

NT Fall Youth Touch Football League

*Friday, November 16, 2018*

### **Championship Game:**

#### **Bills defeat Steelers to win the Championship**

There is always a different vibe in the game when it is played under the lights. The vibe gets amplified when there is a snow game under the lights, and it becomes even more magnified when the game happens to be the Championship. The Bills and Steelers faced off for the Fall Touch Football League title on Friday night, and the game featured a ton of defense.

Both teams seemed determined to not let the other teams gain a yard. The Bills started off with the ball, but even their high-flying offense found difficulty moving the ball against the stingy Steelers defense. After a punt by the Bills, the Steelers were also forced to punt on their first drive. The Bills began to chip away at the Steelers defense on their second drive, as Jacob Smith and Ryan Richner had nice runs to give their team a first down. However, inside Steelers territory, the Bills tried to go for it on 4<sup>th</sup> down and score a touchdown. Taydan Williams of the Steelers spoiled these plans, when he made a text-book interception near the 10 yard line. However, the Steelers could not convert on their own drive.

Neither offenses did much until the end of the half. The Steelers gained momentum with under 2 minutes remaining. Emma Stahl had back-to-back catches to set up a first down, using her speed to zoom by defenders. Then, Vincent Abramaitys had a nice catch on 2<sup>nd</sup> down, and Taydan Williams made a diving catch to put the Steelers at the 2-yard line with 6 seconds remaining. However, the drive ended without a touchdown, as the receiver caught the ball out of bounds as the buzzer rang.

There game was tied at 0 at half-time.

The Steelers started out hot in the second half, looking like they would put points on the board. Aidan Raymond and Johnathan Smaol moved the ball with a few nice runs, and Payton Hutchinson had a nice catch. However, their drive stalled once again, and the Bills took over after the punt. Once the Bills got momentum, they did not look back.

The Bills put together a methodical drive half-way through the second half. After Ryan Richner and Tyler Willard had good runs, AJ Cinquino was found over the middle of the field to convert a first down. Next, Jacob Smith had a big catch to his team up inside the Red Zone. After an incomplete 3<sup>rd</sup> down, AJ Cinquino was found open in the back-corner of the end-zone, and gave the Bills a 7-0 lead. Coach Jacob Lemke was so excited over the TD, that he picked AJ-up in celebration!

The Steelers tried to bounce back on their next drive. Wesley Stahl had a run, and Braxton Vaillancourt had a nice catch along the side-line. Abramaitys then converted the first down, and Williams had a catch to put his team within striking distance. However, the Bills

made a crucial 4<sup>th</sup> down stop, and batted the ball away from the Steelers receiver, knocking away a potential touchdown.

Both teams played a chess-like few drives, matching offense with defensive stops. However, the Bills sealed the deal with under 2 minutes remaining on their final drive. After a run by Jacob Smith and a catch by Eli Ortiz, the Bills had a first down. AJ Cinquino and Smith kept the defense guessing with their run attack. Then, on 3<sup>rd</sup> down with a minute and a half remaining, Joey Polek sealed the deal—and the championship victory—when he was found wide-open on an out route, and ran into the end-zone with ease.

The Bills defeated the Steelers 14-0 to win the 2018 Touch Football League Championship. In the victory, the Bills pitched their 4<sup>th</sup> straight shut-out, and never gave up more than 7 points in any game this season. It is fair to say the Bills gave some truth to the saying “Defense Wins Championships.”

Congratulations to both the Bills and Steelers on their tremendous seasons!