

Saints football drops to second after loss in final week



By Jake Courtepatte

One week after taking down the previously unbeaten Trinity College School Bears, the St. Andrew's College (SAC) varsity Saints football team was on home field Saturday in a winner-takes-first rematch on the final day of the regular season.

As was the case in their first matchup, an explosive offence was the determining factor for both sides. With the Saints kicking off first, the Bears were able to return the ball all the way to the 50-yard line. Linebacker Gregor MacKeller broke through the offensive line to force the Bears' quarterback to throw the ball away on first down, but a nice lateral pass on second down fooled the Saints' defence as the Bears took it to the house for a 7 ? 0 score less than a minute in.

On the second play of the Saints' ensuing drive, quarterback Ben Schmidt ran a nice draw play down the right side for a huge gain, but failed to continue the drive. They then forced the Bears to punt from their own end, starting their next attempt with a wonderful one-handed catch from tight end Andrew Biddell who rumbled 30 yards to almost reach scoring position.

A stroke of bad luck forced the Saints to once again punt, after an offside on third down.

Less than a minute later, the Bears quarterback produced his own draw play by ducking and weaving his way 50 yards to the house for a 14 ? 0 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Desperate to get on the board, Walter Karabin brought the Saints to within striking distance with a long rush of his own to start the second quarter. But a long Hail Mary pass to wide receiver Will Sirman on third down was just missed in the end zone, sending the defence back onto the field.

With frustration setting in, an unnecessary roughness call on the following play sent the Saints defence back fifteen yards, leading to a huge 50-yard touchdown pass to bring the lead to 21 ? 0.

The offence continued to struggle on the next drive, unable to escape their own end and eventually taking a knee in the end zone for a 23 ? 0 score.

They were finally able to get on the board in the second half, but by then it was too late, dropping the contest by a score of 45 ? 28. SAC finished the season with a 4 ? 2 division record.

With the loss, the Saints will now host the third-place Upper Canada College Blues in the CISAA semi-final, who ended the regular season with a 2-4-0 record. The Saints were 1 ? 1 against the Blues this season, most recently putting on an offensive show in a 52 ?

32 win at home in early October.

A win would have the Saints in the championship matchup next Tuesday.