atlanta, ga. – saturday’s backyard brawl, like every battle between the cau panthers (2-5, 3-5) and morehouse maroon tigers (6-2, 4-2), was intense. both teams went back and forth trading off fumbles, interceptions and touchdowns throughout the entire game. however, the maroon tigers made fewer mistakes with one less fumble than the panthers. in front of a packed stadium and thrilled crowd of auc students and morehouse college and spelman college alumni, the panthers fell short 20-24.

the panthers began the match-up on a pass interception by cau’s cameo davis resulting in a 17-yard rush by winston thompson with 14:05 to play in the first quarter. the panthers’ david grace scored the first points of the battle on a 28-yard rush to the end zone, putting them up 6-0 (joshua dubois missed pat).

cau’s next crucial play resulted in a turnover as thompson rushed, broke a few tackles and fumbled the ball. on the maroon tigers’ first possession after the turnover, they fumbled with 7:44 to play. the ball was recovered by the panthers’ william hollis.

with less than five minutes to play in the first quarter, quarterback mark wright threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to sanford henderson to put the panthers up 14-0.

in the second quarter, morehouse’s quarterback, william brack, was sacked by cau’s marcus winston to bring up the forth down with 12:08 to play. the panthers recovered the ball at the 27-yard line for their first down; however, the maroon tigers’ charlie wilson intercepted wright’s pass at the 33-yard line to gain position with 9:38 to play.

morehouse’s’ david carter entered the game mid-way in the second quarter to score morehouse’s first points of the game with a 2-yard touchdown run. the maroon tigers completed the kick to bring them within a 14-7 margin with 8:45 to go in the first half. the tigers kept their momentum as achille hendje scored on an 18-yard end zone pass from dajuan thigpen leaving the game tied 14-14 at the half.

the panthers began the third quarter with a fumble that was recovered by morehouse at the 34-yard line. after the fumble, the maroon tigers found their way to cau’s 9-yard line but were unable to find the end zone and settled for a 26-yard field goal, putting the tigers up 17-14 in the last minutes of the third.

after the tigers finished a 60-yard interception return to put them up 24-14, thompson answered the call with 7:15 to play in the fourth with a 20-yard touchdown run, leaving the panthers down 20-24. the panthers were unable to find their rhythm in the final minutes, dropping their fourth straight game.

thompson finished the game with 108 gained yards on 28 carries. thompson and grace each had one touchdown. the defense was led by william hollis with 10 tackles (6 solo), one forced fumble, one fumble recovery, one interception and one quarterback hurry.

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