



# KLEIN OAK PANTHERS

## 2003



The Panthers opened the 2003 season with a disappointing loss to cross-town rival Tomball 52-6, but had the Cougars on the rope for most of the very exciting first half. Tomball took advantage of Panther miscues in the second half to run away with the game. Read "GAME HIGHLIGHTS" below to get a feel for just how close this game truly was during the first half.

The Panthers showed a new wrinkle in the offense as *quarterback* Alex Pounds connected on a 7-yard pass to WR Ruben Barrios on their second play from scrimmage. That's Right! It's not a pro set, but Oak has gone away from the vintage single-wing offense and now has three quality QB's in senior Pounds and sophomores Kevin Cravey and David Porter. This season will prove to be exciting with a balanced offensive attack.

Defensive standouts for the game include DE Matt Hunter who had 8 tackles, one for a loss, and recovered a fumble, while S Scott Parish collected 7 tackles. DT Greg Carlson, DE Seth Davidson and LB Matt Nolan each had 5 tackles, and LB Chris Holt had 4 tackles including a QB sack. DB Chris Powell, DE Chris Boren, DB Theron Matthews, LB Matt Domzalski, LB Richard Engdorf, and DL Josh Wilke also had multiple tackles for the Panthers.

Offensively, Alex Pounds was 9-for-19 passing hitting WR Avery Johnson four times for 43 yards and WR Brandon Reynolds twice for 22 yards and a TD. RB Bryce Hudman rushed 10 times with a 15-yard scamper that set up Oak's lone touchdown. RB Trey Richmond carried the ball 6 times including one for 11 yards.

### Roster

### Player of the Week

### Statistics

KLEIN OAK		OA K	OP P
Aug 29	Tomball	6 - 52	
Sep 6	Alvin	14 - 24	
Sep 12	Deer Park	0 - 35	
Sep 26	Spring	6 - 46	
Oct 3	Klein Forest	13 - 48	
Oct 11	Woodlan ds	6 - 49	
Oct 18	Westfield	14 - 42	
Oct 24	Conroe	10 - 12	
Oct 31	Klein	28 - 12	
Nov 8	Klein Collins	29 - 30	

**Klein Oak will host Alvin on Saturday September 6 at 7:30 p.m. Come out and support the team!**

### **GAME HIGHLIGHTS**

**After Oak's first two possessions ended with a turnover and a sack, Pounds got on a roll completing nine of his first ten passes. The third drive started at their own 19 where RB Bryce Hudman got things started with a 5-yard gain. Pounds then hit WR Avery Johnson for 11 yards, WR Chris Powell for a short gain and WR Brandon Reynolds for 12 yards near midfield. After a couple of short passes to Powell and a rush by Hudman, Tomball's defense stopped FB Daniel McGilvray just short on 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 to end the first quarter.**

**Oak held the Cougars and got the ball back near midfield after a 4-yard punt. On 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11 Pounds hit Johnson for 22 yards and followed it up with another one to Johnson for 7 yards. On the next play Hudman took the pigskin and raced 15 yards down to the 8-yard line. Pounds rolling out to his right, hit Reynolds on the sidelines for a 10-yard TD pass!**

**Oak trailed 7-6 with 3:30 left in the first half, but had the momentum as they were moving the ball well on offense and had held Tomball to 3-and-out on five of their first six possessions (the Cougars only score coming off a turnover on Oak's first play from scrimmage). But that final 3:30 minutes was an *emotional roller coaster*.**

**First, Cougar Brett Johnson picked off an errant pass and ran it back 36 yards for a touchdown and a 14-6 lead. But Casey Wright took the ensuing kick-off back 43 yards near midfield to get the Panthers fired back up. A sack and a penalty forced Oak to punt, but the ball deflected off a downfield Cougar and Hunter was there to pounce on it at the Tomball 36 – not far from paydirt! Wouldn't you know, Oak turned it back over on the next play. But the defense came up big, and LB Matt Domzalski stripped the ball from the runner**

**and recovered the ball at midfield – still enough time to tie the game with 1:46 left in the half!**

**After a dropped pass over the middle around the 30-yard line, Tomball defender T.J. Kitchen picked off a pass and returned it 27 yards to the KO 33 with 31 seconds left. After 3 incomplete passes, it looked like Oak would go in at halftime trailing by a touchdown, but Tomball's Callon ran 19-yards on a draw allowing Vardeman to come on and kick a 31-yard field goal just before time expired.**

**The Panthers were not able to recover the momentum and control of the game that they had demonstrated for much of the first half. The Cougars took advantage of a short punt to go 35 yards on their first drive of the second half for a 24-6 lead. A fumble and a blocked punt recovered in the end zone led to two more quick scores as the game got out of control.**

**Kick-off returns in the second half continued to be as successful as in the first. Scott Parish took a kick-off 2 yards deep in the endzone and ran it back 43 yards. In an attempt to improve kick return coverage, Tomball began trying short kicks which are difficult to return. But Oak responded well with Dustin Conant taking the first one 17 yards, another one 7 yards to the 35, and Sherrod Ceasar taking one on the run for 12 yards to the 40.**

**K Matt Smith also performed well as he sailed the opening kick-off through the endzone and got excellent height and distance on his second one to the 7-yard line.**

**Oak was able to get backup players into the game for experience and contribution. QB Kevin Cravey showed poise during the fourth quarter as he threw five passes (four dropped and one just off the receiver's fingertips) and picked up a snap that rolled into the backfield and fought for five tough yards. DB Josh Howell demonstrated tremendous hustle (and speed) as he raced from the left side of the field to tackle the pitch man on the opposite**

side of the field for a 1-yard gain late in the game. LB Richard Engdorf made solo tackles on consecutive plays late in the game as Oak continued to battle to the end.

GOOD LUCK PANTHERS!!!

The Panthers battled a tough Alvin team, picked over Ball to win their district, Saturday evening and came away with a 24-14 loss. The teams were evenly matched, each netting some 260 yards total offense, but the Yellow Jackets capitalized on four Oak turnovers to come away with the victory. Oak continues to show tremendous progress each week since the Katy scrimmage. It would have been easy to get discouraged with a quick 14-0 deficit, but this group of Panthers has tremendous heart, character and tenacity as they took the game to Alvin over the last 3 quarters.

You got to give the offensive line a lot of credit in this game. C Grant Campbell did a great job snapping the ball, and he along with Craig Strube, Andy Davis, Josh Wilke, Trace Brown, and Scott Sacchieri cleared the way for Oak runners to average 4.5 yards per carry while not allowing a quarterback sack. Hats off to *district leading punter* David Porter who averaged nearly 50 yards on his 4 punts and has averaged 45 yards for the year.

QB Alex Pounds had another good outing connecting on 5 of his first 6 passes and finished up 16-for-34 on the night for 169 yards and scored on a keeper. Six different receivers had catches with Chris Powell snaring 4 for 50 yards and Trey Richmond 4 for 37 yards. Casey Wright (3 catches, 40 yards), Kevin Cravey (2 catches, 17 yards), Avery Johnson (2 catches, 3 yards) and David Porter (1 for 22 yards) also had key receptions.

The Panthers ran the ball effectively with Dustin Conant being the leading rusher with 33 yards on 7 carries, including a 15-yard TD. Avery Johnson did a great job at the end of the game picking up 29 yards on just 4 rushes, while Bryce Hudman collected 22 yards on 5 carries. Backup QB David Porter also picked up 4 yards on a scamper around the right end on an option keeper.

The defense played a great game holding the Yellow Jackets to 4 downs or less on 5 of their 7 possessions over the last 3 quarters. DE Matt Hunter led the defense with 16 tackles, 8 unassisted, and blocked a punt. Greg Carlson also had 16 total tackles with 7 solos from his defensive tackle position. Senior DT Beau Harris had 12 tackles with 4 unassisted and LB Chris Holt had a key fumble recovery. For the second consecutive week, sophomore LB Matt Nolan delivered a bone-jarring tackle, and DB Tremayne Dortch made a big-time play leaping up and stripping the ball out of the hands of the receiver to force a punt.

Coach Smith and his staff should have the guys ready for the final non-district tune-up this Friday at Deer Park. Coach Arnold is looking for *athletic supporters* – the Panthers are playing some

exciting ball and it would be a shame to miss out on an opportunity to watch this TEAM give it all on the battlefield.

Good Luck OAK!

## Game Highlights

The Panthers quickly found themselves in a 14-0 hole as the Yellow Jackets drove 82 yards on their initial possession (two 3<sup>rd</sup> down pass conversions), and another 40 yards following a turnover (with a crucial 4<sup>th</sup> down conversion).

Oak took their third possession from their own 15-yard line to near midfield with the biggest play being a 20-yard completion from QB Alex Pounds to Trey Richmond. P David Porter came in to boom a 53-yard coffin-corner punt that pinned Alvin at the 3! The defense held on 3 downs and DE Matt Hunter blocked the punt from the end zone giving the Panthers great field position at the 27. After 3 near misses on TD passes, Oak attempted a 44-yard field goal, but it was wide right.

On the next play, the Panthers stripped the ball with LB Chris Holt pouncing on it at the 30. A holding penalty negating a great 12-yard run by RB Bryce Hudman, but that didn't deter the offense. Pounds hit WR Chris Powell for 25 yards on a crossing route down to the 15, and RB Dustin Conant raced 15 yards on the next play and dove over the goal line for the TD. Matt Smith's extra point closed the gap to 14-7.

The defense continued to play well, but a good punt return set up Alvin for a 35-yard field goal with just seconds left in the first half to extend their lead to 17-7.

K Matt Smith made his second TD-saving tackle of the game as Alvin opened up the second half with good field position. The Yellow Jackets marched down the field and had 1<sup>st</sup> and goal at the 3 before the Panther "D" stiffened and said "that's enough". Alvin could get no closer than the 3 and they missed the 21-yard field goal attempt. *The Oak defense shut down Alvin for the remainder of the game allowing just 1 first down on their final 4 possessions!*

Trailing 17-7, Oak mounted a drive from their own 39 to Alvin's 24 with key plays being a 13-yard pass to Casey Wright and a 10-yard pass to Kevin Cravey (plus 15 yards for a late hit). But Alvin came up big with an interception. Oak got great field position at the YJ 33 after they interfered with Casey Wright's attempt to field a punt. Conant had a 12-yard scamper called back on a holding penalty and Oak was not able to connect on a 39-yard field goal attempt.

The Panthers found success on its next possession as they drove 79 yards on 11 plays for a touchdown. Porter made a great catch on a tipped ball and fought for additional yardage on a 22-yard play and Pounds hit Richmond for another 10 yards to get the ball into enemy territory. RB Avery Johnson came in and took the ball 7 yards on his first attempt and added another 19 yards on a run down to the 6-yard line. Pounds threw a short pass to Johnson on 1<sup>st</sup> and goal before taking the ball on a keeper from 4 yards out for Oak's second touchdown. K Andy Yost came on to add the extra

point.

Pounds hit Wright for 24 hard fought yards and Richmond for 7 yards before time expired.

Except for the fumbled punt, Oak completed controlled and dominated the second half of this game. Things are beginning to come together and the team will soon be clicking on all cylinders.

Oak matched up well with its first two opponents, but the Deer Park squad had tremendous size and speed that caused havoc on both sides of the ball. In the end, KO was held scoreless in a 35-0 loss.

The Panther defensive front played very well. Giving up more than 100 pounds a piece on average to the Deer offensive line and facing one of the state's premier running backs, Oak kept Deer's punishing running game in check. The Panthers expected the good ground game, but did not expect Deer to pass the ball as well as they did (3 TD passes – 14, 37 and 53 yards), which proved to be key to their victory. Deer was only able to muster 2 first downs during the second half and just 13 yards in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter as the *defense* played solidly to the end.

The offense move the ball effectively at times with several long drives ending deep in enemy territory, but the Deer defense did an excellent job on pass defense and forced a few turnovers as well. Being able to move the ball against such a big and quick defense should give the offense a shot of confidence knowing that they can move the ball against anyone – just need to limit the turnovers.

Oak continues to do a great job returning kicks with Avery Johnson running back one for 39 yards and another for 27 yards to set up excellent field position. David Porter averaged 43 yards on his first 4 punts, before hitting his last one slightly off-center.

Offensively, Alex Pounds was 8-18 for 62 yards and had to do a bit of scrambling. Avery had 53 yards on 16 rushes and Porter 24 yards on 3 carries, while Dustin Conant picked up 22 tough yards primarily up the middle. Chris Powell was the leading receiver with 3 snags for 28 yards, while Trey Richmond and Kevin Cravey had two catches apiece.

Defensively, Matt Nolan had 7 unassisted tackles and 3 assists for 10 total tackles. Matt Hunter had 13 total tackles (5 solo) and Greg Carlson had 10 tackles (3 unassisted). Daniel McGilvray had one of the best hits of the night, crushing the ball carrier in the backfield for a loss.

Although the Panthers complete a tough non-district schedule without a win, spirits are still high and each player has grown in experience, skill and character and will be better prepared for the tough District 15-5A competition that lies ahead.

All teams in the district are currently 0-0, and you will want to be

there when Oak wins their district opener against Spring on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup>. **GO PANTHERS – TAME THE LIONS!!**

## Game Highlights

Deer opened up with a flea-flicker pass some 30 yards down the field, but DB Tremayne Dortch matched the receiver stride for stride to break up the play. Each team exchanged punts on their first possessions before RB Dustin Conant took one 12 yards up the middle for a first down. A penalty would halt the drive and bring on P David Porter who launched one 44 yards and a loss of 5 on the return had the Deer back at the 26. Deer would manufacture a 74-yard drive with only 30 rushing yards as they completed 3 passes including a 14-yard TD pass to go up 7-0.

RB Avery Johnson would take the ensuing kick-off back 39 yards to set up Oak in good position at their own 47. QB Alex Pounds hit WR Chris Powell for 17 yards and then WR Trey Richmond for 10 yards on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8 to move the ball to the Deer 26. The drive ended with a fumble which Deer converted to 7 points after a 37-yard TD pass. Oak's next possession ended with an interception returned 30 yards down to the 23, and the Panthers found themselves in a 21-0 hole.

Oak made a valiant attempt to put points on the board before half time. Johnson returned a kick 27 yards to the 35 and then carried the ball 5 times for 26 yards. With the aid of a penalty, Oak were threatening with the ball at the DP 36. Pounds hit WR Kevin Cravey for 10 yards on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8 to get down to the 24. A fumbled snap would result in a loss of 10 yards and on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 20 the Panthers would pick up 19 on a catch by Cravey and a pitch back to Johnson. But DP would come up big stopping Johnson on 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 at the 15.

K Kelly Nix's opening kick-off in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half was returned to the DP 41. On 3<sup>rd</sup> down, the Deer connected on a 57-yard TD pass to up the score to 28-0.

Deer's final score came with 2 minutes remaining as they picked off a pass and returned it 39 yards for the score and a 35-0 victory.

Oak moved the ball well on their final 4 possessions with QB David Porter darting for 13 yards and 7 yards on two keepers, Johnson pounding out a 19-yard run, Conant an 8-yarder, and Pounds converting several 3<sup>rd</sup> down passes, but turnovers and fumbled snaps ended each of these drives.

Oak will have a welcomed week off before starting district play at Spring on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup>.

The week off was welcome relief for healing of injuries, but the precision that was coming together both on offense and defense wasn't there for this game. Spring opened the game with a "shock and awe" offensive campaign with screen passes, draws, double

reverses and half-back option passes that kept the defense on its heels. Spring built a 15-0 lead just six plays into the game and strolled to a 46-6 victory. Oak had several opportunities to keep the game close, but it just wasn't meant to be.

Leading tacklers for Oak were LB Chris Holt with 10 unassisted and 18 total tackles, DB Bryce Hudman with 9 solo tackles and 12 total, and DE Steph Davidson with 10 total tackles. LB Daniel McGilvray and DE Matt Hunter caused a lot of havoc in the backfield breaking up pitch plays and chasing the quarterback out of the pocket on numerous occasions. DB Bryce Hudman forced a fumble that was recovered by DL Beau Harris.

QB Alex Pounds was the leading rusher for the Panthers with 20 yards on 3 attempts, including a 13-yard TD run. Pounds was 5-for-12 passing for 37 yards with 3 dropped passes and one of those in the endzone. QB David Porter completed 2-of-3 passes for 38 yards and had 10 yards rushing. TB Avery Johnson carried the ball 9 times for 11 yards.

WR Chris Powell had 2 catches for 23 yards, including a 26-yarder from Porter on a fake punt. TB Avery Johnson had 2 receptions for 19 yards and WR Kevin Cravey caught one over the middle for 21 yards.

## Game Summary

Spring marched 66 yards on their opening possession in just 4 plays and scored on a 30-yard screen pass. On the ensuing kick-off Oak got pinned at the 3-yard line on a fake reverse. The ball was hiked out of the end zone for a safety on Oak's first play from scrimmage. The Lions took the free kick back to KO's 44 and scored on their first play with a half-back option pass to make it 15-0.

DB Bryce Hudman stripped the ball on Spring's next possession and OL Beau Harris recovered for Oak at the Spring 41. QB Alex Pounds went deep on the first play and had WR Casey Wright open for the touchdown, but interference by Spring resulted in a 15-yard penalty. On 3<sup>rd</sup> down Pounds hit TB Avery Johnson on a short pass for a first down at the 12. Pounds kept the ball for 13 yards and a TD on a sweep right on 4<sup>th</sup> down to make it 15-6; Outstanding blocks by C Steph Davidson taking out the middle linebacker, RT Andy Davis turning in the defensive end and WR Kevin Cravey knocking down the defensive back to clear the path to the goal line.

The defense stood strong again on Spring's next possession. LB Daniel McGilvray met the runner head on for no gain on first down. On second down, McGilvray dove into the backfield and disrupted the pitch play and DE Matt Hunter came in to strip the ball from the startled tail back. Oak took over at the Lion 23-yard line with a chance to cut the lead to 15-14, but two poor snaps took the Panthers back to midfield where they were forced to quick kick on 3<sup>rd</sup> down.

Hunter and McGilvray almost trapped the QB on 3<sup>rd</sup> and long at midfield, but he scrambled around and threw on the run for a 20-yard completion, and then followed it up with a 21-yarder to make it 22-6. An interception on Oak's next drive allowed Spring to take a 28-6

halftime lead.

Spring's 2<sup>nd</sup> half kick-off went out of bounds setting Oak up at the 30. On 4<sup>th</sup> and 2, P David Porter hit WR Chris Powell for 26 yards on the fake punt. QB Pounds then found WR Cravey open across the middle for 21 yards down to the 15. A reverse by WR Casey Wright on 3<sup>rd</sup> down moved the ball down to the 10. Oak set up for the field goal, but holder Alex Pounds took the ball and rolled out to his left and found a receiver open in the end zone, but the pass was dropped.

The Panthers, whose numbers have been impacted by both illnesses and injuries, took on a formidable opponent in Klein Forest. Oak hung in there for most of the first half trailing 14-7 early in the second quarter and had a chance to cut it to 21-14 before half-time, but the size and depth of the Eagles took its toll as they pulled away for a 48-13 victory.

Oak quarterback Alex Pounds did a fine job throwing the ball hitting on 7-of-15 passes for 51 yards with a touchdown, a couple dropped and no interceptions. Pounds connected on his first 4 passes before having one batted down at the line of scrimmage. QB David Porter completed a pair of passes for 51 yards and ran for 23 yards. Porter also engineered a 14-play, 78-yard touchdown drive in his first of two series at the helm during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

Casey Wright was Oak's leading receiver with 4 catches for 46 yards. Brandon Reynolds caught an 8-yard pass for the Panthers first touchdown. Chris Powell had 2 catches for 19 yards, while Trey Richmond had a 24-yard catch and Avery Johnson one for 10 yards.

Avery Johnson and Torey Hall shared the bulk of the duty at running back. Hall playing in his first game as a Panther showed great speed and agility as he led the rushing attack with 26 yards, despite having a couple good runs called back on penalties. Johnson picked up 11 yards on 9 carries. Bryce Hudman carried the ball twice gaining 3 yards on each attempt, with the last one going for 6 points.

Middle linebacker Chris Holt led the defense with 8 unassisted tackles and 10 total tackles. DB Bryce Hudman garnered 9 tackles and DE Steph Davidson followed with 7. DT Beau Harris had a QB sack and also caused a fumbler on another play. Soph LB Matt Sweisthal had 3 tackles and forced a fumble in his first varsity appearance. DB Casey Wright played tight pass defense as he swatted away a couple passes from the receiver's hands. Overall the defense played well, giving up a few big plays, but most of the points coming off turnovers or set up by good kick/punt returns.

Valiant effort guys! Keep up the passion and the desire to win.

*"If you believe in yourself and have the courage, the determination, the dedication, the competitive drive and if you are willing to sacrifice the little things in life and pay the price for the things that are worthwhile, it can be done."*  
– Vince Lombardi

## Game Summary

The Panthers had some early excitement as the defense forced a fumble that was recovered by Chris Boren at their own 45. But Oak turned it back over on its first offensive play as the snap sailed high and was recovered by the Eagles at the 30. On second and long, the Eagles “*connected*” for 27 yards on a pass that bounced just once before the receiver attempted to catch it, setting up the games first score on the next play and a 7-0 lead. After holding Oak to 3-and-out, the Eagles scored quickly as a receiver got loose behind the secondary for a quick 14-0 lead.

As has been characteristic of this Panther team, they fought right back. The defense came up big forcing another fumble at the KF 34. QB Alex Pounds led Oak to pay dirt hitting Casey Wright for 10 yards, Chris Powell for 14 yards and Brandon Reynolds for 8 yards and a touchdown. Matt Smith sailed the kick long and true to cut the lead in half at 14-7.

Brandon Reynolds made another key catch later in the second quarter as he picked off a pass for Oak’s first interception of the year. This gave Oak a chance to cut the score to 21-14 before halftime. A holding penalty would wipe out a nice run by Torey Hall, forcing Oak to punt and a long return allowed Forest to take a 27-7 halftime lead.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, the Panthers led by Soph QB David Porter, went 78 yards on 14 plays converting 3-of-3 third down conversions to chew up 6 minutes of the clock and to close within 34-13. After Hall banged out 3 yards on the first two plays, Porter kept the ball for 14 yards out to the 39 yard line. Hall and Porter fought for 5 yards each after an incomplection for another first down just short of midfield. Porter connected with Trey Richmond across the middle on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 13 for 24 yards and a first down at the Eagle 30 yard line. Casey Wright took the ball on a wide receiver screen and demonstrated some nice athletic moves cutting around several defenders before being knocked out of bounds at the 3. On third and goal, Bryce Hudman took the ball and dove over the goal line for the score to make it 34-13!

The Eagles converted some 4<sup>th</sup> quarter mistakes into 2 easy scores for what may appear to others as a rout. But the Panthers held their ground in the second and third quarters scoring 13 points to the Eagles 20. Excluding KF’s first “gift” touchdown (short-hopped long pass), *the Panthers battled one of Houston’s top team for 3 quarters to a 27-13 deficit despite not having five starters available for action.*

The Woodlands have an excellent team and are well deserving of their national top 15 ranking. The Panthers had a huge task in front of them and battled the Highlanders to a 14-6 deficit for 3 quarters, but it was a 35-point outburst in the second quarter that led to the

Highlanders 49-6 victory.

A dejected team went into the lockers at halftime trailing 42-0 after the humiliating 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter where the Woodlands rubbed salt in the wounds by recovering an onside kick while leading 35-0 (apparently national rankings come before character and sportsmanship).

An inspirational halftime speech by Senior Captain Tremayne Dortch ended with a call to arms by declaring, "*We're not gonna leave here without putting points on the board!*" The Panthers rallied together and went out with renewed spirit and determination. They meant what they said as the team opened the second half with a 75-yard drive culminating with 47-yard TD pass from QB David Porter to WR Woody Smith. Oak went on to play the best half of football of the year on both sides of the ball. The offense accumulated 201 2<sup>nd</sup> half yards and had driven the ball down to the 9-yard line before time expired. The defense stifled the Highlanders allowing just 60 yards and 3 first downs over the last 2 quarters.

QB David Porter was the offensive spark as he completed 5 passes for 113 yards and rushed 7 times for 41 yards. RB Bryce Hudman gained 30 yards on 4 second half carries as he ran through, rather than around, the defense. RB Dustin Conant fought for tough yardage up the middle and broke one for 7 yards after a great second effort. RB Torey Hall carried the ball once for 6 yards and a first down.

WR Woody Smith scored Oak's only touchdown as he pulled in a 47-yard pass and dove across the goal line to hit pay dirt. WR Sherrod Ceasar was Porter's favorite target as he caught 3 passes for 52 yards, including a 27-yarder on 4<sup>th</sup> and 13. WR Kevin Cravey had 1 reception for 14 yards. Hats off to the offensive line, opening up big holes and providing pass protection that led to Oak's second half uprising: Ken Dodson, Joseph Villanueva, Trace Brown, Scott Sacchieri, Andy Davis and Brett Harvey.

The defense was led by Matts. LB Matt Sweisthal had 9 unassisted and 12 total tackles. DE Matt Hunter had 11 tackles including 2 QB sacks. LB Matt Domzalski had 9 tackles and sacked the quarterback once. LB Matt Nolan picked off a fumble in midair on the third play of the game and returned it 10 yards and also assisted on a sack. Other defensive linemen and backers that held the Woodlands running game in check during the second half included Chris Boren, Steph Davidson, Drew Johnson, Anthony Flory, and Richard Engdorf.

Guys, we are very proud of you! Your play in the second half shows the great potential that you possess and the tremendous pride and tenacity that continue to be characteristic of this team.

**GO PANTHERS!**

#### Second Half Recap

Casey Wright returned the 2<sup>nd</sup> half kick-off back to the 25 (Casey had 3 returns for 65 yards in the game). QB David Porter kept the ball twice for 9 yards before RB Bryce Hudman added another 19 yards on 3 carries to the Woodlands 47. Porter bounced off a defender on a naked bootleg and found WR Woody Smith open down the left

side. Woody received the ball at the 25 and raced to the end zone, diving over the goal line with a defender in tow.

The defense would stop the Highlanders on 3 downs and force a punt. Porter got the offense going again as he weaved his way for 15 yards. He added 5 more yards before a fumbled pitch stopped the drive and led to the Woodlands only second half score.

The Panther started the next drive from their own 28. Porter hit WR Sherrod Caesar for 15 yards and a first down. Porter scrambled for 6 yards and RB Dustin Conant added 2 more before Hudman busted a 13-yarder up the middle to the Highlander 36. After Porter added 8 yards on 2 carries, RB Torey Hall ran around the right end for 6 yards and a first down at the 22. This drive was halted, however, when Oak could not convert on 4<sup>th</sup> and long following a penalty.

Another 3-and-out stand by the defense resulted in Oak taking their last possession at their own 37. Porter hit Caesar for 10 yards and then got 6 on a keeper to move the ball into Highlander territory. On 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10, Porter hit WR Kevin Cravey for 14 yards and a first down at the 33. Oak faced 4<sup>th</sup> and 13 after the Woodlands stopped Porter for a 3-yard loss and forced 2 incomplete passes, but Porter found Caesar across the middle for 27 yards and he was dragged down at the 9-yard line. The game clock expired before Oak got a chance to cash in for the score.

For those of you who like to play the IF game, Oak was only 1 fumble, 1 penalty and a few seconds away from pitching a 28-0 shutout during the second half. It was an excellent comeback nonetheless.

**Outstanding effort guys!!!**

Despite the disparity in final score, the Panthers were able to move the ball pretty well against the highly ranked Westfield team, picking up 4 yards per carry and being successful on 9-of-19 passing. Five fumbles, 4 dropped passes and an interception, however were too much to overcome. These mistakes not only halted potential scoring drives, they changed the game's momentum, resulted in the defense having stay on the field longer without rest, and in the end a bigger margin of defeat. Over the past several games, however, you can begin to see that cutting down on mistakes would allow Oak to remain competitive throughout the game, even against these top ranked opponents. Quite an accomplishment with the number of key injuries that has plagued the team.

Westfield was able to convert Oak's three lost fumbles into 17 first half points, which accounted for the 26-0 halftime deficit. KO did not turn the ball over during the second half, and had played the Mustangs to a 14-14 tie, until they were assessed a 15-yard penalty on an onside kick, leading to a late Westfield score.

Small consolation for Oak, but the defense did limit the district's leader rusher Patrick Webster to 147 yards and 2 touchdowns. The Mustang running back had averaged 220 yards/game on the ground

coming into the game, including a 350-yard game against defending 5A state champs Converse Judson.

Special teams played very well. The Mustangs utilized high pooch kick-offs that require catching the ball in heavy traffic and are not easily returned. Woody Smith, Bryce Hudman and Casey Wright did an outstanding job fielding these kicks and averaged about 10 yards on the returns. District leading Klein Oak punter David Porter averaged 43.3 yards on 4 punts, including a booming 57-yarder against a strong wind that sailed over the return man's head and through the endzone.

Brandon Reynolds blocked a punt that led to Oak's first touchdown. Porter had an excellent onside kick that Tremayne Dortch was able to pick cleanly out of the air, but a confused line judge called it back on interference to make a catch, although the receiver retreated and was never touched. Hudman also made an outstanding play staying home on a fake punt, stopping the runner near the line of scrimmage.

Attaboys for the offensive line, which had to battle a much bigger defensive line in the trenches, yet created gaps for an effective ground game. Doing the blocking for the Panthers were C Ken Dodson, G Scott Sacchieri, G Joseph Villanueva, T Trace Brown, T Andy Davis, T Brett Harvey, and TE Kevin Cravey.

QB David Porter was the leading rusher for the Panthers with 39 yards on 7 attempts, including an 8-yard touchdown scamper. RB Bryce Hudman picked up 22 yards on just 5 carries (and scored 2 points on a fake kick), RB Dustin Conant added 15 yards, QB Alex Pounds had a nice 8-yard keeper for a first down and RB Trey Richmond ran 5 times for short yardage. Pounds was 6-for-13 passing for 37 yards, and David Porter completed 3-of-6 passes for 32 yards and a TD.

TE Kevin Cravey had 2 catches for 21 yards and a touchdown. WR Chris Powell caught 3 passes for 16 yards. WR Avery Johnson made an outstanding 1-handed catch as he reached back between 2 defenders, for a first down on the opening drive. WR's Sherrod Caesar, Trey Richmond and Kelly Nix each had receptions.

Leading tacklers for Oak were DE Steph Davidson with 8 unassisted and 10 total tackles, DB Bryce Hudman with 9 total tackles and LB Matt Nolan with 8 tackles. Davidson made the last 6 tackles of the game, with the last tackle stopping the Mustang back 1-yard short of the goal line!

Beginning district with Spring, Forest, The Woodlands and Westfield was a formidable challenge. But through it all, there have been many individual and team successes that provide the basis for a successful close to the football season. We are very proud of your efforts thus far and know that victory will soon be yours.

**GO PANTHERS!**

Oak suffered a heart-breaking loss at Conroe as the Tigers kicked the game winning field goal with just 8 seconds remaining to secure a 12-10 win. The Panthers were clearly the superior team, but turnovers allowed the Tigers to stay in the game until the end. The Panthers literally let victory slip through their paws with two lost fumbles in the last few minutes of the game.

Conroe came through when it counted as they drove 60 yards in the final 2 minutes of the first half for 6 points, and 50 yards in the game's final minute for the game-winning field goal. With just seconds remaining, the defense stuffed the Tigers from inside the 1-yard line to force a timeout and a final field goal attempt (Conroe had already missed 2 field goals and an extra point). Chris Powell made a valiant diving effort to block the kick, but the ball slipped just past his fingertips and through the uprights.

The offensive line of Andy Davis, Trace Brown, Joseph Villanueva, Scott Sacchieri and Ken Dodson continue to do an excellent job blocking as they led the way for an impressive ground attack. Running backs Bryce Hudman, Torey Hall and Trey Richmond combined for nearly 8 yards a pop, garnering 161 yards on 21 carries. Hudman became Oak's first 100-yard rusher of the season with breakaway runs of 30 and 21 yards, and an even 100 yards on the night. Hall took the ball 38 yards and was knocked out of bounds at the 16 on his only carry. Richmond took the ball up the middle four times for 22 yards. QB David Porter *had an 8-yard run for a touchdown* and QB Alex Pounds had runs of 7 and 11 yards.

Pounds completed passes to Woody Smith for 18 yards and Chris Powell for 16 yards on his first two attempts, and hit Hudman for 10 yards on the final play of the game. Pounds ended the game 3-for-6 for 44 yards with a pass in the end zone slipping through the hands of a leaping receiver.

Kevin Beymann, playing in his first varsity game, was successful on an extra point attempt and kicked a 24-yard field goal to give Oak a 10-9 lead with 10 minutes to go. Brandon Reynolds did a fine job punting. His first punt was 36 yards and went out of bounds at the Conroe 11, and he later boomed one high and deep to the return man 48 yards away. Kevin Cravey made a couple of tackles on the kick-off team and also had a 20-yard kick-off return. Casey Wright had 30 total return yards on 2 kick-offs and a punt.

The defense played very well, forcing 4 turnovers and coming up with big plays to swing the momentum back the Panther's way. The defense prevented Conroe from gaining even a yard on their first three possessions with the last one ending with a LB Chris Boren fumble recovery. LB Matt Nolan, who always seems to be where the ball is, recovered a fumbled punt after teammate Tremayne Dortch successfully separated runner from ball. DE Matt Hunter decided it was better to take (the ball) rather than give (the hit) when he grabbed the ball from the QB and started running the other way. DB Chris Powell made a diving catch of a tipped ball just before it hit the ground for a spectacular interception.

Leading tacklers for Oak were LB Matt Nolan with 5 unassisted and 12 total tackles (2 for loss), LB Chris Boren with 4 solos and 7 assists and DB Bryce Hudman with 10 total tackles. Tackle Beau Harris had 10 tackles while DE Matt Hunter had 9, 2 behind the line of scrimmage. DE Steph Davidson also had 9 with one tackle for a loss.

*" You never win a game unless you beat the guy in front of you. The score on the board doesn't mean a thing. That's for the fans. You've got to win the war with the man in front of*

*you. You've got to get your man."*

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**Let's show the Bearkats what Panther Pride is all about and come away with that Homecoming Victory!**

Klein came knocking on Oak's door expecting a treat, but none were to be found as the Panthers treated themselves to a 28-12 thrashing of the Bearkats. Oak opened the game with a 75-yard drive on 8 plays for a 7-0 lead, extended the lead to 15-0 before the end of the first quarter, and never looked back. The victory was especially sweet as it comes against their biggest rival Klein.

The Panthers have put together some exceptional halves this year, but this was the first time the team executed well from beginning to end on both sides of the ball. The defense played solidly; tightening up each time Klein threatened to score, while allowing just 1 big play (60-yard run by Hawkins) and forcing 2 turnovers. Klein was content to pound the ball up the middle with 3-4 yards per play while consuming much of the game clock, otherwise Oak would have had 3 running backs over the century mark.

Klein never knew what hit them as Oak ran the ball at will, rolling up 265 yards on 31 carries. It was almost as if they were protected by an invisible force field, but of course it was the charge of the "light brigade" – center Ken Dodson, guards Scott Sacchieri and Joseph Villanueva, tackles Andy Davis and Trace Brown, and tight ends Matt Hunter and Chris Boren. This offensive line, averaging almost 200 pounds dripping wet with pads, and all coming back next year (as is injured captain Craig Strube), cleared the way for Oak running backs to have their second consecutive week of 8+ yards per carry.

QB David Porter was the leading rusher with 132 yards on 13 carries. Bryce Hudman, coming off a 100-yard performance last week, had 12 carries for 90 yards and a touchdown. Dustin Conant picked up 43 yards on six rushes. Torey Hall carried once for 7 yards, but it was erased on a holding penalty. QB Alex Pounds was effective and efficient going 6-for-8 for 45 yards and two

touchdowns.

Oak's leading receiver, Chris Powell, pulled in 3 passes for 20 yards and scored Oak's first TD less than three minutes into the game. The "A-Train", Avery Johnson, had two receptions for 12 yards including a diving TD catch. Matt Hunter made a great diving catch as well for 13 yards to set up an early score.

Oak had 3 defenders with 15 tackles each – DB Bryce Hudman with 11 unassisted, LB Matt Nolan with 9 unassisted and DB Tremayne Dortch with 8 solos. LB's Matt Sweisthal and Chris Holt came through with big stops to halt 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter drives deep in Oak territory. Beau Harris, Chris Boren, Theron Matthews and James Ponshock all played well in the box to keep the Bearkat running game in check. Casey Wright charged around the end to block Klein's first extra point attempt to keep the momentum in Oak's favor. Bryce also had a touchdown reception from Pounds, Trevor that is, as he picked off an errant pass and ran it back 40-yards for a touchdown to "seal the deal".

Kevin Cravey had an exciting kick-off return racing right up the middle from his own 5-yard line before being tackled by the kicker near midfield to prevent the TD. Kevin Beymann kicked a pair of extra points and Kelly Nix did a great job on his 5 kickoffs.

Good luck Panthers this week in the season finale. *A victory over Collins will secure a 5<sup>th</sup> place district finish and end the season on a high note - a winning streak heading into next season as well.*

**GO OAK – WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!!!**

The Panthers finished the season with a disappointing 30-29 loss to Collins despite dominating the game for 48 minutes and leading 29-23 when time expired. Oak's celebration ended abruptly, when the officials put another second on the clock and gave the Tigers one more chance for the victory. This was an exciting game from start to finish, but like the Conroe game two weeks earlier, you're asking for trouble when you let a team hang around til the end of the game. And like the Conroe game, a last second score resulted in a heart-breaking loss for Oak.

The offensive line had yet another outstanding game leading Oak to its biggest output in terms of points and total offense (over 400 yards)! Hats off to Ken Dodson, Scott Sacchieri, Joseph Villanueva, Andy Davis, Trace Brown, Matt Hunter and Chris Boren. Bryce Hudman had a season high 153 yards on 16 carries with 1 TD. Bryce gained 343 yards (7.6 ypc) in his last three games despite playing both offense and defense. David Porter had another excellent game running the ball with 132 yards on 13 carries with TD runs of 22 and 2 yards.

Porter also had a great game throwing the ball as he completed 5 of 8 passes for 94 yards and a TD, with two dropped passes. Alex Pounds completed a 21-yard pass and a 2-point conversion before being sidelined with a shoulder injury. Chris Powell had 3 catches

for 50 yards plus a 2-point conversion. Avery Johnson had two receptions for 60 yards with a TD and a 2-point conversion, and Matt Hunter caught a 5-yard TD pass.

The defense had a season high 10 tackles for losses including a season high 5 QB sacks! Greg Carlson had a pair of sacks and a fumble recovery. Beau Harris had 2 tackles for loss, including one where he stripped and recovered the ball. Chris Holt had 2 tackles behind the line of scrimmage and Matt Sweisthal added another. Chris Powell, Matt Hunter and Matt Domzalski each collected sacks.

Casey Wright had a 68-yard kick-off return to set up an early Oak score. Chris Powell returned one for 29 yards and Kevin Cravey one for 21 yards. David Porter boomed a 56-yard punt and averaged over 40 yards on 3 attempts.

This was the last game for seniors *Alex Pounds, Tremayne Dortch, Beau Harris, Avery Johnson, Theron Matthews, Torey Hall, James Ponshock, Brett Harvey, Drew Johnson, Ruben Barrios and a sidelined Grant Campbell*. The fans and coaches would like to thank each of you for your hard work, leadership and the commitment you have made to help build the foundation of this football program. You will be greatly missed and best wishes in all your future endeavors.

#### Game Summary

Oak fumbled the opening kick-off out of bounds at the 5 for a temporary setback, but RB Bryce Hudman gave Oak a little breathing room when he picked up 40 yards on the first play from scrimmage. 2 minutes later the Panthers were up 8-0. Hudman had 77 yards on 7 carries and QB Alex Pounds hit WR Chris Powell for 21 yards on the drive, with Hudman carrying it over from 4 yards out. Pounds hit WR Avery Johnson for the 2-point conversion.

The Panthers went 31 yards in 5 plays on their next possession after a spectacular 69-yard kick-off return by Casey Wright. QB David Porter hit TE Matt Hunter for a 5-yard TD to cap off the drive, and Porter hit Powell for two points to give Oak a 16-6 lead after the first quarter. KO took a 16-9 lead into halftime.

Collins came out and struck for two quick scores to open the 3rd quarter and take a 23-16 lead, but Oak responded with their own TD on a 76-yard 10-play drive. Big plays on this drive included a 35-yard pass from Porter to Johnson and a 16-yard run by Hudman down to the 2, with Porter carrying it over from there. K Kevin Beymann came in for the successful extra point to tie the game.

Oak's final score was set up by the defense as DT Beau Harris hit the Collins runner in the backfield, stripped the ball and recovered it himself at the Tigers 22-yard line. It didn't take long from there as Porter raced up the middle for the score on the next play. The extra point attempt was slightly left of its mark as Oak took a 29-23 advantage.

The Tigers drove down to Oak's 20 facing 2nd and 3 before the Panther "D" took control. LB Chris Holt tackled the runner for a 3-yard loss before DB Chris Powell sacked the QB to make it 4th and

**8. Powell broke up the attempted pass at the 15-yard line to give the Panthers the ball back at their own 25 with just over 3 minutes remaining.**

**On the next play, Hudman ran through a hole over right tackle and was off to the races and found himself in the clear 50 yards downfield with only 1 man left to beat – the Back Judge! Wouldn't you know, the referee cut him off and Bryce stumbled trying to avoid the collision just 25 yards short of assured victory. On 3rd and inches from the 15 and 1:40 remaining, Oak had a delay of the game penalty, then a sack, and ended up punting it through the endzone.**

**Collins had 80 seconds to go 80 yards. The Tigers connected on 3 short out patterns to move the ball to the 43. DT Greg Carlson had a sack and then Holt dropped the running back for a big loss on a quick screen to almost bring up 3rd and 20. But a mysterious defensive holding call downfield on a receiver blocking for the screen stopped the clock and gave the Tigers the ball at midfield. Another tough play for Oak came on an option play where the QB made a forward lateral 7 yards downfield (not called) then a late hit out of bounds on the play gave the Tigers first and goal from the 9 with just a few seconds remaining.**

**On the next play, Holt tackled the receiver at the 2-yard line and Collins rushed to the line of scrimmage to get another play off. The offensive line was never set, the offensive tackle jumped offsides, the line judge threw his hanky, the ball was snapped with 1 second left and spiked to the ground after time expired, and Oak began their celebration. But after a conference, the hanky was picked up, the ball placed a foot from the goal line, and the Tigers were granted a do-over.**

**The team got to experience first-hand a little bit of what the US Olympics basketball team went through in '72. This game wasn't for national pride in an international venue, just for neighborhood bragging rights and a chance for the seniors to go out with a well-deserved victory, but Oak showed tremendous character even in defeat.**

**The last 3 games will carry tremendous momentum into next year's program. Oak will be returning 9 offensive starters and a very capable quarterback in Porter, as well as a healthy O-Line captain Craig Strube. With 8 defensive starters returning, the Panthers will definitely be a team to reckon with next season.**

***THANKS PANTHERS FOR AN EXCITING SEASON***

***WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU!!!***