

**Babylon Football:
BABYLON BOUNCES BACK,
PANTHERS CLAW KNIGHTS 36-21**

By Tony Spota

The Babylon Panthers came from behind to defeat the strong and wily Glenn Knights 36-21 at Elwood last Saturday afternoon. Babylon's victory marked their seventeenth consecutive win, a school record surpassing the mark set by the Panthers in 2002-2003.

Always a tough opponent, the Knights surprised the Panthers early. Trapped back at their own 19-yard line, they punted to midfield where the Panthers would have had good field position. But the play was called back on a costly penalty, giving the Knights a first down. Working out of the pistol offense, sophomore tailback Chris Forsberg burst up the middle for 27 yards and a first down at the Babylon 38. The Knights worked their way down to the 5 where Forsberg fired through left guard for the first score. The drive went 90 yards on ten plays with Glenn's super offensive line leading the way for Forsberg and quarterback Wayne White. The ensuing kickoff went short, came loose and was recovered by T.J. Tiernan at the Babylon 22. Five plays later White raced around the right side for a touchdown. And before you could say "the Right Stuff" Glenn had galloped to a 14-0 lead.

Things began to smell like an upset, but the Panthers would have none of that. They got down to business and roared back into the fray. Jake Carlock took the kickoff to midfield and they went the remaining distance on eight plays with tailback Eric Schweitzer racing around the right side from the 13 for the TD. The conversion attempt was snapped to Luke Zappia who followed a strong front force into the end zone for two points. Then on a safety blitz, Carlock raced in for a strip sack, recovered by Juawun Porter at the Glenn 11. Two plays later, Schweitzer banged it in from the 1 through a gap between Joe Cosby and Shea Amdur. Nick Santorelli made the first of his two extra-point kicks and the Panthers were up 15-14, a lead they'd carry into halftime. But before the half ended there were a few fine defensive gems. Babylon's Jack Kresek raced in for a sack on a play that appeared to be a pass option. Glenn's Mike Mannix had a pair of interceptions, the latter on a tipped pass in the end zone to stop Babylon and save a TD. That last Panther drive was keyed by a 28-yard fly from Santorelli to Ray Wardell who made a super catch at the Glenn 5.

The Panthers weren't finished there. In the second half, a sack by John Visgauss thwarted a Glenn possession before Babylon went on their next scoring drive. Beginning at the Babylon 44, the Panthers moved 56 yards. Three Schweitzer carries and a personal foul led to a rapid TD. Schweitzer got the six on a 32-yard gallop off right tackle. The next Panther drive went 52 yards on nine plays. The keys were a pair of 17-yard passes from Santorelli to Carlock, the latter a diving beauty in the end zone. During the drive, Schweitzer had run the ball in from the 6, but the play was called back on a chop block penalty. The slippery tailback did add the two point conversion on a run through the right side.

The Knights responded quickly, going 73 yards on two plays. Forsberg raced through the left side and up the middle for 71 yards to pay dirt. David Wicks kicked the third of

his extra points. The Panthers then went 80 yards on nine plays, wisely chewing away at the clock with a punishing ground game. Schweitzer capped it, zipping off the right side from the 10. The Black D took the remainder of the game with a pair of turnovers. Schweitzer recovered a fumble to stop a Glenn drive at the Babylon 15 and Carlock intercepted a pass to end the game, his fourth pick of the season.

Other stuff – for Babylon, Santorelli completed six passes for 98 yards and a TD. He rushed for 61 yards on 14 carries for a total 159 all-purpose yards and added an end zone kickoff. Schweitzer carried 22 times for 159 yards and three TDs and added a fumble recovery. Carlock caught five passes for 70 yards and a TD. He carried for a dozen more, returned a kick for 20 yards and had a strip sack and an interception on defense. For Glenn, the line played a fine game – Matt Choinski, Edwin Rubio, Juan Portillo, Anthony Ferrisi, Dareus Smith and Dan Kohout. Forsberg had 12 carries for 126 yards and two TDs. White was 5 of 9 passing for 52 yards, had 19 carries for 57 yards and a TD and had a 59-yard punt on a quick kick. The John Glenn Marching Knights and the Glenn cheerleaders gave an excellent halftime performance.

Next up – It's Homecoming weekend for Babylon. The Panthers (5-0) will play the Mount Sinai Mustangs (4-1) this Saturday afternoon at Williams Field. The Mustangs are always tough and will certainly be up for this one, seeking to unseat Babylon's hold for the division's top slot. It'll be a good one. Game time is scheduled for 2 pm.