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## CLIPPER SPORTS

## Sabres season ends at Bomber's stadium

By Tony Zerucha

While the Springfield Sabres fell short of their goal of winning the Winnipeg High School Football League AAAA championship, they still have plenty to be proud of when they reflect on the 2024 season.

Springfield's season ended on Oct. 24 when they fell 35-3 to the St. Paul's Crusaders at Princess Auto Stadium. The defeat left the Sabres with a 5-3 record.

"It was a great season, and the program achieved a few new milestones," head coach Tom Walls said. "Unfortunately, the ball didn't bounce our way against St. Pauls, but we learned some good lessons that we will remember for next season."

It was a tale of two seasons for Walls' squad. The Sabres ran the table in the North East Division with a 4-0 record, outscoring their opponents 136-24. Two of those wins were shutouts. Springfield added a third whitewash in a nonconference matchup against the Maples Marauders.

Their three losses were against the cream of the

WHSFL crop – the Crusaders, Oak Park Raiders and Grant Park Pirates, all of whom playing in the semifinals this week.

The Pirates and Crusaders lost to the Dakota Lancers, who surrendered eight points in seven regular-season games, and the Raiders, who didn't allow a single point during the regular season.

As the season progressed, quarterback Graesen Pats showed maturity behind centre. He completed 24 of 34 pass attempts for 325 yards and

a 70.6 completion percent-

The Sabres' running game drove the offence, as five players rushed for more than 100 yards. Mitchell Magwood paced the backfield with 420 yards, a 24.7 average yards per carry, and four majors, while Noah Hickey carried the rock 31 times for 340 yards and one score. Ethan Haarsma added 197 yards and three end-zone trips. Colton Gowans and Korben Meadows-Seidler also broke the century mark.

On defence, Sabre pass rushers registered 20 quarterback sacks, with Noah Mushaluk and Ethan Singh posting five each. Gowans was tops with 29.5 tackles as he readies himself for the University of Manitoba Bisons. Haarsma had 20 tackles. Several Sabres contributed on both offence and defence.

Sabre defenders picked off nine passes. Brady Smith stole three, while Brady Rach took his to the house for a touchdown.

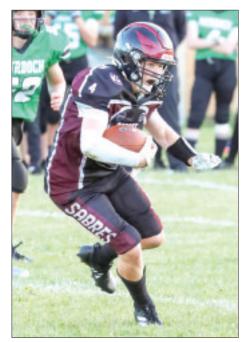


Photo by Megan Groenheide

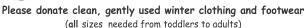
Mitchell Magwood paced the Sabres backfield this year with 420 yards and four majors.

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