



# WEEK ZERO RECAP



## Panthers Pounce on Sam Houston for Season-Opening Victory

Handley Field is in that part of Fort Worth that many residents pass on the way from one place to another without any intention of ever stopping. It's drive-by country, just east of I-820, south of I-30 and north of I-20, less a destination than a way to get from here to there. It's not that it's a sinister place, a senseless killing neighborhood. Handley Field is north of a large industrial park and warehouse complex and it's just not the sort of place one typically goes without a reason.

That's a pity, because Handley Field is perhaps the most charming of the Fort Worth ISD's football complexes. It may lack the art deco façade of Farrington Field or the sewer culvert sturdiness of Clark Stadium, but it allows an intimacy that none of the other facilities provide.

And Saturday night, the Paschal Panthers and Panther Nation took ownership of the friendly confines of Handley Field, celebrating a rousing 44-33 victory over Arlington Sam Houston in the football season opener for both schools.

The game threatened to suffer the fatigue of anti-climax. The contest was originally scheduled for Thursday night, but just when the game was about to start bad weather rolled in. Many worried that the Panthers, who were clearly hyped up about the game, would have difficulty getting back up two nights later. The concern proved unnecessary.

Although Zeus may have thrown lightning bolts Thursday night, the Panthers provided the thunder on Saturday.

The two squads sparred like heavyweights at the outset. The Sam Houston Texans threatened in their initial drive, but the Panther defense bowed its back and forced a turnover.

Paschal's offense was crisp, and moved the ball into Texan territory on the strength of passes from QB Brian Gallagher to WR Rochelle Johnson and ground gains by RBs Emmanuel Smith and Damarcus Kindles. The drive ultimately stalled, however, forcing a punt by Kevin Deal, who pinned the Texans at their own 1 yard line.

The Texans showed cool under pressure, advancing the ball enough to give themselves breathing room. Lack of discipline, however, prevented the Texans from drawing first blood. A string of illegal procedure penalties preceded the erasure of an apparent touchdown, which was called back for holding. Several more illegal procedure penalties ultimately doomed the Texans, who were forced to punt as the second quarter dawned.

The see-saw game of field position continued throughout the second quarter until Paschal finally was able to punch the ball across the goal line with three minutes remaining in the half.

The Panthers took over on the Paschal 42 yard line with 3:47 left on the clock. Gallagher hit Johnson for a six-yard gain. Gallagher then found Smith, who crossed the goal line at the three minute mark. K Chris Smith's extra point attempt was good, putting the Panthers up 7-0.

The resilient Texans responded in lightning fashion. The Texans returned the ensuing kickoff to the Paschal 35. Because of an offsides call on the kickoff, the Texans found themselves with a first and 10 situation at the Paschal 30. Six plays later the Texans scored, tacking on an extra point to knot the score at 7 a piece at the 2:11 mark.

The Panthers quickly demonstrated they would not be content going into the locker room with a tie.

Johnson returned the Texans' kickoff to the 34, and Smith several plays later ran to the Sam Houston 41 for a first and 10 with 1:44 remaining. The Panthers picked up a quick first down when Gallagher found Johnson at the 30, following that with another first down pass to WR Travoy McCarver at the Texans' 18 with 1:05 remaining in the half.

Several plays later, Smith found paydirt again. Chris Smith's extra point attempt was true, and the Panthers took a 14-7 lead at the half.

Coming out of the locker room, the Panthers carried the momentum and put it to good use. Starting from their own 39 yard line after the kickoff, the Panthers marched down the field. At 8:22 in the third quarter, Smith took a direct snap and once again scored. Chris Smith again converted the extra point, and Paschal found itself with a 21-7 lead.

The Panther defense was likewise on fire. After the Texans were pinned down at their own 17 following Smith's kickoff, the Texans suffered a fumbled snap and faced second and 16 on their own 11. An incomplete pass and short run forced a fourth and 10 punting situation, but a wild snap gave the Panthers a safety and a 23-7 lead.

Following the Texans' kickoff from the 20, Paschal took over on the Sam Houston 43 yard line and for all intents and purposes drove a dagger into any hopes the Texans might have had about a comeback. On the first play of the drive, the Panthers ran an apparent reverse with McCarver coming around the right side. Instead, he pulled up and heaved a perfect spiral, hitting Johnson in stride for another touchdown. Chris Smith split the uprights and Paschal had a commanding 30-7 lead at the 6:38 mark of the third quarter.

The defense was again huge on the next Sam Houston possession. Ricky Valdez picked up a sack for a 12-yard loss, and then Luis Garcia made an interception to give the Panthers the ball on the Texans' 23 yard line. Emmanuel Smith quickly scored, and Chris Smith promptly added the extra point to give the Panthers a 37-7 lead with 5:20 remaining in the third quarter.

The Texans still had a lot of fight left in them, and scored less than two minutes later to pull within 37-14. And after a special teams breakdown on a punt attempt, Sam Houston took over on the Paschal 37. With 1:20 left in the third quarter, the Texans scored again, eating into Paschal's 37-21 lead.

Into the fourth quarter the teams continued to battle. With under seven minutes to go, the Texans had another apparent touchdown called back for holding. But they were able to score a few plays later. Paschal stuffed the two-point conversion try to maintain a 37-27 lead with just more than six minutes remaining.

Paschal responded with more Emmanuel Smith, whose four runs in the drive culminated with a 33-yard touchdown. Chris Smith again added the extra point to give Paschal a 44-27 lead with 3:46 remaining.

The Panthers eventually surrendered one last score as time expired, but the outcome was never really in doubt as the Panthers both withstood a relentless comeback attempt and continued to pound the Texans on both sides of the ball.

Paschal next faces a salty and athletic Irving Nimitz team looking for revenge after last year's thrilling game, which Paschal won on the last play. The teams are scheduled to meet at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Farrington Field. The Panthers are hoping for a sea of purple in the stands and another full house – a taller order given that Farrington is a larger venue. But Panther Nation is growing by the week, and in time it may take a much larger stadium than Farrington to contain the Paschal faithful.

### Help Send Off the Panthers as They Look to Sink Irving Nimitz

The Paschal Panthers will depart the Paschal field house for Farrington Field at 5 p.m. Friday. Come show your support with a rousing sendoff and then fill the stands as the Panthers look to go a perfect 2-0.



## JV Panthers Roll in Season's First Game, Downing the Sam Houston

### JV Panthers Roll in Season's First Game, Downing the Sam Houston Texans

The JV Panthers dominated the Sam Houston Texans on the scoreboard and on the field as they won their season opener 18-6

In an excitement-filled game, Paschal demonstrated its size in numbers and its talent from opening kickoff to game's end.

The defense was huge, creating havoc throughout the game. The defensive onslaught was led by Connor Fanning, who delivered jarring hits, and the entire defensive line.

The offense scored through the air and on the ground. Running backs Matt Young, Tyler Arner and Ben Bradley all ate up real estate. Rory Ginsburg was the hot receiver, picking up a crucial first down and a TD reception. Chris Hansen was the leading quarterback, orchestrating key Panther scoring drives.

The JV squad will look to build upon that performance in a Thursday contest against Irving Nimitz at a venue to be announced.

Special thanks to Head Coach Matt Cook for insights into the JV contest.

## Panthers Freshmen Split with Sam Houston Texans

The freshmen purple squad suffered a tough opening game loss at the hands of the Sam Houston Texans, but showed the glimmer of better days to come.

DB Alfredo Retana had a number of big tackles on defense, and RB Jeridan White picked up 65 yards on 12 carries.

The freshman white team pulled out a 6-0 victory at game's end.

With the ball at the Sam Houston 12-yard line and 14 seconds remaining, Paschal came out of a time out to score on a halfback pass, with RB Adrian Rodriguez hitting WR Ben Noel in the back of the end zone.

The two teams will look to build on their game one experience Thursday. The freshmen white team is scheduled to play Irving Nimitz at Paschal at 5:30 p.m., with the purple team scheduled to play Nimitz at Paschal at 7 p.m.

Special thanks to Coach Mike Snapp for his game day analysis.

Visit The Panther Football Website at [www.leaguelineup.com/paschalfootball](http://www.leaguelineup.com/paschalfootball)

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

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

Be sure and check out the article on the history and tradition of Paschal Panther Football in Thursday's [Star-Telegram](#)