

Babylon Football:

PANTHERS MAUL MONARCHS, 41-6

By Tony Spota

The Babylon Panthers put up a crushing defense and walloped the Mercy Monarchs 41-6 last Friday evening at Williams Field. In front of a happy hometown crowd, the opening ceremonies included the National Anthem by the Pep Band and a fine recognition of Babylon's senior cheerleaders and the senior players on both sides.

Babylon's rock solid Black D held the Monarchs to only one first down and 61 yards from scrimmage – 34 passing and 27 rushing. Meanwhile the offense, led by the Big Cats was practically scoring at will.

Babylon's first possession went 47 yards on two plays. Striking quickly in the air, quarterback Nick Santorelli hit Eric Schweitzer on a left flair for 22 and Jake Carlock on a right slant for 25 and a touchdown. Santorelli added the first of his five extra-point kicks. He then intercepted a pass to thwart the next Monarch possession at the Mercy 35-yard line. Three plays later, the Monarchs came through with a pick of their own as Chris Kobus grabbed one on a tipped pass at the Mercy 20. Again, Mercy's possession was short-lived and a partially blocked punt was speared by Luke Zappia at the 30 and raced in for the score.

The Panthers tallied twice more in the second quarter. Santorelli gunned a left slant to Carlock who zigged on in for the TD. The play covered 31 yards and broke two school records. It was Carlock's eleventh receiving TD of the year, surpassing the ten set by Miguel Soto in 2002. It was also his fifteenth lifetime TD reception, moving him ahead of the fourteen set by Steve Loudon (2008-2010).

With the Panthers ahead 21 zip, the Smurfs came in. After going against their powerful teammates all week in practice, game time against another opponent was like a day at the beach. With Henry Brunjes at the helm, they neatly marched to the Mercy 11 on seven carries. Brunjes then capped the drive lofting a pass to Eddie Vega in the end zone for the TD.

The Smurfs came roaring out in the second half. They rapidly marched 54 yards on seven plays with Steve Schweitzer racing around the right side from the 7 for the score. Mercy responded, going 72 yards on five plays. Quarterback Mike Frosina tossed a left screen to tailback Reggie Archer for 31 yards and Frosina carried for 30 on a keeper around the left side for the TD.

The Panthers scored once more going 65 yards on twelve plays and eating up almost eight minutes. Brunjes capped it himself on a sneak through right guard from the 5. The win gives Babylon home field advantage in the playoffs until the Suffolk final at Stony Brook, should they last that long.

Babylon's first half production continued to increase. They now have had 35 possessions, 30 TDs (25 by the offense and 5 by the defense and special teams) and have roared to 210 points, all in the first two quarters during the seven games the Panthers played.

Other stuff – Babylon used eleven running backs who had 208 yards rushing on 35 carries. Most of the heavy work was done in the last three quarters by Brunjes, Tripp, Steve Schweitzer, Dylan Dreher, CJ Martino, Tyler Virga, Sam Dickran and John Larsen. Vega's catch for a TD was his first of the season. Santorelli passed for 78, ran for 7 and had a nifty pick. The Schweitzer brothers combined for 61 yards on eight carries. Steve got the TD. Dreher, Tripp and Martino combined for 100 yards on fifteen carries. The Smurfs had a great day on both sides of the ball.

Next up – This Saturday, the Panthers (7-0) go out east to meet the East Hampton Bonackers (3-4). The two met twice last year with Babylon winning the season opener 44-7 and the playoff opener 55-14. The Bonackers will be out to avenge those defeats, make the playoffs and knock Babylon off its unbeaten (19) streak. Game time is listed at 2 pm.