American football

Contributing Writer: Sade Omogun, Sports Information Intern

Clark Atlanta Panthers Fall to North Greenville Crusaders

Atlanta, Ga. – In Saturday’s last home game of the season, the Panthers (2-6, 3-5 SIAC) played hard, but their offense couldn’t adjust down the stretch, losing their sixth straight game 16-6 to the North Greenville Crusaders (2-7).

The Crusaders scored the first points of the game on a field goal kick midway through the first quarter, giving them a 3-0 advantage. The Crusaders scored again on a 58-yard touchdown run by Aaron Seigler. The Crusaders kick was no good, putting the Panthers down 0-9 with 3:28 left in the first quarter.

The Panthers scored their first points of the game on a field goal kick to start the second quarter. With a 3-9 disadvantage with 12 minutes to play before the half, the CAU defense was unable to make a stop. In a play to give the Crusaders their last touchdown of the game, Isaiah Johnson broke the Panthers defense for a 52-yard run to the end zone on a punt return. The Crusaders PAT was good for a 16-3 lead with 9:41 to play in the second quarter.

Joshua Dubois’ 40 yard field goal kick gave the Panthers their sixth point of the game to trail by 10 with 9:29 to play in the third. Clark was held scoreless after their second field goal. This was the second game of the season that the Panthers went without a touchdown. The first was in their 0-33 loss to Miles College.

Quarterback Mark Wright connected a few times with wide receiver Moe Lightburn. With just over a minute left in the third quarter, Wright completed a 6-yard pass to Lightburn, as NGU’s defense closed in, Lightburn fumbled, turning the ball over to the Crusaders. The Crusaders gained a few yards, but the Panthers’ defense kept them away from the end zone. CAU’s field goal was the only points by either team in the third quarter.

In the final quarter, the Crusaders were stopped early on, and were forced to punt with 11:41 to play. The Crusaders’ 28 yard kick gave the Panthers possession, but CAU was unable to gain any momentum on offense.

With less than 5 minutes to play, Wright tried for a 32-yard pass to Lightburn, but the pass was incomplete and a holding penalty was called on the Panthers (13 holding penalties against CAU).

Wright finished the night with 14 completed passes for 167 yards. Thompson led the Panthers running game with 92 yards on 17 carries. The defense was lead by senior Zimier McCloud (four solo and six assisted tackles) and junior linebacker William Hollis (2 solo, 8 assisted tackles).

In their last game of the season, the Panthers travel to Augusta, Ga. to take on Benedict College in the 17th Central Savannah River Area Classic. Game time is 2:00 p.m. at Lucy Laney Stadium.

-CAU-