

Gladiator News

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Gladiators hang on to beat Millionaires

HERALD STAFF

The first-ever Southern States Football League game between the Bradenton Gladiators and the Sarasota Millionaires exceeded the hype. Demetris Craddock stopped former Gladiator Calvin Williams an inch short of a first down with 28 seconds left, preserving a 13-12 Gladiators' victory in front of about 600 fans Saturday at Sarasota Booker High.

On the deciding play, Millionaires quarterback Mike Peterson tried to run for the first down but was met by defender Terrance Fuller. Peterson managed to lateral the ball back to Williams, but Craddock was in position to make the game-saving tackle on the Bradenton 15-yard line.

The Gladiators (2-0) took an early 13-0 lead.

Joe Patoray recovered a fumble and ran five yards for the first touchdown, and quarterback Edrick Sweeting connected with Bon Bean on a 52-yard touchdown bomb later in the first quarter. Dominic Fragomeni kicked what proved to be the winning extra point.

The Millionaires rallied in the fourth quarter on a 2-yard touchdown run by Peterson and a 10-yard TD pass from Peterson to Ben Seymour.

The Millionaires (1-1) attempted a 2-point conversion after the second touchdown, but Will Cater's pass to Corey Corbett fell incomplete with 7:49 remaining.