

WEEK THREE RECAP



**Panthers Continue String of Impressive Performances in Thriller v. South Hills**

Nietzsche once said that "if you gaze for long into an abyss, the abyss gazes also into you." For the Paschal Panthers and their fans, the abyss is the search for a "W," which so far has been just beyond their grasp.

On the other hand, Kierkegaard observed, "To dare is to lose one's footing momentarily. Not to dare is to lose oneself." If nothing else is clear, this is: The 2007 Panthers have dared to take the risk of winning. Perhaps they've stumbled a play or two along the way, stumbles that have cost them wins. But as Kierkegaard also said, "It belongs to the imperfection of everything human that man can only attain his desire by passing through its opposite."

The Panthers again came a whisker short of grabbing the brass ring, falling in a thrilling contest to the South Hills Scorpions Sept. 21.

The game began with promise. The Panthers got on the board first, capitalizing on an interception by S Kirby Campbell. The Paschal offense gained some big yards on the ground and through the air, highlighted by a nice pass from QB Tyler Nurdin to WR Gerrick Flores. Such plays set up an Alex Koger field goal.

On the ensuing kickoff, CB Angel Argueta scooped up a fumble to give the Panthers the ball on the South Hills 20. Lamentably, the Panthers were unable to capitalize on the turnover, but would score later in the second quarter on a nifty touchdown by RB Lee Davis. Koger added the PAT to give Paschal a 10-0 lead. South Hills was able to narrow the gap but the Panthers still clung to the lead going into the half.

The Scorpions proved adept at halftime adjustments, and over the course of the third quarter built a 24-10 lead. But the never-say-die Panthers showed they weren't going down without a fight. In the fourth quarter, LB Matt Blum came up with a fumble. On a play from the Paschal 34 yard line, QB Sasha Lovett took one to the house to bring the Panthers six points closer. Koger's extra point was good, and the Panthers remained in business.

When the Panthers' on-sides kick attempt was successful, giddy fans could not help but think that perhaps the Panthers had passed through victory's opposite and were in the home stretch for the program's first win in dog years. Even after the offense went four and out, fans and players alike held out hope. That hope was only kindled further when the defense forced yet another fumble to give the Panthers the ball with just more than one minute to play.

Alas, the clock became a twelfth man for South Hills, and the Panthers again had to content themselves with a game well played.

According to Kierkegaard, "There is nothing with which every man is so afraid as getting to know how enormously much he is capable of becoming." The Panthers have faced that fear. The team and its faithful have seen what the Panthers are capable of becoming. A few stopped big plays on defense and a few converted opportunities on offense and the team is 3-0. They're good, and they're getting better. The wins will come. And in the meantime, the Panthers are gaining the respect of opponents and making believers of skeptical fans.

The Panthers will next put it all on the line in the team's first district contest at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Granbury.



**JV Panthers Must Be Butter Because They're On a Roll; Team is 3 and Oh, Baby!**

After the team's first two games, fans could be forgiven for thinking they might need nitroglycerin tablets before watching a JV contest. The Cardiac Panthers twice snatched victory from the jaws of defeat as time expired. But on Sept. 20, the Panthers hopped in the driver's seat and never looked back, earning a relatively easy victory before a frenzied home crowd.

Paschal got on the board first after Kristopher Lopez scooped up a fumble and took it to the South Hills 25 yard line. A fine run by D'Andre Kindles and a face-mask penalty brought the ball to the 12, setting up a TD pass from QB Kevin Deal to WR Rochelle Johnson. Deal later hit Kindles for another touchdown to give Paschal a 12-0 lead going into the half.

Kindles added a rushing touchdown in the third, and K Doug Parkhurst added the PAT to give Paschal a 19-0 lead. Paschal tacked on two more points with a safety as time expired, sealing the victory and pushing the JV Panthers to 3-0 on the season.

The squad now takes on Granbury at 6 p.m. Sept. 27 at Paschal.



**Freshmen Panthers Dominate Scorpions in Total Team Victory**

The freshmen kicked off the third week of Panther football with their second 47-0 route of the season. Facing off against the South Hills Scorpions, the scoring started early in the first quarter when QB Blake Barrow hit TE Corbin Hopper for a touchdown pass. Soon after, the Panther ground game was unleashed on the Scorpion defense, led by RBs Conner Curtis with two rushing touchdowns, Aaron Stafford with one and Chris Solarzano with one.

Not to be outdone, the freshman defense added to the scoring barrage with an interception returned for a touchdown by Rafael Sandoval and a safety by Jonathan Weiss. The defense continued to contribute to the cause with Stafford's two interceptions and a stellar run defense that shut down everything the Scorpions tried.

To keep up with the offensive and defensive domination, Kenny Mullinix added a special team's touchdown with a spectacular kickoff return.

Adhering to the "Win all phases of the game" philosophy of our Panther coaches, the freshman boys proved too much for the Scorpions.

Hats off to the Panther freshman players and coaches for a great game!

The frosh A and B teams next take on Granbury at Granbury Sept. 27, with games scheduled to begin at 5 p.m.

(A hearty Panther roar to Winky Hix for a stellar freshmen game report.)

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

**Join the PHS Football Booster Club**

If you have not already done so, please consider joining the PHS Football Booster Club. Please encourage others in the Panther family to join. Just complete the attached application.

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