

WEEK SIX GAMES



**Panthers circle the wagons and look for a rebound against Mansfield Tigers**

There are days when Daniel Powter's pop hit "Bad Day" sums it up perfectly. "Where is the moment we needed the most/You kick up the leaves and the magic is lost," he sings, followed by the oddly cheerful refrain, "You had a bad day."

Such was the case for the Paschal Panthers when they ran into a Weatherford buzz saw Friday night. The team, however, has already shaken it off and is in deep preparation to rebound against a tough Mansfield Tigers squad Thursday night.

Not ones to let teachable moments go by, the coaches are using the Panthers' bad day as a case point in the importance of mental focus and preparedness. In the brutal District 4-5A, a team can't afford to take a mental health day.

In the positive column, the Panthers showed they are capable of moving the ball. Moreover, the defense stiffened in the fourth quarter, keeping Weatherford off the board. With renewed focus and energy, the Panthers hope to build on those positives as they take on the Tigers at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 12, at Clark Stadium.

**Come to a Panther Game and join the fun**



**JV shows late moxie in contest with Weatherford**

The JV Panthers fell behind early in their contest with Weatherford last Thursday before rebounding in the second half. The JV squad now hopes to build on that positive momentum to get a strong start against the Mansfield Tigers Wednesday night.

The Panthers gave up three first half scores but were unbowed and unbroken. In the second half, the team held Weatherford scoreless and managed to put some points on the board when RB Michael Gordon took it home from about five yards out. Gordon's TD was set up by a nifty gain by QB Matthew Blum, who ran it up the gut for a roughly 50-yard gain.

For the JV, it was a case of winning the second half but losing the game. However, the team demonstrated it could compete with a large, physical Weatherford squad which was made up solely of juniors. Weatherford has two freshmen teams, a sophomore JV team, a junior JV team, and a well-stocked varsity.

Now the JV team looks to return to the win column in a Wednesday, October 11, road game against the Mansfield Tigers. Kick off is scheduled for 6 p.m.

**Freshmen Panthers look to rebound against Mansfield Tigers**

Legendary broadcaster Vin Scully's call of Kirk Gibson's 1988 World Series home run against the A's could easily have been applied to the freshmen Panthers' win against Arlington Heights. "In a year that has been so improbable, the impossible has happened," Scully gushed as Gibson circled the bases. A confluence of grit, hustle, luck and perfect execution likewise allowed the Panthers to come-from-behind to defeat Arlington Heights.

Though the Panthers showed grit and hustle against Weatherford, they were not able through perfect execution to gain Lady Luck's favor last Thursday, and so suffered their first loss of the season.

Looking to go 5-0 on the season, the Panthers tried some new things and approaches with varying degrees of success. For example, the team tried a spread offense that showed great promise. The Panthers carved up large chunks of real estate throughout the game, in fact, but had several drives that lamentably stuttered. QB Tyler Nurdin ran for two TD's, and RB Kirby Campbell added a third.

The Panthers appeared poised for another miraculous comeback, but came up just short. But for a special teams breakdown and a few defensive downs on which they'd gladly take a Mulligan, the Panthers would not have even needed a comeback. Game referees were overheard to say that the scoreboard did not reflect the game on the field, as the Panthers in many respects dominated play.

Now the Panthers will be looking to avenge the loss when they host Mansfield Wednesday, October 11. The freshmen B team will square off against the Tigers in a 5 p.m. tilt at Paschal. The freshmen A team game will follow.

Date	Opponent	Varsity		Junior Varsity			Freshman A/B	
		Location	Time	Date	Location	Time	Location	Time
Thu 10/12	Mansfield	<u>Clark</u>	7	10/11	Away	6	<u>Home</u>	B 5 / A 7
Thu 10/19	Burleson	<u>Farrington</u> (West)	7	10/18	<u>Away</u>	6	<u>Home</u>	B 5 / A 7
Fri 10/27	Timberview	<u>Away</u>	7:30	10/26	<u>Home</u>	6	Away	B 5 / A 7
Fri 11/3	Summit	<u>Farrington</u> (West)	7:30	11/2	Away	6	<u>Home</u>	B 5 / A 7
Fri 11/10	North Crowley	<u>Away</u>	7:30	11/9	<u>Home</u>	6	<u>Away</u>	B 5 / A 7

Questions or comments? email [PHSFootballBooster@msn.com](mailto:PHSFootballBooster@msn.com).

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

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