

## **Babylon Football: PANTHERS OPEN BIG, FLATTEN PHANTOMS 48-7**

**By Tony Spota**

The Babylon Panthers got off to a very good start as they walloped the Bayport Phantoms in the season opener at Williams Field. Due to lightning threats, the game was suspended at half time last Thursday night with Babylon ahead 41-0. It resumed Friday afternoon and concluded with the Panthers winning 48-7.

Babylon showed it on both sides of the ball. On defense, the Black D stifled Bayport's attack, limiting the Phantom passing game to 64 yards (38 on one play) and crushing the running game to a net minus 2 yards. The Panthers hogged the ball with 51 of the game's 72 plays from scrimmage. Quarterback Nick Santorelli completed 10 of 12 passes for 163 yards and four touchdowns. Ten different backs ran for 221 yards on 41 carries.

The Panthers scored on every possession of the first half. They began with a 64 yard drive as Santorelli gunned a left fly for 33 yards to Jake Carlock, hit AJ Giuliano on a left look-in for 11 and rolled right, hitting Eric Schweitzer for 12. Schweitzer capped the drive on a burst over the right side between Joe Cosby and Shea Amdur. Santorelli added the first of his six extra-point kicks. Babylon's second drive went 75 yards, keyed by Schweitzer's 61-yard run around the right side and capped on a 14-yard left slant from Santorelli to Carlock.

Joe Savastano then recovered a kickoff fumble at the Bayport 45. Three plays later Santorelli hit Carlock for another TD, this time on a 14-yard square out. The next possession went 77 yards with Santorelli lofting an 18-yard right fly to Wardell, a picture play. Babylon's fifth drive went 64 yards, featuring a 32-yard left fly to Schweitzer and capped by a 5-yard square out to Schweitzer. Babylon's last TD of the half was on a dash up the gut by Luke Zappia. The speedster raced 43 yards for the score.

The second half began on Friday afternoon and Bab's defense continued to thwart every Bayport attempt. The Phantoms finally scored, going 46 yards on six plays. Quarterback Brendan Bateman hit Eddie Somerville on 38-yard fly down the left sideline to the Babylon 5. Three plays later, George Ringer banged it in from the 3. Matt McKinnon kicked the extra point. On the ensuing kickoff, Schweitzer gathered the ball in on the 10 and raced untouched up the middle, 90 yards for the TD. When Babylon kicked off, Shawn Tripp raced in and covered the loose ball at the Phantom 28 and the Panthers ran out the clock.

Every suited player got into the game for Babylon. Those making a varsity debut were Joe Cappello, Sam Dickran, Peter Donaldson, Dylan Dreher, John Larsen, Matt Lauri, CJ Martino, James Messina, George Pirgousis, Nick Rachwalski, Ryan Ray, Tazon Rogers, Eddie Vega and Tyler Virga

Other stuff: Coach Jeanne Allen's cheerleaders were out there for both halves, performing for the crowd. Schweitzer had eight carries for 151 yards and a TD. He caught four passes for 65 yards and a TD and ran back a kickoff for 90 yards and a TD, totaling 306 all-purpose yards. In addition to Santorelli's passing yardage, he ran for 7 more totaling 170 all-purpose. His kicking game was up there, as well – six of seven

extra point attempt, two kickoffs into the end zone and 130 yards punting. Carlock caught three passes for 68 yards and a pair of TDs. Tripp and Tyler Christiansen chalked up a sack each. For Bayport – Bateman completed 6 of 18 passes for 64 yards. Somerville caught 2 for 45 yards.

Next up – Babylon plays the Shoreham Wildcats, tomorrow night, Friday, September 20, 6 pm at Williams Field.