R.L. Paschal High School
Established 1885

Football Booster Club

October 31, 2007

WEEK EIGHT RECAP

Are You Ready to Rumble? Let 'em Hear You Roar!

The Paschal Panthers will leave for Mansfield and their contest with Summit at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 2, and Head Coach Matt Cook is hoping for an enthusiastic hurrah from Panther Nation. Please consider coming to the field house for the loudest Pantherpalooza of a sendoff in school history.

The boys are on the downhill side of a long, grueling season. They've continued to work hard and to represent the school with distinction. They're playing with pride and for pride. Now's a great time to show our pride in them.

And don't forget to go to the game. The Panthers take on Summit at 7:30 p.m. at the Taj Majal of local facilities, the Mansfield ISD Stadium.

Come early, be loud, wear purple, go Panthers!

Panthers Give Timberview, and Fans, Something to Think About

The United States emerged from the dark McCarthy era with newfound confidence and enthusiasm. The nation, it was widely believed, was set to usher the world into the space age. Popular magazines touted the impending achievement, with in-depth stories heralding the U.S. Navy's Vanguard satellite as "history's first artificial earth-circling satellite," as National Geographic put it in its February 1956 issue.

The only problem was that scientists were having trouble with the rockets needed to get the satellite into orbit. The Vanguard's planned 1957 launch was pushed back to late in the year. Still, Americans were smugly confident, certain that the rival Soviet Union was far too backward to get to space before the U.S.

Nevertheless, on Oct. 4, 1957, just as Americans were settling in to watch the premier of the long-running "Leave It to Beaver" television series, Moscow Radio announced the Soviet Union had launched an earth satellite called Sputnik, or "traveling companion of the earth." A little more than two months later, the Vanguard exploded on the launching pad.

The space race was on, and the U.S. was losing. In early 1958, a U.S. Army Jupiter rocket finally launched the nation's first satellite, called Explorer, into orbit. And less than two months later, a Vanguard satellite was successfully put into orbit. Unlike either Sputnik or Explorer, it remains in space today -- the oldest man-made object in space.

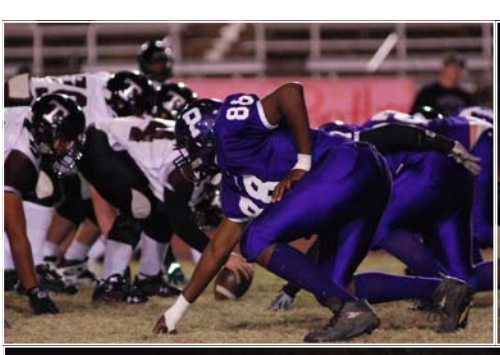
As it happens, building a football program can be a little like a space race. As the Paschal Panthers broke summer camp, optimism and enthusiasm were high. This was a different breed of Panther, and when it roared, competitors in the admittedly stout District 4-5A would hear it. Paschal Nation was convinced this would be a year to remember.

Those things are all true. But the Panthers have not quite been able to get into orbit -- yet. Playing against a tough and improving Mansfield Timberview team Oct. 26, the Panthers gamely battled but came up just short in their bid for victory. Scoreboard watchers may snicker, but facts are facts. The team played hard from first play to last. The team made in-game adjustments. The team battled with enthusiasm in the face of adversity. In short, the Panthers did all the things a successful team must do. And when QB Robert Gallagher scampered for a late TD, the Panthers sent a signal that they will continue to do the things necessary for success, scoreboard watchers notwithstanding.

The team is getting better every week. But so is the competition, a fact that won't change when the Panthers square off Nov. 2 against Mansfield Summit.

But know this: This is a different breed of Panther, and history may be on its side. After all, the Soviet Union amassed a steady stream of firsts in the space race, including sending the first man into space. But it was the United States that first landed on the moon, and it was Neill Armstrong taking "one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."

History's turning points are rarely evident at the time they happen, becoming evident only in retrospect. But who knows? Perhaps one day, Panther fans will be viewing Gallagher's touchdown against Timberview as one giant leap for the Panther program.



JV Panthers Battle a Tough Mansfield Timberview Team

Sometimes final scores are completely beside the point. The JV Panthers' game against Timberview Oct. 25 was a case in point.

Consider:

The Panther defense recovered three fumbles and blocked a punt.

Newcomer Kenny Osteen scored on a short run and recovered an on-sides kick attempt.

The Panthers went into halftime with a lead.

Utilizing a hurry-up offense, the Panthers were able to work some beautiful pass plays.

D'Andre Kindles had another great game running the ball.

The defense was ferocious all night. Early in the contest, Paschal earned a defensive stop and then blocked a Timberview punt to get possession on the Timberview two-yard line. Paschal then scored on a run by Kenny Osteen, and Doug Parkhurst added the point after.

Though Paschal was unable to prevail, the team showed the spark, competitive drive and ferocity that has been its trademark during the 2007 campaign. The team now looks to return to the win column in a 6 p.m. game Nov. 1 at Paschal against Mansfield Summit. It's the team's final home contest, and players are hoping for a large crowd of purple-bleeding Panther partisans.

Special thanks to Robert Hunter for game highlights.

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The freshmen Purple squad got things rolling Oct. 25 against Mansfield Timberview with a gutsy performance in a game marked by turnovers. And though the squad was able to score only on a safety -- after a big defensive stop within the Timberview 5 -- the Purple team played with the distinction, fire and determination that has become the squad's signature.

Smash-mouth football is the name of the game, and these guys have clearly got game. In the end, the outcome turned on turnovers. Timberview was able to convert them into points, whereas Paschal was not. But nothing can overshadow the effort the boys gave, and they were rewarded with well-earned applause.

The evening's second game began with promise. A very solid defensive effort, with contributions from every player, helped keep the Timberview offense in check for the entire first half. Meantime, the Panther White offense converted one of several scoring chances, all of which were set up with the usual hard-nosed running attack and a renewed passing prowess. At halftime, the Panthers held a 6-0 lead, revving up an already enthused home crowd.

Timberview was able to knot the score coming out of halftime, and the second half found the Paschal squad struggling to find the rhythm it had in the first half. Though the team ultimately fell short in its bid for victory, the solid team effort did not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

The frosh next play against Summit in road games scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. Nov. 1.

Special thanks to Winky Hix and Janine Nelson for game highlights.

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.

Questions or comments? email PHSFootballBooster@msn.com.

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

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Gameday Pictures