

Playoff controversy

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The result of one of The Niagara Falls Review's Thursday Night Lights high school football games has been reversed because the winning team was found to have used an ineligible player.

High school football convenor Rick Willis, of the District School Board of Niagara, confirmed Wednesday Sir Winston Churchill had to forfeit its first two wins of the season after using a player who wasn't allowed to be on the roster.

That means its 62-7 win over Grimsby in Week 1 of the Varsity 1 Division season and its 48-12 Week 2 over Stamford have both been nullified.

The win over Stamford was the second game of The Review's Thursday Night Lights series held at Kalar Sports Park.

As a result of the forfeits, the Varsity 1 playoff picture has been turned upside down.

Sir Winston, which had finished the year at 6-0, dropped to 4-2 to finish fourth in the league. Holy Cross (6-0) finished first while Stamford, now 5-1, moves up to second with Beamsville (5-1) third. As for who those teams were hosting, there was a three-way tie for sixth. Westlane finished fifth in the league and will play at Sir Winston today at 2 p. m. A. N. Myer won a coin toss to finish sixth and will play at Beamsville at 2 p. m. Governor Simcoe finished seventh and will play at Stamford at noon and Eden finished eighth and will play at Holy Cross at 2:15 p. m.

Stamford was originally supposed to play Myer, and will now play the Governor Simcoe Redcoats, a team they beat 35-14 in the regular season.

But Brad Martin, Stamford's head coach, said he's not letting his team get overconfident.

"Two years ago in the playoffs, they beat us in a last-second play. You can't take anything for granted. Anything can happen in the playoffs," he said. "They played us extremely tough and they're a good team."

Quite possibly the biggest loser in all of this is Westlane, because it now has to play in what will likely be its toughest test of the year.

Head coach Jason Babony was infuriated Wednesday afternoon after learning earlier in the day he would have to throw away his preparations for Beamsville and turn his attention to Sir Winston.