

**Babylon Football:
PANTHERS PUMMEL PORTERS, 38-0**

by Tony Spota

The Babylon Panthers hosted the Greenport Porters last Friday evening at Williams Field and the game was over from the getgo. In the first four minutes, the Panthers led 17 zip before they made their first snap on offense.

On Greenport's third play from scrimmage, safety Jake Carlock intercepted a pass on the Porter 26-yard line and raced it in for a touchdown. Nick Santorelli ran in the 2-point conversion. The defense stifled Greenport throughout the game and contained the Porters on the next possession. Carlock fielded the punt on the Babylon 41, cut left, followed his blocks and then slanted right, taking the pigskin 59 yards for the score. Alex Malhas kicked the first of his four extra points and Babylon was up by fifteen within three minutes. Following a sack by Eric Schweitzer which set the Porters back to their own 15, an errant pass from center went through the end zone for a safety on an attempted punt play, and the Panthers were up 17-0 in the first four minutes.

The Panther offense finally got the ball following Jack Curcio's free kick return to the Greenport 40. That was followed by Babylon's only scoring drive. Santorelli gunned to Carlock on a right square out for nineteen yards. Following a 4-yard loss, Luke Zappia blasted up the middle for ten, Santorelli hit Carlock on a right button hook for five and then capped the drive on a left square in to Alec Zamet for a 10-yard TD pass.

The next Porter attempt was thwarted when Zamet grabbed a Greenport pass and raced 25 yards for a pick 6. Fifty-one seconds later, Joe Mankiewicz scooped up a loose ball and ran it in from the 24. Babylon led 38-0 with three and a half minutes remaining in the first quarter. The defense and special teams scored four of the five TDs.

The Smurfs took over from there and totally contained the Greenport offense. The Porters never got the ball into Panther turf. The furthest they got was to their own 49 when Greenport linebacker Tristan Ireland covered a loose ball. And then on the next play, a sack by Mankiewicz jarred the ball loose for a recovery by Kevin Smith. Later in the game, a muffed punt catch was recovered by Tyler Christiansen, Greg Rueda chalked up a sack and Curcio stopped a run, stripped the ball and recovered it. The Panthers ended the game on the Porter 5, before mercifully kneeling it out.

Other stuff: The Babylon Pep Band opened the evening with a fine playing of our National Anthem. The Babylon Cheerleaders gave their super performances all night and at halftime. This evening was good with a slight chill, but these young women are often out there in the cold rain doing their parts to rouse the crowd and bolster the team – Lauren Augello, Kyra Beneville, Danielle Birch, Tori Castagnaro, Lexie D'Amico, Kristin Greene, Brie Jacinth, Nicole Kane, Jackie Keane, Grace Onishea, Bridgette Rohl, Alyssa Sasuk, Samm Schimmel, Nicole Smith, Amanda Vargas, Cali Walsberg and Britney Watson, under the coaching leadership of Jeanne Allen, with Shane Zeigon as the Babylon Panther.

Other, other stuff: Steve Cavalieri, Patrick Delaney and Shawn Tripp made their varsity debuts. Tripp led Babylon's nine ball carriers with eleven carries, good for 65 yards. Carlock's pick was his third of the season, two going for touchdowns. The Black D held the Greenport offense to a net 37 yards on 27 plays from scrimmage and yielded only one first down. Malhas boomed four kickoffs into the end zone and another to the Greenport 1-yard line. He now has six end zone kicks in two games and his average kickoff goes to the 4-yard line, a key to Babylon's success in field position.

Next up: The Panthers go to Mount Sinai to play the Mustangs in what promises to be a thriller, this Saturday afternoon, September 29. Game time is listed at 2 pm.