

Panthers Dominate on Homecoming

After a victory in their rivalry game against the Blake Bengals last week, the Paint Branch Panthers headed into week 7 against the Northwood Gladiators hoping to continue their winning ways and extend their four-game win streak. Some added incentive on the night was the raucous 50th Anniversary homecoming crowd on hand for the matchup.

The Panthers kicked off and within the first two minutes of the game senior Elijah Grooms hauled in an interception to immediately set the tone for the night. Shortly after, senior Sam Doku caught a 10-yard pass from sophomore Octavian Smith to put the Panthers up 6-0. Looking to control the game right away, the Panthers surprised the Gladiators with an onside kick and recovered the ball. Northwood’s defense stood no match for the Panther offense from the start as the Panthers added to their lead with Smith throwing a 23-yard touchdown to sophomore receiver Isaiah Russell. The two-point conversion made the score 14-0 only five minutes into the game. The Gladiators finally got on offense but only for a short period as the Panthers made sure their presence was known, holding them and forcing them to punt the ball. Paint Branch would continue to score throughout the 1st quarter with Smith adding a 32-yard touchdown pass to sophomore Ira Oniha, and Doku scoring two additional touchdowns, one on a beautiful 74-yard run. The first quarter ended with PB up 35-0.

The Gladiators started with the ball at the beginning of the second quarter, but could not get any offense going against the tough Panther defense, who continued to smother Northwood. Another touchdown by Doku - his fourth on the night - put the game away and finished the Panther scoring for the night before halftime. As the teams left the field for the break, PB was up 42-0.

The second half would be more of a stand-still than the first half as the Gladiators defense picked up the pressure and managed to stop the Panthers from scoring in the second half. Unfortunately for Northwood, their defense couldn’t translate into offense, though they would score their only touchdown in the beginning of the fourth quarter.

The Panthers won the game 42-6, extending their win streak to five games and improving their record to 6-1. They will look to continue this trend as they take on Sherwood next week on senior night.

ZOPUTA DIFINI
STAFF WRITER



photo by: Ibrahim Ansari

The Panthers improved to 6-1 on the season with a dominant performance against Northwood. They will look to win their sixth straight game as they take on a tough Sherwood team this week.

Golf

Coach: Joe DeCavage, 14th year

Record for the season: 3-11

Key Players: Manjeet Nirula, Andrew James, Zabian Hood

“Season was successful in that we didn’t have to forfeit any matches as other schools did.”

- Coach DeCavage

Volleyball

Coach: Noelee Wishart

Record heading into playoffs: 2-9

Players to watch: Julia Vital, 11th; Laila Balogun, 11th; Neyah Curry, 11th

photo by: Alana Campbell



Girls’ Soccer

Coach: Jeannette Smith, 3rd year

Record heading into playoffs: 3-8

Athletes to Watch: Morgan Parris, 9th; Saige Samuels, 11th; Amy Mishra and Nadia Fox, 12th

Team Strengths: Great ball skills and depth in our bench.

“I’m excited to head into the playoffs with a strong, healthy team. We’re eager to win! We’ve had some unlucky breaks throughout our season but are ready to make a statement in our conference. We are not the same team we that played our Division teams during the regular season.”

- Coach Smith



photo by: Alana Campbell

Cross Country

Coach: Mark Anderson, 8th year

Athletes to watch:

Yosef Tsigie, 11th; Jimmy Plunkett & Yabsira Gugsu, 12th; Princess Asante, 10th; Kelly Lin, 11th

[Boys] “Team will have to produce best effort of the year at 4A Regional Meet in order to qualify for 9th straight appearance at State Championships.”

[Girls] “Several talented newcomers including Trinty Klock (transfer) and Princess Asante provided early season optimism. However, injuries to Klock, Lin and Christina Anderson held the team back much of the year. Still, the girls persevered and all posted personal best times at the Montgomery County Championships.”

- Coach Anderson



photos by: Christina Anderson



Boys’ Soccer

Coach: Jeff Myers, 1st year

Record heading into playoffs: 0-9-1

Team Strengths: Transition from defense to offense

Athletes to watch: Alejandro Pena, Brian Noutchang, Dante Huynh, 12th

“We’ve lost 9 games all by only one goal. Our luck is going to change soon and we will surprise a lot of people in the playoffs.”

- Coach Myers

photo by: Alana Campbell



Field Hockey

Coach: Giovanni Gordon, 1st year

Current Record: 7-3

Teams to beat: Sherwood

Players to watch: Christina Marshall, 12th

Team strengths: Team spirit and offense

“Season is going wonderful. We’re on our way to setting a new record of wins in post-season games; we just need to keep our heads up and we will surely progress all the way to state finals.”

– Coach Gordon



photo by: Alana Campbell

PB Sports Celebrates 50 Years in Style

NIGUS GETAHUN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This year, for the first time in history, Paint Branch held a 50 year anniversary meet up where alumni from all classes were invited to join one another in a celebration of what it means to be a Paint Branch Panther. Alums from every decade attended the event on Friday night, including graduating classes from the 1970s to 1990s, who had their own spot reserved on the field.

As the alumni gathered in numbers and watched Paint Branch Panthers dominate the Northwood Gladiators, they took some time to reflect on what it felt like to be back and whether they see any differences in the football games from what they remember when they were in high school.

Kevin McGrath, Class of 1980, felt that the renovation of the school from when he was attending to now stood out. "Look at the field, it's unbelievably professional...compared to when I was here," McGrath said. McGrath said he didn't attend a lot of the games when he was in school, but still remembers when Paint Branch won its first state championship in 1975, just a few years before he even started going to PB.

Another alum, Edward Wilson from the Class of 2009, didn't see a big difference from when he graduated to now except for the fact that the Paint Branch football team has been doing well for the past few years. "Ain't nothing really changed between 09 and... 2019 - everything is still the same minus the whole winning season," Wilson said.

PB Athletic Director Ms. Podosek felt that the event was a strong closing to a great week. "Homecoming this year was truly a homecoming for 50 years of Alumni! Paint Branch alumni were invited to attend this very special game to honor our 50th anniversary. I truly enjoyed meeting the all of the alumni and listening to their PB stories. I feel it is important to continue to recognize and embrace our Panther History! Here is to the next 50 years of Panther Pride."

It was a joyful night as alumni gathered to rejoice in what it means to be a Paint Branch Panther. For some, it was the first time they had come to the school in years, while for others the school remains something they still feel a part of each and every day.

"Look at the field, it's unbelievably professional...compared to when I was here."

-Kevin McGrath, Class of 1980
(pictured at right)

all photos by: Nigus Getahun



One of the many groups that gathered for the 50th Anniversary event was PB Cheer alums.



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