

# Masco just two good for C-C

By **MIKE DEL ROSSO**

## DIVISION 2A

LOWELL — Masconomet had Concord-Carlisle seeing double — two quarterbacks that is.

Behind the talented tan-

<b>MASCONOMET</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>CONCORD-CARLISLE</b>	<b>8</b>

dem of Chris Splinter and Evan Bunker, the Chieftains (10-2) were too good for the Patriots (8-4) yesterday, rolling to an 18-8 victory in a Division 2A semifinal at Cawley Stadium.

Masco will play Marshfield in the Super Bowl Saturday at Gillette Stadium.

“Splinter and Bunker were as advertised,” C-C coach Mike Robichaud said.

The two-headed monster combined for 162 yards on 29 carries. And when Splinter wasn't at the helm, Bunker was throwing touchdowns. He connected with Collin Burke from 35 yards in the first quarter and with Splinter from 32 yards in the second. Splinter ran in Masco's third TD.

“Chris is such a great receiver; he does it all. And Evan's got a rifle,” Masco coach Jim Pugh said. “We probably should have been doing it last year.”

After all, it wasn't until Masco worked its dynamic duo magic that they began to see fireworks.

It was slow going until Jason Schwartz recovered a fumble at the C-C 29-yard line. Flustered from the turnover, the Patriots were caught off-guard when Masco switched passers from Splinter, who had run the offense to this point, to Bunker. That proved costly as Bunker hit Burke in the end zone for a 6-0 lead with 1:56 to go in the first half.

C-C answered by moving the ball to the Masco 27 and was poised to score after a timeout. Quarterback Peter George, who had just completed a 21-yard pass to Jackson Finigan, went to the end zone for the tying score but was picked off by Bunker.

The Chieftains took advantage, scoring on the final

play of the half when Bunker hit Splinter for a 12-0 lead.

After a scoreless third quarter, Masco put the game away in the fourth on a 1-yard plunge by Splinter.

George (4-for-11, 78 yards) later connected with John Bumpus from 5 yards as C-C averted the shutout.

The Patriots, who made the playoffs for the first time since 1978 and had won seven straight before yesterday, weren't completely at a loss.

“I think it's years like this that gets kids back and kind of excited about the program,” Robichaud said. “Those are all things to look forward to ... hopefully we can get it going next year.”