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R.L. PASCHAL HIGH SCHOOL
ESTABLISHED 1886

FOOTBALL BOOSTER CLUB

WEEK SIX RECAP



Panthers Gamely Battle Mansfield Tigers on the Road

The alternative rock group Jimmy Eat World got it just about right in its hit single "The Middle." In a paean to the value of persistence in the face of adversity and criticism, the band counseled that sometimes it just takes awhile to see results.

*Hey, don't write yourself off yet
It's only in your head you feel left out
Or looked down on
Just try your best, try everything you can
And don't you worry what they tell themselves
When you're away
It just takes some time...
Everything, everything will be just fine
Everything, everything it'll be alright*

A season that began with high hopes and promise remains a season of high hopes and promise. That holds true even though the Panthers have yet to taste victory in the 2007 campaign.

It's not an excuse to say that the Panthers are young. That's a statement of fact. And it's not an excuse to say that, at the halfway mark, the Panthers are dinged up, with a growing list of players unable to play for one reason or another.

But here's another statement of fact: The Panthers are getting better each and every game, notwithstanding what the final tally might read.

Paschal gamely fought the Mansfield Tigers Oct. 12, but were unable to earn a win. But in persisting, the Panthers proved themselves winners. In his first speech to the House of Commons as British prime minister, Winston Churchill said, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat." But that, he figured, was all he needed. Persistence and resolve would help him, and the nation, achieve its ultimate aim -- *"victory, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be."*

Churchill maintained that resolve even as the German juggernaut continued. When British and French forces were swept from the field in June 1940, Churchill said:

"We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end.... We shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air. We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender!"

The Panthers now take the 2007 No Surrender Tour to Burlison, where they'll take on the Elks at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 19. The boys and their coaches aren't giving up, and neither is Panther Nation. True believers know that, sometimes, *"it just takes some time."*



JV Panthers Show Moxie in Contest with Mansfield

They fought, they clawed, they did themselves proud. But in the end, the JV Panthers came up just short in their bid to cage the Mansfield Tigers.

That having been said, the Panthers showed flashes of the brilliance that bode well for the future.

QB Kevin Deal, for example, showed he has jazz in his blood, improvising on a busted play to score a touchdown. Doug Parkhurst added the PAT. RB Angel Arguenta busted some long and exciting runs. The defense was stout.

In short, the JV Panthers showed they have all the makings, and will look to return to the win column Oct. 18 against the Burluson Elks. Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m. at Paschal.

The JV Panthers play hard on every snap, and have earned the respect of all of Panther Nation. The Panthers hope that translates into a large crowd Thursday night.



Paschal Frosh Give Mansfield Tigers Something to Think About

Popeye the Sailor Man, as everyone knows, was strong to the finish because he ate his spinach. Well, move over Popeye, because the Paschal freshmen are showing that they're the ones who are strong to the end.

In exciting action Oct. 11, both the Freshmen Purple and Freshmen White squads played games that went down to the final snap.

The Freshmen Purple squad got things started with an exciting win that again showcased the talent of the freshmen players. The Purple offensive line led the way with a dominant performance that allowed QB Erik Garza to score two touchdowns and Luis Moreno to add a third.

The Purple defense, meantime, kept Mansfield off balance all night long. And with the game in the balance, it was up to them to make a final stand for the W. Indeed, Mansfield lined up for a winning two-point conversion on the game's final play, but the defense bowed its collective neck to keep Mansfield from paydirt. The final score was Paschal 20, Mansfield 19. The win was the team's second consecutive victory.

The Freshman White squad played the second game of the night and once again played an exciting contest that was decided on the last play. The contest was highlighted by strong defensive play, with two first half turnovers that held a talented Mansfield offense to one first half touchdown. SS Morgan Hix stopped one early drive with an interception, and DT Edward Gonzalez closed the half with a sack and fumble recovery.

The offense got rolling late in the game, led by rushing touchdowns from Conner Curtis and Aaron Stafford. With the teams trading touchdowns in the last three minutes of the game, the Freshmen White team found itself down by 6 and in need of a last-minute miracle to win. The offense marched down to the Mansfield 3-yard line, and with one second left on the clock needed to punch it in to set the table for a win. Lamentably, Mansfield's defense was able to stop the final play, leaving the Freshmen White team just shy of victory.

Both freshmen squads battled to the last snap, again showing that team play and determined efforts will keep them within reach of a win every time they step on the field. The frosh squads will next put it all on the line Oct. 18 at Burluson, with first kickoff slated for 5 p.m.

Special thanks to Winky Hix for a marvelous freshmen recap.

Questions or comments? email PHSFootballBooster@msn.com.

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

