

SEASON RECAP



Disappointing season concludes with high hopes for the future

When contemplating Paschal's 2006 varsity campaign, there are those who may be tempted, a la the Ramones, to wish for sedation.

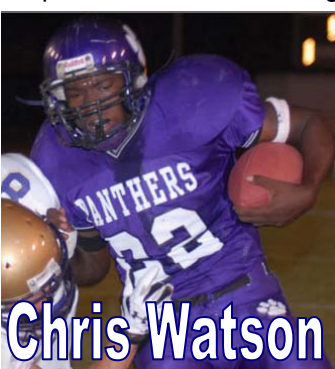
In the 1978 hit "I Wanna Be Sedated," which appeared on the Road to Ruin album, the Ramones sing: "Twenty-twenty-twenty four hours to go, I wanna be sedated/Nothing' to do and nowhere to go-o-oh, I wanna be sedated/Just put me in a wheelchair, get me to the show/Hurry hurry hurry, before I go loco....."

Tempting, perhaps, but it would entirely miss the point, which is: The 2006 Panthers were better than their record would reflect. And they'll be even better going forward.

The Panthers concluded a hard luck season against North Crowley November 10 with little in the way of highlights outside senior RB/LB Chris Watson's 85-yard run on a failed extra point conversion yielded a safety and two points for Paschal. C-Wat played his final game with gusto, catching two passes for 41 yards and rushing for another 20. Also suiting up for the last time in Panther Purple was OL/DL Bryant Waters, who was a powerful presence in the trenches all season.

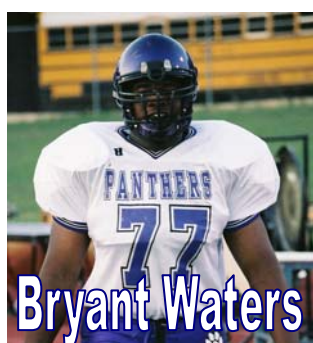
The Panthers will return a seasoned core of current juniors next year leavened with a talented crop of players who turned in stellar work on the JV and freshmen teams in 2006. Joseph Robinson, whose season was marred by injury, Robert Gallagher, Jeffrey Tillman, Mike Goetz and a host of others will return in 2006 a year wiser and reinforced by talented newcomers.

So let others find solace in the Ramones. The Panther faithful might be better served finding inspiration in the Pete Seeger classic "Turn! Turn! Turn! (to Everything There Is A Season),"



Chris Watson

inspired by Ecclesiastes and most famously covered by The Byrds in 1966. As Seeger put it, "To everything, turn, turn, turn/There is a season, turn, turn, turn/And a time to every purpose under heaven/A time to gain, a time to lose...." While no one, perhaps, is talking playoffs just yet, one thing is clear: The Panthers will turn some heads as they turn the corner, turning to a new page in the school's football history in 2007. A time for winning is at hand.



Bryant Waters

JV Panthers finish strong versus N. Crowley in game marred by health scare

QB/DB Sasha Lovett had a career game November 9, pacing the JV Panthers to 36 points with five long TD runs against North Crowley to complete the 2006 season. The Panthers won the contest 36-32 after the North Crowley team conceded the game so that Paschal could focus its attention on Coach Joe Gifford, whose health scare frightened Panther Nation.

The Panthers played well throughout the game, but North Crowley proved a tough and persistent foe. Indeed, North Crowley pulled within four points when Coach Gifford fell. And suddenly, no one's mind was on football anymore.

Players from both teams gathered at midfield as Coach Gifford was tended to by medical personnel, and huddled in prayer when he was taken to the hospital. Then North Crowley coaches, in a most laudable display of sportsmanship, conceded the game.

"That was a powerful and important life lesson," said Dean Wilkerson, one of the Football Booster Club leaders. "The boys took something away far more important than the result of a football game."

Injury-depleted freshmen Panthers play with pride against North Crowley

The freshmen Panthers fell just short of upending North Crowley November 9 and ending their season over the .500 mark. In the end, however, the team played with pride and went down swinging.

RB/LB Emmanuel Smith scored Paschal's first TD of the evening. Josh Nurdin scored another after catching a pass from Tyler Nurdin, losing his shoe, and nevertheless sprinting for paydirt. Nurdin converted a two-point try to put Paschal in the lead 20-16.

Paschal appeared to have the game on ice when, late in the contest, LB/RB Kirby Campbell threw a North Crowley running back for a loss on third down. But in a fourth and exceptionally long situation, North Crowley was able to come up with a first down and get within the five yard line. On a subsequent play, a North Crowley back appeared to fumble the ball into the end zone, and Campbell leaped on the ball for an apparent touchback. However, the officials eventually ruled that the back had crossed the plane before coughing it up and North Crowley had a 22-20 lead.



Nurdin

Paschal remained in the game, however, and had a shot for a thrilling end-of-game win. Nurdin and the Panthers marched the ball up the field and got into the red zone, but the North Crowley defense stiffened and the Panthers were unable to score.

Although the team enjoyed a fine season, the Panthers remained unsatisfied, knowing that just a handful of plays separated them from going 8-2 or even 9-1. Fueled by that hunger, this group of Panthers can be expected to make noise in coming seasons.



Smith

Coach Gifford back on the job

Coach Joe Gifford is back at work less than a week after sending a scare throughout Panther Nation. Gifford collapsed in pain on the Paschal sideline during the November 9 JV contest.

After undergoing a variety of tests, Coach Gifford was released and is now back doing what he loves best -- working with kids.

Stay well, Coach. The boys need you.

Questions or comments? email PHSFootballBooster@msn.com.

Special thanks to Geoff Campbell for his insightful game day analysis.

Click on the link below to follow the Panthers at dfwVarsity on the Star-Telegram website

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