



WEEK FIVE RECAP



Panthers Look to Regroup against Haltom Buffalos in Homecoming Contest

We've heard it time and time again. For that matter, we've said it time and time again. Eat your broccoli. Eat your spinach. It's good for you.

Friday's contest between the Paschal Panthers and the Abilene Eagles was definitely a broccoli-spinach mélange. It would be difficult to call it fun or even faintly enjoyable if you're a Panther partisan, but deep inside we all know that it was good for the team. From time-to-time you just need to strap on the pads and go up against the best.

And that's precisely what Abilene High is – at least in football. The Eagles aren't ranked among the tops in the state for no reason, and they showed at least 66 reasons why they are Friday night. They're strong, they're fast, they're disciplined. Honestly, if someone were to tell you they are a junior college team, you wouldn't have any trouble believing it. They're good.

And, because we've made a point of referencing it in the past, we should mention the Eagles showed some class Friday night. The Eagles could have tried to score as the first half expired, but decided instead to take a knee. There was a point in the second half when we might have detected some backsliding, when Abilene went for and converted a fourth and one situation, but in the end, the Eagles could easily have scored at least one more time at game's end but instead took a couple of delay-of-game penalties and a knee to run out the clock.

At the end of such games, one emerges feeling there's not a whole lot to say. It can be a bit humbling. But it's also an inspiration. Abilene High is now where Paschal aspires to be. Make no mistake, the Panthers are on the road to doing just that. And final scores notwithstanding, the Panthers played hard from opening kickoff to final buzzer. No one spit the bit. No one quit.

And that may well have been the consoling thought on the long drive home, made longer still by the fact that every hamlet along the way apparently rolls up the sidewalks at 10 p.m. on Friday nights, depriving Panther fans of even a DQ shake to take off the edge. (We had, after all, eaten more than our share of vegetables.)

Such contests give you a sense of what's possible, a concrete goal to which to aspire. They show you where you need to get better. And they're a wonderful check on hubris.

Not that the Panthers needed any help with the latter, especially just one week after dominating the Weatherford Roos and finding themselves robbed of what was rightfully theirs.

But the Weatherford game, like the Abilene game, is history. The Panthers can do nothing but look forward, full of the knowledge that their dream remains intact. And they'll be looking to take one step toward living and realizing that dream when they suit up against the Haltom Buffalos at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Farrington Field. The Homecoming contest could be a little messy – the forecast yet again calls for rain – but the Panthers are hoping for a huge crowd regardless of conditions as they look to record a district win and take that first step toward earning a 2009 playoff berth.



JV Panthers Continue to Grow as Players and Young Men

The final score may not have been what they had in mind while game-planning, but the JV Panthers showed continued growth and improvement in their contest against the Abilene Eagles Thursday.

Offensive standouts included QB Chris Hanson, who completed more than 60 percent of his passes, including a touchdown pass to RB Ben Bradley. Bradley ended the night with multiple receptions and some strong runs, providing a spark for the offense with his hard-nose running style. RB Hector Mendez picked up some first-down runs as well. Adam Ruffu made a positive contribution as part of the receiving corps with some nice receptions.

On defense, Domingo "DJ" Liserio stood out with several tackles from the D-line position. Joseph Vargas also amassed several tackles and had a big hit that caused a fumble on special teams.

The JV return to action in a contest against the Haltom Buffalos scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday at the old Birdville Stadium.

Special thanks to Coach Brandon Lillard for his insights into the JV contest.

Freshmen Panthers Look to Break Out against Haltom

In the freshmen white game against Abilene Thursday, RB/LB Rubisell Rubio had a phenomenal night, rushing for more than 100 yards and scoring the team's lone touchdown on a 65-yard run. Rubio also had eight tackles on defense. On the strength of that performance, Rubio was moved to the freshmen purple squad.

In the purple game Thursday, DB/WR Alfredo Retana was the best player on the field for Paschal, picking up 10 tackles and two pass deflections on defense.

Both teams are scheduled to return to action Thursday night at Paschal against the Haltom Buffalos. The white game is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m., with the purple game schedule to follow at 7 p.m.

Special thanks to Coach Mike Snapp for his analysis of freshmen team action.

Visit The Panther Football Website at www.leaguelineup.com/paschalfootball

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

Questions or comments? email PHSFootballBooster@msn.com.

