

WEEK FIVE GAMES



Salty Panthers go down swinging against a tough Granbury Pirates squad

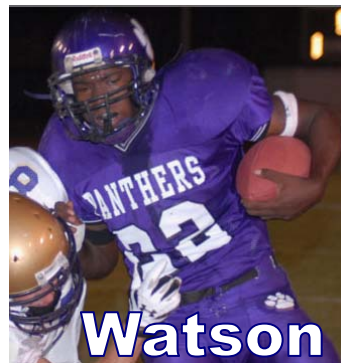
Take a glance at the box score and you'd swear the Paschal Panthers had to have beaten the Granbury Pirates in the September 29 game at Farrington Field. The Panthers made 17 first downs -- five more than Granbury -- and piled up more rushing yards, leading the Pirates 195-156. As in the previous week, the Panthers also played more disciplined ball, getting penalized 10 times for 79 yards versus the Pirates' 15 penalties for 122 yards.

About the only area the Panthers didn't dominate, aside from the final score, was in passing yards. Even there, however, they would have been neck and neck with Granbury if not for an ill-timed procedure penalty that negated a 70-yard connection between QB Robert Gallagher and John Halliday. Halliday would later reel in a 38-yard pass.

The Panthers established a solid rushing game against a stout Granbury defense. Chris Watson had 13 carries for 70 yards, and Joseph Valadez had 13 carries for 60 yards. Lee Davis added 44 yards and Gallagher another 21. Watson scored Paschal's touchdown in the third quarter on a tough 14-yard run. K Hoby Milner added the point after.

Although understandably disappointed with the Homecoming loss, the Panthers continued to show improvement in all facets of the game. Playing with vigor and pride, the Panthers are clearly on the cusp of a new era.

Paschal next goes on the road to face a tough Weatherford team that last week beat Mansfield 35-29. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on October 6.



Watson

JV nearly upends Granbury Pirates in a tough road game

In a contest between two evenly matched teams, the JV Panthers and their Granbury counterparts engaged in a battle of the ages. In the end, the Panthers came up just short, but certainly did not go quietly into the night. By the final whistle, the Pirates knew they'd been in a dogfight.

Late in the game, Paschal trailed 6-0 and began a drive deep in its own territory. With time running out, the Panthers were forced to go for it on fourth down, but came up short. Granbury took advantage of the short field and scored a touchdown, and converted a two-point try to make the score 14-0.

Though the TD and ticking clock put the game out of reach, the Panthers showed moxie and pride, responding with a touchdown drive of their own. As the seconds waned, QB Matthew Blum connected with TE Ryan Wilkerson in the back of the end zone for a Panther touchdown.

The gritty road performance, and the tough defense, bodes well for the Panthers as they return home October 5 to square off against Weatherford in a 6 p.m. tilt. The Panthers will look to return to the win column against a very tough Weatherford team. On September 28, the JV Panthers showed they are pretty tough themselves, so Weatherford should be forewarned: Hey, these guys are good.



Wilkerson

Freshmen Panthers are 4-and-Oh, Baby!

Throughout the week's practices, the coaches fretted that the freshman team might be flat. Coming off a two-week period in which the team had first a thrilling come-from-behind win against Arlington Heights and then a ho-hum 40-0 thrashing of a clearly overmatched South Hills squad, the Panthers appeared to be perfectly set up for an ambush by the Granbury Pirates.

Instead, a fired-up frosh team came out September 28 full of fire and vinegar and outlasted the Pirates 20-19 in a thrilling win. The Panthers (4-0, 1-0), next face Weatherford on the road Oct. 5.

The victory over Granbury was a total team effort, combining a stout defense with key offensive plays. Nevertheless, there were some standouts. RB/LB Emmanuel Smith had himself a game, rushing for two touchdowns and making a key interception in the end zone for a touchback. QB Tyler Nurdin connected with Rochell Johnson for the team's third score. On defense, Joey Cortez and Brian Gallagher made key tackles that helped preserve the win.

One of the most intriguing developments of the night was the frosh squad's subtle announcement that they had arrived as a team. After one of the Paschal players was being unnecessarily pinned to the ground after the whistle and a shoving match ensued, several Paschal players made their presence known. While good sportsmanship is always in vogue and expected, the Panthers made it clear that they have each other's backs.

They'll need to stand together against Weatherford, which is expected to pull out all the stops in an effort to upend the Panthers.

In B team action, the Panthers did not fare as well on the scoreboard. However, the team put on a gutsy performance paced by QB Spencer Parchman, who connected with Sam Rhea on some sweet pass plays. RB Joel Hill added offensive punch for the Panthers.



Cortez

The freshmen B team plays Weatherford on the road October 5 at 5 p.m. The A team game will follow.

Date	Opponent	Varsity		Junior Varsity			Freshman A/B	
		Location	Time	Date	Location	Time	Location	Time
Thu 9/7	Molina	Clark	7	9/6	Away	7:30	Away	5:30
Fri 9/15	AHHS	Farrington (East)	7:30	9/14	Home	7:30	Home	5:30
Fri 9/22	South Hills	Farrington (West)	7:30	9/21	Away	7:30	Away	5:30
Fri 9/29	Granbury*	Farrington (West)	7:30	9/28	Away	6	Home	B 5 / A 7
Fri 10/6	Weatherford	Away	7:30	10/5	Home	6	Away	B 5 / A 7
Thu 10/12	Mansfield	Clark	7	10/11	Away	6	Home	B 5 / A 7
Thu 10/19	Burleson	Farrington (West)	7	10/18	Away	6	Home	B 5 / A 7
Fri 10/27	Timberview	Away	7:30	10/26	Home	6	Away	B 5 / A 7
Fri 11/3	Summit	Farrington (West)	7:30	11/2	Away	6	Home	B 5 / A 7
Fri 11/10	North Crowley	Away	7:30	11/9	Home	6	Away	B 5 / A 7

*Homecoming

Questions or comments? email PHSFootballBooster@msn.com.

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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