

FOOTBALL BOOSTER CLUB



WEEK NINE RECAP



Calling All Purple-Bleeding Panther Fans

★ The Paschal Panthers will be concluding the 2007 campaign Nov. 9 in a contest with North Crowley. Let's send 'em off in high style and with hearty roars. Gather in the field house parking lot at 4:30 and let them know you're loud and proud of all the hard work, effort and dedication they've put into the season. Remember, it's the last game of the season and our last chance to pump them up until 2008.

Panthers Aspire to Summit and Do Themselves Proud

And so it's come to this.

A season of hope, despair, laughter and tears is drawing to a close. In the eyes of some, it has been a disappointing season. In the eyes of the discerning, it has been -- apologies to the fictional William Forrester -- a season of faith's perfection.

True, the wins that seemed so possible in August never came. But the growth of the players, individually and as a team, has been remarkable. There was a point, very early in the season, when it became apparent that this Panthers team is different from previous editions. Perhaps it was during the Arlington Heights game, when the lead slipped away but the grit and determination to make a comeback did not. Like the Grinch, they're hearts grew three sizes that day -- and they beat strong through the rest of the season.

There's no question that, following the Granbury game, the team faced an uphill slog through an unforgiving stretch of district schedule. Perhaps even some of the Panther faithful likened the team's task to that of Sisyphus, who was condemned in Greek myth to forever roll a rock up a mountain, only to have it roll back down before he reached the summit.

And yet, here we are. With one game remaining, the Panthers still have a shot at a "W." With one game remaining, the Panthers remain proud. Perhaps they simply know Shakespeare, who once wrote, "To climb steep hills requires a slow pace at first." Or perhaps they know Vince Lombardi, who once said, "The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will." The Panthers have strength. The Panthers have knowledge. And the Panthers have will.

That will was in abundant display as the team took on Summit Nov. 2, and the boys from Paschal, as they have done throughout the 2007 campaign, played with determination and fire. In the end, Summit, which is in the hunt for the district title, proved itself a bit deeper. But that is not to say the Panthers didn't have moments that auger future success. Who will forget WR Travoy McCarver's amazing catch of QB Robert Gallagher's pass, or TE Michael Schroeder's late-game catch of QB Sasha Lovett's pass? The defense, too, rose to many an occasion, with fine open field stops and touchdown saving tackles.

So the Panthers have answered the tough questions. They can play ball with the district's big boys. They can make big plays and they can stop big plays. Developing greater consistency is now the team's larger task, and the groundwork has been well laid. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Don't waste your life in doubts and fears; spend yourself on the work before you, well assured that the right performance of this hour's duties will be the best preparation for the hours or ages that follow it."

And so again, it has come to this. One game. One opponent. One purpose. A foolish man might place his bets, and his hopes, on North Crowley. The wise man, however, will place his on Paschal. The Panthers have prepared for this moment, one smaller moment at a time. This is their time -- to grow, to shine, to win. And they can win. As Virgil said, "They can because they think they can." So does Panther Nation.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Nov. 9 at Handley Field.



JV Panthers Put a Scare Into Summit Jaguars

In what one parent of a Summit player called the team's closest game of the season, the JV Panthers played a whale of a game, putting 14 points on the board and holding Summit scoreless in the fourth quarter in Nov. 1 action. In the end, that heart-filled effort was just shy of what was needed for a win, but bold enough to show the team's very real promise.

With two blocked PATs, three sacks and a fumble recovery, the Panthers defense more than proved its moxie. With scores in both halves with strong drives in each, the Panthers offense demonstrated that it has both big play and long drive capability.

QB Kevin Deal had a fine night, hitting WR Demarcus Winn for a 25-yard TD pass and WR Rochelle Johnson for a 35-yard touchdown reception. Deal and RB D'Andre Kindles also moved the ball on the ground effectively and efficiently. Offensive line play was exceptional, and the kicking game was strong throughout the evening.

Architectural icon Frank Lloyd Wright once said, "The thing always happens that you really believe in, and the belief in a thing makes it happen." The close-knit JV squad believes it can finish the season strong with a victory over North Crowley. But perhaps most important, team members believe in each other. The team will put those beliefs into action at 6 p.m. Nov. 8 at North Crowley.



Ain't No Summit High Enough to Keep These Panthers Down

Aristotle may not have known football, and certainly did not know the 2007 freshmen Panthers. But if he did, he certainly would have had the Paschal frosh in mind when he said: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit."

Slowly, methodically and with a sense of purpose, the freshmen Panthers have developed the habits of winners. They've done so against a daunting backdrop. Let's face it. High school football isn't easy. And in Texas 5A competition, football can be somewhat scary; just ask players' moms if you have any doubts. But instead of shying from challenge, the freshmen Panthers have embraced Ralph Waldo Emerson's credo to "[a]lways do what you are afraid to do."

They have tested themselves and found themselves worthy. And in so doing, they have spread joy and optimism throughout Panther Nation. Mahatma Gandhi once observed, "The future depends on what we do in the present." The freshmen squads have done so well in the here and now that the future of Paschal football looks gloriously promising. Indeed, many can't help but think of Timbuk3 as they exclaim, "The future's so bright, I gotta wear shades."

Now the freshmen Purple and White teams will look to put an exclamation point on a highly successful season with victories Nov. 8 against North Crowley. The Purple squad is scheduled for a 5 p.m. kickoff at Paschal, with White team action shortly after the conclusion of that contest.

Join the PHS Football Booster Club

Questions or comments? email PHSFootballBooster@msn.com.

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.

