



The 85-pound Commandos of the Williamsville Junior Football league improved to 7-0 with a 38-21 win Saturday over the Niagara-Wheatfield Bobcats. Members of the team, pictured from left, are: first row - Eric Seaner, Andrew Butler, Kyle Dunn, Will Sanderson, Massimo Zimmerman, Ben Noel, Nathan Gentile, Jamie Camarre, Brian Fulford, George Bauman, and Arjun Chima; second row - Terrance Thornton, Braedan Gillman, Justin James, Tyler Buell, Adam Mills, Collin Hunt, Ryan Konotopskyj, Brendan Wynia, Max Ralbovsky, Jordan Buell, Michael Woods, Mariano Baldon, and Max Schectman.

Williamsville Junior Football

Commandos improve to 7-0

The 85-pound Williamsville Commandos of the Williamsville Junior Football League hit the road again as they tried to shake off the cobwebs from a week of inactivity due to the October snowstorm.

The Commandos did not miss a beat as they beat the Niagara Wheatfield Bobcats, 38-21, on a rain-soaked field at Niagara-Wheatfield High School.

Williamsville won the toss and struck early. On the first play from scrimmage, tailback Ben Noel followed the lead blocks of fullback Ryan Konotopskyj and wingback Collin Hunt to scamper for a 60-yard touchdown. Unfortunately, Noel stepped out of bounds at the Bobcats' 45 and the TD was called back.

The Commandos regrouped and decided to use the mud to their advantage. Noel took the handoff and ran through the mud around the left side. He was escorted by linemen Kyle Dunn and Braedan Gillman into the end zone. This time, the score counted and the Commandos took an early six-point lead.

Quarterback Brendan Wynia added to the score when he blasted around the right side behind George Bauman, Michael Woods, and Jordan Buell for the one-point conversion.

The Commandos' defense dug their cleats into the mud and held the Bobcats' offense on downs.

Williamsville's offense came back onto the field after a short rest and worked their way down the field. Konotopskyj took the ball and wove his way through the openings and found pay dirt after a 30-yard burst through the middle of the line. The Commandos' two-point conversion attempt failed. The first quarter end-

ed with Williamsville ahead 13-0.

As Williamsville's defense took to the field to start the second quarter, the Bobcat defense got on track.

Superior tackling by Commando players Arjun Chima, Adam Mills, Terrance Thornton, and Eric Seaner forced the Bobcats to work for every inch of ground obtained. Niagara-Wheatfield was rewarded for their efforts by running in a touchdown and extra-point to cut the deficit to six.

Williamsville's offense was determined to get their two touchdown cushion back and began their drive on their own 40. They mounted a long, clock-eating drive that was culminated when Noel bounced outside and ran in a TD. Wynia was given the task of scoring the extra-point and as his running backs helped move the pile, he burrowed his way into the end zone to increase the Commandos' score to 19.

Williamsville's defense, feeling stung by the Bobcat offense on the previous series, was determined to not let them score again. Defensive tackle Brian Fulford recovered a fumble that was created by a tackle made by linebacker Max Schectman on the Bobcat 38.

Another Commando drive was capped off by a beautiful quarterback option play which was flawlessly executed. Wynia began his run to the right side as required. Just before he was tackled by the Bobcat defender, he pitched the ball to Noel, who rumbled down the field to score once again. Fullback Justin James came in for the extra-point attempt but was stopped at the line by the Bobcat defense. Williamsville took a 26-7

lead into halftime.

Niagara-Wheatfield began the second half on offense and worked their way down the field. Will Sanderson of the Williamsville defense worked with fellow players Massimo Zimmerman, Max Ralbovsky and Mariano Baldon as they tried to stop the offense. Unfortunately for them, the Bobcats found the end zone.

Once again, Williamsville's offense took the field and did not stop until Konotopskyj, after sliding through the mud, bounced around the right end and sprinted to the end zone. The two-point conversion failed as the pass sailed through the back of the end zone. Commando defenders, Andrew Butler, Tyler Buell, Jamie Camarre, and Ryan Duran led the way as they attempted to shut down the Bobcat offense. They did a remarkable job but Niagara-Wheatfield would not be deterred. The Bobcats once again found the end zone and cut the lead to 32-21.

Williamsville took over the ball and wanted to use up the rest of the game clock. They worked their way down the field and were rewarded when Noel ran in for the fourth time of the game. They were unable to score the extra point, but increased their lead to 36-21.

The Commandos (7-0) host the North Tonawanda Wolves on Saturday.



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Buffalo In-Line Hockey Group Comebacks, blowouts highlight third week

Week Three of Buffalo In-line Hockey Group's fall/winter season saw a comeback by the Red Raiders led by their coach.

Down 3-0 to the Storm eight minutes in, Red Raider coach Rich Smith gathered his deflated players and fought back to tie the game at 4-4, then 5-5. The Raiders then scored twice in the overtime shootout to gain the victory.

Pat Smith (Amherst) and Edgar Rosario (Kenmore) each tallied twice for the Raiders and Nick Shearer (Kenmore) picked up the shootout game-winner. Justin Banaszak (Cheektowaga) netted a hat trick for the Storm.

In other Majors action, the Black Aces stayed on top of the division with a 14-0 blowout of Team X. League leading scorer David Campuzano (Grand Island) scored four times and had five assists in the win. John Lyons (Amherst) and Doug Smith (Williamsville) each had four goals for the Aces. Aaron Lambe (Tonawanda) earned the shutout.

In juniors, the 535's stayed unbeaten with a 2-1 triumph over the Blue Flames. Amherst's Evan Dressel netted the game winner with just a minute left in regulation. The Blue Flames came back however in their second game of the day with a 7-1 win against the Hurricanes. Zac Carslyle (Cheektowaga) led the way with a hat trick and Andy Probst (Clarence) had two for the winners. For their effort, Carslyle (juniors) and Campuzano (majors) were named Players of the Week.

Buffalo In-line Hockey Group is the premier youth in-line hockey league in Erie County and plays every Saturday morning in two age groups at the EPIC Center on Wehrle Dr. in Amherst. New players are always welcome. For more information, call 773-1188 or 689-4090.

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