

Bulldogs shutout Redcoats

By **Bernie Puchalski**

Friday's football encounter against the Governor Simcoe Redcoats was a game of firsts for Ryan Mattei.

The Sir Winston Churchill receiver/defensive back had his first career two-interception game in high school and his 90-yard interception return for a major was the first defensive touchdown of his career. The 17-year-old's play helped the Bulldogs record a 28-0 shutout of the visiting Governor Simcoe Redcoats.

"Ryan is a tremendous leader. He is only one of three Grade 12Bs on our team and he's a veteran presence on both sides of the ball," Churchill head coach Peter Partridge said.

Partridge loves the attributes Mattei brings to offence and defence.

"We need to find a way to get him the ball more on offence because you can see what he can do with his hands and feet," he said.

The 6-foot-4, 185-pounder returned for a second year of Grade 12 for two reasons.

"It was a combination of football and school. I wanted to better myself academically and athletically," he said.

He loves playing both ways and says he doesn't get tired.

"I love being on the field all day.

"We run hard in practice and that translates out onto the field. We're an athletic team, but we have to train hard and work hard," he said.

Mattei knows he has a big role to fill with the Bulldogs this season, on and off the field.

"Last year, I was in Grade 12 and I was a leader then. This year, we really had to step up because we don't have a lot of returning players. We have to be big leaders because we're so young."

The Bulldogs improved to 2-0 with the win, but were less than impressive.

"It certainly wasn't the prettiest game. There were a lot of mistakes on both sides and there's a lot of things to work on," Partridge said. "We're a very young and inexperienced team and we need to get better."

The Redcoats may have lost 28-0, but the game would have been a lot closer if not for seven turnovers and a handful of drive-killing penalties.

"It's not going to be on ESPN classics, for sure, but we're a young team, we're going to make mistakes and we're going to grow and the whole goal is to get better every day," Simcoe coach D'Arcy McCardle said.

The Redcoats fell to 1-1 with the loss, but have played well considering they're playing at the AAA level after playing AA last year.

"If this (Churchill) is the cream of the crop, I think we can get better. But to their credit, they are a good team," McCardle said.

Spartans 32 Flyers 0

Westlane evened its record in AA play Friday with a 32-0 win over the visiting Eden Flyers (0-2).

No scorers were available from the game.

Eagles 35 Golden Eagles 6

Nick Grant scored on TD runs of two, two and three yards to lead the Eastdale Eagles (2-0) to a 35-6 victory over the visiting Thorold Golden Eagles (0-2) in A league play Friday.

Also scoring for Eastdale was Dan Lazenby on a four-yard run and Lenley Potter on a 12-yard run.

Gators 8 Irish 7

Lakeshore Catholic improved to 3-0 in AAAA play Friday with an 8-7 road win over the Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

Tied 7-7 late in the game, the Gators scored on a quarterback sneak from the one-yard line, but the play was called back on a penalty. Dustin Toner then punted the ball out of the end zone to give Lakeshore the win as time expired.

Mack Steele scored the Gators' major on a one-yard run while Chris Cote had a 10-yard rushing major for Notre Dame.

The St. Paul/Denis Morris game was postponed because of field conditions.

Mustangs 56 Myer 7

Zack Hildebrand scored four majors, leading the St. Mike's Mustangs (2-0) to a 56-7 victory over the A.N. Myer Marauders Thursday night in AAA football action.

Also scoring for the Mustangs were Jordan Provenzano with two touchdowns; Dylan Smythe with a rushing TD; and Nick Gilbert, who recovered a blocked punt in the end zone.

The Scoop

Bulldogs 28 Redcoats 0

Standard Star of the Game: Churchill's Ryan Mattei, two interceptions, including a 90-yard return for a TD.

For the Sir Winston Churchill Bulldogs: Mattei, TD; Alex Christie, 9 carries for 59 yards, including TD runs of 10 and five yards; Andrew Krzeczowski, 7-13 passing for 100 yards, including 24-yard TD pass to Alex Coutu; Coutu, 6 catches for 87 yards; fumble recoveries by Eric Haslam, and Stephen Leach; interceptions by interceptions by Alex Watson and Leach; forced fumble and sack by Josh Harris.

For the Governor Simcoe Redcoats: Jordan Clout, 17 carries for 57 yards; interception by Paul Redman; sack by Ben Bradford.

Game stats: First downs: SWC 9, GS 6. Net offence (pass-run=total) SWC 100-98=198, GS 19-48=67. Turnovers: SWC 2, GS 7. Penalties: SWC 14 for 135 yards, GS 9 for 50 yards.