

Fresh start suits Vikings

BY DAVID LARKINS

Sporting new uniforms for a new league with a new head coach, the Vincent Massey Vikings also unveiled a new weapon on Thursday.

Quarterback Seth Hume threw for four first-half touchdowns and rushed for 73 yards as the Vikings opened the Winnipeg High School Football League season with a 28-12 victory over the Crocus Plainsmen at Crocus.

Hume, who transferred to Massey this season after having success with the Southwest Sabres in the rural nine-man league, showed no signs of struggles with the 12-man game, routinely taking advantage of one-on-ones on the outside and picking apart the Crocus secondary. Hume threw touchdowns of 55 and 50 yards to Mason Kaluzniak, the latter coming on a second-and-17 when Kaluzniak used a double move to get wide open and trotted into the end zone to make it 21-6.

"Mason's a great player and he was always isolated, so we had it all day," Hume said. "We knew we were going to be able to pass, we have great receivers, good (offensive) line, it's one of our strengths."

Late in the half, someone on the Massey sideline yelled "do you have your tickets to the air show?" The Plainsmen had a front-row seat for it as Hume racked up 175 yards on the day and gave the Vikings a positive start to their first season in the Winnipeg league.

"Practice hasn't been our best performance — we've been so close



Vincent Massey Vikings wide receiver Mason Kaluzniak reaches out to snare a pass with Ryan Brooking of the Crocus Plainsmen in pursuit as both teams opened the Winnipeg High School Football League season on Thursday at Crocus Plains. The Vikings won 28-12. (Colin Corneau/Brandon Sun)

on so many plays — and we knew it was coming ... and we really hoped it would be today," Vikings head coach Mike Steeves said. "We had some dropped balls in practice, but the boys stepped up today and made some unreal catches."

Hume also hooked up with Brady

Molnar on a 16-yard touchdown strike that opened the scoring and Cody Gallant on an 18-yard score just before the half.

Crocus' offence sputtered in the first half and the Plainsmen's most successful attack was using Michael Kim on end-arounds. The Grade 11

receiver totalled 55 yards rushing and even threw for a touchdown, a 50-yard toss to Josh Mutchler in the third quarter.

"A few timing issues and we got kinda nicked up (on offence) prior to this first game and once that goes we'll be back," Crocus head coach

BY THE NUMBERS

VINCENT MASSEY

PASSING
Seth Hume: 6-for-17, 175 yards, four touchdowns, one interception
RUSHING
Hume: five carries, 73 yards; Aaron Plato: 4-50; Eric Russell: 4-32
RECEIVING
Mason Kaluzniak: four catches, 146 yards, two touchdowns; Cody Gallant: 1-18-1; Brady Molnar: 1-16-1
DEFENCE
Brett Richards: 10 tackles, three assists; Jared Spearing: 6-6, two interceptions

CROCUS PLAINS

PASSING
Luke Russell-Yearwood: 3-13-30-1-2; Michael Kim: 1-2-50-1-0
RUSHING
Logan Thompson: 18-119; Kim: 5-55
RECEIVING
Josh Mutchler: 1-50-1; Kyle Maylon: 1-20-1
DEFENCE
Brady Hotain: seven tackles, one sack; Ryan Wood: eight tackles; Ben Harries: three sacks

Jamie Freiheit said. "We'll be fine. It's just a matter of fine-tuning what we've got and we'll be good."

Prior to the season, the Vikings were talking about their small offensive line, but they didn't look the part on this day. Hume was protected well and, in reality, it was the Crocus O-line that struggled to keep its pivot, Luke Russell-Yearwood, from running for his life. The Grade 12 quarterback finished 3-for-13 for 30 yards, a touchdown to Kyle Maylon and three interceptions.

"We've got a lot of injuries already, a few guys are hurt but (the offensive line) pulled together," Hume said.

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Crunch time for rookies

BY ROB HENDERSON

Never mind the pre-season, for some Brandon Wheat Kings hopefuls this weekend might as well be the playoffs.

The Wheat Kings wrap up their exhibition schedule this weekend with a home-and-home set against the Moose Jaw Warriors, hosting the first contest tonight (7:30, Westman Place) before heading on the road tomorrow.

That means it's also the last chance to make an impression before the club sets its roster for the beginning of the regular season next week. With a short exhibition schedule, Wheat Kings head coach/general manager said the pre-season games carry a lot of weight for the team.

"For us, the games probably take on extra importance because we've had so much practice time," said McCrimmon, whose team is 2-0 in the pre-season. "(Wednesday) night was only our second pre-season game, even though it was the ninth of September. There's teams that have played half a dozen so we have to get the most out of our game situations, both in evaluation and also in working on team play."



Liam Liston is one of four Wheat Kings goaltenders hoping to make a mark in the final two pre-season games. (Bruce Bumstead/Brandon Sun)

Including injured right-winger Toni Rajala, who headed straight from Finland to Edmonton to check in with the National Hockey League's Oilers and has yet to arrive in Brandon, the Wheat Kings have 33 players on their pre-season roster. That includes a crowded crease of four goaltenders as veteran Dalyn Flette, 19, competes with rookies Ty

Rimmer, 17, and Liam Liston, 16, for the backup job behind 19-year-old starter Andrew Hayes.

It's not uncommon for the Wheat Kings to start the regular season with three goaltenders, but even so, the contenders are starting to feel the pressure.

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Melnychuk returning from Sharks camp

Defenceman Brodie Melnychuk is on his way back to the Brandon Wheat Kings.

Melnychuk, entering his third Western Hockey League season, was sent back to the Wheat Kings after helping the host San Jose Sharks sweep the Anaheim Ducks in three straight rookie games.

Melnychuk, on a tryout with the National Hockey League's Sharks, picked up one assist during the series, which ended Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Wheat Kings centre Brayden Schenn scored two goals and an assist as the Los Angeles Kings rookies beat the Phoenix Coyotes prospects 4-0 on Thursday to earn a split of their two-game set in El Segundo, Calif.

At an NHL prospects tournament in Traverse City, Mich., Brandon's Matt Calvert and former Wheat King Andrew Clark both picked up assists yesterday as the Columbus Blue Jackets fell 5-4 in a shootout to the Atlanta Thrashers. Clark also scored in the shootout, while Calvert — the tournament's top scorer with five goals and two assists in four games — was stopped.



Former Wheat King Daniel Bartek continued an impressive showing at the tournament with the New York Rangers, dishing out two assists in a 5-4 victory over the St. Louis Blues. Bartek had two goals and four points in four games.

Scott Glennie of the Wheat Kings was held off the scoresheet as his Dallas Stars fell 4-1 to the Detroit Red Wings. The Minnesota Wild, with Brandonite Carson McMillan and Snowflake's Justin Falk in the lineup, fell 4-1 to the Carolina Hurricanes in the tournament final.

At Kitchener, Ont., the Ottawa Senators, with Wheat Kings left-winger Jordan Hale and former teammate Matt Lowry, wrapped up a rookie tournament by beating the Toronto Maple Leafs 7-1.

» Brandon Sun

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TODAY: IN WESTMAN
• WHL — The Brandon Wheat Kings host Moose Jaw in pre-season action at Westman Place, 7:30 p.m.

ON TELEVISION
• CFL — Hamilton Tiger-Cats at Toronto Argonauts, 6 p.m. (TSN); Calgary Stampeders at Edmonton Eskimos, 9 p.m. (TSN)

IN LOCAL HISTORY
• 40 YEARS AGO — Bruce Kent led the Brandon Gun Club's fall shoot by winning the A-class and A-class doubles, and was tops

overall in the competition.
• 30 YEARS AGO — Peter Stewart of Brandon fired a 5-over-par 77 to win the Minnedosa men's golf tournament.

• 20 YEARS AGO — Brandon boxer Brent Mitchell picked up his second straight professional victory at the Winnipeg Convention Centre.

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