

## **Out of his brother's shadow**

It's safe to say Alex Coutu will no longer be known solely as Nick Coutu's younger brother.

The 16-year-old sibling of former Sir Winston Churchill Bulldogs quarterback Nick Coutu, who is now the starting quarterback for the York Lions, had a breakout game Tuesday afternoon against the visiting Stamford Hornets.

The 6-foot-1, 160-pound slotback/defensive back scored the first three touchdowns of his high school career as Sir Winston Churchill (2-1) recorded a 21-6 victory over Stamford (1-2) in AAA/AAAA League action.

"He's trying to get out of his brother's shadow and trying to make his own identity because he's a good football player in his own right," Churchill head coach Peter Partridge said.

The Grade 11 student tries not to think along those lines.

"That name is going to follow me everywhere, but it's not about Nick whatsoever. I really want to be and I am my own person and, as much as I love my brother, I want to be better than him."

Partridge feels Alex has taken strides in that direction.

"He's really improved over the past couple of years. He has a high football IQ, he know what he needs to do out there and he's very athletic."

Coutu credited his strong start to his off -season regimen.

"I worked hard this summer. I worked with Team Speed, I worked with the (Niagara) Spears and Cory Grant helped me through the off -season with running Hydro (hill) and running Lock Two. The biggest point was the Spears that really got me ready for the season," Coutu said.

Both Stamford and Churchill were ready to play Tuesday.

The teams were both pretty even and the defences played well," Hornets coach Brad Martin said. "It came down to two punt returns."

The squads played with the intensity befitting two squads that have met in the last two championship games of the former Varsity 1 League.

"Our kids played better this week emotionally and it was a great game," Martin said.

His comments were echoed by Partridge.

"We've had a lot of great games with them over the past few years. It's always a hard-hitting game between two evenly-matched teams."

Next up for the Bulldogs is a Saturday 1 p.m. game at Denis Morris, the first meeting between the schools since the two teams tied in 1989 on a late field goal by Dan Giancola. It is the resumption of a rivalry that was at one time among the best in the city.

REDMEN 21 SPARTANS 13

T.J. Buck scored on a pair of short TD runs, his first following a 75-yard run, helping the Denis Morris Redmen (2-1) defeat the visiting Westlane Spartans(0-3).

Third-string quarterback Nathan Furgiuele also scored for the Redmen.

On defence for Denis Morris: Kevin Den Hollander and Aaron Dekker had a pair of sacks; Matt Dagenais picked off a pass; and Tommy Hughes had a strong game.

THUNDER 45 MARAUDERS 0

Blessed Trinity improved to 2-1 by crushing A.N. Myer (0-3).

Scoring for the Thunder were: David Maines on runs of 45 and 30 yards; Jason Baum on dashes of 10 and 25 yards; Cody Chemericka, with a 70-yard punt return for a score and a 35-yard TD run; and Ryan Lambert with a 20-yard field goal.

Blessed Trinity is at St. Paul Saturday at 1 p.m.

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THE SCOOP

The Scoop

Bulldogs 21 Hornets 6

Standard Star of the Game: Sir Winston Churchill Bulldogs' Alex Coutu with punt-return TDs of 50 and 60 yards and a 30-yard TD catch from Andrew Krzeczowski.

For the Sir Winston Churchill Bulldogs: Coutu, three TDs; Krzeczowski, 9-for-17 passing for 115 yards; Alex Christie, nine carries for 62 yards; Max Cameron, four catches for 56 yards; fumble recovery by Matt Finley; sack by Jurrell Gaddishaw.

For the Stamford Hornets: Zach Allen, 25 carries for 128 yards; interception and 20-yard TD run by Andrew Douglas; sacks by Chris Borowski and Cody Sturgeon; fumble recovery by Mykal Reid.

Game stats: First downs: SWC 9, ST 9. Net offence (pass-run= total): SWC 115-67=182, ST 29-196=225  
Turnovers: SWC 2, ST 4. Penalties: SWC 4-for-35 yards, ST 5-for-45 yards.

Up next: Churchill is at Denis Morris Saturday at 1 p.m.