

## **Babylon Football: PANTHERS BLAST BAYMEN, 48-8**

**By Tony Spota**

The Babylon Panthers showed a rock solid defense as they ripped the Hampton Bays Baymen 48-8 last Friday evening at Hampton Bays. The victory was Babylon's sixteenth in a row tying the school's record set during the 2002-2003 seasons.

The Black D stifled the Bays at every turn, limiting them to a net 17 yards passing and 146 yards rushing. Up front, Joe Cosby, Jon Bell, John Visgauss, Rich Wilson and Tyler Christiansen showed a wall that refused to bend. Linebackers Shea Amdur, Eric Schweitzer and Luke Zappia contained the loose ends. In the secondary, Juawun Porter, Joe Savastano, Jake Carlock and Ray Wardell smothered the Bays' deep receivers forcing their passers into short yardage attempts.

The Panthers scored early and often to establish dominance from the getgo. Babylon's first possession went 66 yards. Quarterback Nick Santorelli opened with a left screen to Schweitzer, who weaved through the Baymen for 44 yards. Three plays later, Santorelli hit Jake Carlock on a right square-out from the 9-yard line for the touchdown. Santorelli kicked the first of his six extra points.

Carlock stopped the next Baymen drive with an interception at the Babylon 24. Then he fielded a punt at the 34 and took it to the house, a 66-yard return for the TD. Next, he took in a punt at the Hampton 48, raced right, cut across to the middle and hauled it in for another punt return TD.

Three minutes later, the Panthers went 30 yards on five plays. The capper saw Santorelli trotting in untouched from the 1. The gap opened by Matt Pinto, Ryan Matthews and Cosby was as wide as Main Street.

Before halftime, Santorelli gunned a left fly to Schweitzer for 28, a right buttonhook to Zappia for 17 and a left slant from the 8 to Carlock at the goal line for the score. It was Carlock's fourth and last reception for the night giving him a lifetime total 58 catches (and counting) surpassing the school record - 56 by Steve Loudon (2008-2010).

The Bays broke their ice on the first possession after halftime. Taylor Catz raced around right end 75 yards for the TD. He then ran off the right side for a two-point conversion. The Panthers answered quickly with Zappia zipping off the right side for 29 yards to pay dirt.

The Smurfs took it the rest of the way, hogging the ball on offense and thwarting the Bays on defense. An errant Hampton backward lateral pass missed the mark and Wilson alertly covered the pigskin at the Bays 33. Steve Schweitzer, the younger of the brother tailbacks, carried it most of the way in a ground attack allowing CJ Martino to bang it in from the 1.

Coach Rick Punzone was happy with the win. "Every player got in. We'd like to carry this momentum into our upcoming game with Glenn. They're always tough."

Other stuff - For Babylon, the Cheerleaders were out there, as they are for every game, regardless of distance and weather. Coach Jeanne Allen leads a group of performers that are a true part of the team and a key to the school's football success - Lauren Augello, Kyra Beneville, Danielle Birch, Tori Castagnaro, Amanda Crowley,

Lexie D'Amico, Kristin Greene, Brie Jacinth, Jackie Keane, Danielle Pinna, Bridgette Rohl, Alyssa Sasuk, Nicole Smith, Amanda Vargas, Cali Walsberg and Brittney Watson. On the field, Carlock had a super game – four catches for 40 yards and two TDs, two punt returns 114 yards and another two TDs, a kickoff return for 48 yards and an interception on defense. In all, 202 all-purpose yards and a new school reception record. Not bad at all. Santorelli completed nine passes in eleven attempts for 145 yards and two TDs. He had 42 yards on eight carries and a TD for a total 187 all-purpose yards. He added six extra points and had one end zone kickoff. Eric Schweitzer had 72 reception yards and 11 yards rushing. Steve Schweitzer had 44 yards rushing. Zappia rushed for 29 yards and a TD and caught for another 21 yards. Liam Young made his varsity debut.

For Hampton Bays – Catz had 11 carries for 95 yards and a TD. Cody Nolan had 43 yards on 8 carries. Robert Yates had 29 yards on three receptions. Christian Nydeggar had an interception. Alyssa Ortiz gave a beautiful rendition of Our National Anthem.

Next up – Babylon goes up to Elwood to meet the Glenn Knights, this Saturday October 12. Last year, the Panthers edged the Knights 17-14. Always a top team and a great contender, the Knights will be up for this one and a tough game can be expected. Game time is scheduled for 1:30 pm.