



## WEEK FOUR RECAP



### Panthers Put a Scare in Granbury with Furious Second-Half Rally

It's difficult to recognize turning points when they happen. Such moments only become recognized as such in retrospect, with the fullness of time and with the benefit of reflection and perspective.

And yet....

Panther fans can't help but wonder whether they witnessed a turning point Sept. 28 in Granbury, when the Paschal Panthers came within a called-back touchdown of, at worst, forcing overtime.

The Panthers found themselves in a hole early when the Granbury Pirates scored on their first play from scrimmage. But the Panthers did what good teams do -- they responded with a lightning quick apparent touchdown when QB Sasha Lovett found a crease and took it to the house. The dramatic run, however, was nullified by a penalty. And buoyed by new life, the Pirates scored again. By halftime, the Panthers were down 21-0.

Previous editions of the Panthers might have mailed in the rest of the game. But not these 2007 Panthers, who showed they not only have no quit in them, but that they can make mid-game adjustments.

At the 2:52 mark of the third quarter, QB Tyler Nurdin hooked up with WR Zach Waters to put Paschal on the board. K Alex Koger added the PAT, and the Panthers were on the march. The defense stiffened, and the offense began clicking on all cylinders.

The Panthers were able to pull within a touchdown when Nurdin found WR Robert Gallagher for a beautiful 67-yard touchdown and Koger added the point after with 3:09 remaining in the game.

The defense again rose to the occasion, halting the Pirates and forcing a punt. But as in past weeks, the Panthers just ran out of time to complete the comeback. They did, however, accomplish much. They won the second half 14-0. Nurdin passed for 224 yards. DL Alec Baker and LB Taylor Burton came up with huge tackles. DB Nick Escamilla forced a fumble recovered by CB Joey Cortez.

Was this game a turning point? In truth, the entire season can be viewed as such. With each game, the Panthers have distanced themselves from previous squads, playing competitive ballgames, holding leads at crucial junctures and mounting late-game comeback attempts.

The team will now look to implement the lessons learned in the season's first four games when it clashes with the Weatherford Kangaroos, who in a homecoming performance last season put a 70-0 hurt on Paschal. Given the season's trendlines, it appears safe to say that those days are over.

Once when the Texas Rangers were in the midst of a 10-game losing streak, Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan stood at the top of the dugout, turned to his teammates and said, "This stops right now!" Ryan then struck out 15 en route to a two-hit shutout victory.

To Weatherford and the other remaining teams on the Paschal schedule, take heed. This stops right now. It's over. These Panthers are playing for keeps.

Paschal hosts Weatherford at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at Farrington Field.



### JV Panthers are Like a Steamroller, Baby, Improving to 4-0 in 2007

The JV Panthers were kickin' it old school against the Granbury Pirates, relying on the golden toe of K Doug Parkhurst to build a two field goal lead at halftime of a taut defensive thriller.

Granbury was able to knot the score at 6-6 in the second half, but the never-say-die JV Panthers responded as they have all season. Playing with poise and quiet confidence on both sides of the ball, the Panthers clawed their way to another thrilling victory before yet another frenzied home crowd.

The margin of victory was provided by Marcus Kindles, who took one to the house to sink the Pirates and their bid to upend the Panthers, who are now 4-0 overall and 1-0 in district play.

The squad now travels to Weatherford for a tough road contest against the Kangaroos Oct. 3. Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m.

### Aaarrrr! Panther Frosh Come Up Just Short Against Granbury Pirates

Fresh off a dominating victory over South Hills, the Panther freshmen traveled to Granbury but came up short in their bid to topple the undefeated Pirates Sept. 27. Though the "A" and "B" squads didn't get the "W" they worked for, the teams played with determination and did themselves proud.

In A team action, the freshmen fought hard for yards on the ground with another week of solid rushing performances from Chris Solarzano and Aaron Stafford. Turnovers hurt, but the Panthers showed they are capable of sustained drives powered by abundant talent and fierce determination.

The defense slugged it out all evening, and forced any number of three and out series. The field position battle was a huge factor in the game, and the scoreboard certainly did not reflect the overall defensive effort.

Both Paschal squads played with gusto and moxie. A win is the usual reward for the sort of effort the teams put forth, but in the end they had to content themselves with games well played.

The freshmen boys will look to rebound when they face off against Weatherford Oct. 3 at Paschal. Kickoff for the "B" team game is scheduled for 5, with "A" team action slated to begin shortly after the conclusion of the B team contest.

(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.*