

For three years in a row,
Sisler leaves without cup

Defeat torments Spartans

FOOTBALL

By Steven Forbes
Sports Reporter

PITY THE poor Sisler Spartans. The Spartans may have been the team with the most playoff experience heading into Thursday night's Winnipeg High School Football League championship game, but it sure didn't help them.

The Spartans were upset 28-10 by the Maples Marauders and for many of the Sisler squad, being a wallflower at the big dance for the third straight season was more than they could bear.

"There is nothing more frustrating or disappointing than coming here year after year and not being able to win it all," sighed teary-eyed Spartan quarterback Brian Tavares, who has been Sisler's signal caller in previous final losses to Churchill and Oak Park.

"This was the first time we've played in the championship game where we should have had the advantage, we had the 6-1 record, we should have been the team to beat.

"I guess somewhere along the line we lost that advantage."

The 5-2 Marauders took one big advantage away from Sisler early in the first quarter when Spartan running back Chad Polenski left the game with a knee injury on the Spartans' first series.

"That was a big factor," admitted Tavares. "To have him go down on the first play right off the bat — he'd been our best running back the entire season. When he went down I knew we were in for a long night."

The Marauders' win was a long time coming, 10 years in fact, and marked the first high school championship ever for the Maples' club.

Player of the game Curtis Barfield

said he felt the contest was never in doubt, even when Sisler scored the opening major.

"That would have demoralized a lesser team," said Barfield who racked up 137 yards on 14 carries in the first half alone and finished with over 200 yards and one touchdown.

"But we knew from the outset that this was our game to win or lose," he concluded. "Having it be the first ever for Maples makes it really sweet."

"I'm extremely proud of this team," said Sisler coach Rick Hudson. "To come to the championship game three years in a row is an accomplishment in itself and I hope they and everybody else realizes how difficult a thing that is to do.

"They have nothing to hang their heads about."



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**Head coach Hannes Boundy,
Barfield celebrate victory.**