It was a very sloppy game on our part, but they played very well. No. 6 (Christie) is a tremendous runner and a nice athlete and I thought they threw the ball very well," Stamford head coach Brad Martin said.

Martin felt his team was undone by penalties, bad tackling and the inability to finish.

"But I'm not going to take anything away from them. They absolutely deserved to beat us."

Andrew Douglas scored the lone major for the Hornets.

Eagles 23 Blue Devils 17

A late interception by Michael Pentaluke Thursday helped preserve a 23-17 victory for the visiting Eastdale Eagles (3-2) over the Ridgeway-Crystal Beach Blue Devils (1-4) in A football action.

Dan Lazenby led the Eagles attack with a 70-yard TD run on a broken play and TD passes of 14 and 39 yards to Justin Foster.