Atlanta, Ga. – Clark Atlanta (3-0, 3-0 SIAC) traveled to Alabama to take on the Golden Tigers of Tuskegee University (2-1, 2-1 SIAC). After a hard-fought four quarters, the Panthers saw their undefeated season end.

The Tigers came out quickly, scoring their first touchdown at the 13:59 mark of the first quarter on a 69 yard pass from Jeremy Williams to Antione Mitchell. CAU’s Jared Emerson fumbled the kickoff, giving the ball back to Tuskegee, and with 10:46 in the 1st quarter, the Tigers were in the CAU redzone again. A sack by Vauchard Goodridge forced the Tigers to punt. A punt by the Panthers, led to a Tigers drive down the field to end the first quarter with a 7-0 lead. The lead quickly jumped to 14-0 when Markus Douglas scored the Tigers’ second touchdown of the game six seconds into the second quarter on a 4 yard run.

After a CAU 3-and-out, the Tigers drive ended quickly as William Hollis intercepted the pass at the 14 yard. Mark Wright, who was rushed out of the pocket, threw to Sanford Henderson for the touchdown with 10:38 left in the half. The Panthers next score came with 5:26 left in the half on a pass from Mark Wright to Krishna Muhammad. With 1:01 to play in the second quarter, the Tigers went for it on 4th down but were met at the line by CAU’s defense, turning the ball over to end the half.

The third quarter started unfavorably for both teams as quarterbacks Jeremy Williams (TU) and Mark Wright (CAU) were injured; neither returned to the game. Freshman T.J. Smith came in with 7:16 in the 3rd and was intercepted at the TU 3 yard line. TU followed the interception with a fumble, and CAU capitalized on the turnover, scoring their third touchdown of the game on a pass from backup quarterback, Smith, to wideout Krishna Muhammad. The quarter ended with another fumble recovery by Clark.

With just 1:05 elapsed in the 4th quarter, the game was delayed due to lightning, and when play resumed the Panthers’ drive was stifled without a first down. The Tigers’ opening drive ended with a missed 32-yard field goal. CAU was forced to punt again and Tuskegee, with 4:07 left in the game, went ahead 31-21 after a 65-yard rush by Tony Forney.

Dr. Tamica Jones, Interim Director of Athletics, said “It was a good effort, but it seems the team with the big plays won. The Panthers didn’t make key stops when the game was on the line, but we will learn from this for next week.”

Winston Thompson had 28 carries for 116 yards, while Krishna Muhammad caught 5 passes for 71 yards. Mark Wright, last week’s SIAC Player of the Week and HSRN National Player of the Week, completed 5 passes on 14 attempts for 73 yards. Wright left the game in the third quarter with an injury, and freshman T.J. Smith came into the game with 7:16 left in the third. Smith completed 6 of 13 passes for 61 yards. Leading the Panther defense were Zimier Cloud with 12 tackles and William Hollis with 11 tackles. The team ended the game with 67 tackles (5 tackles for loss) and 2 sacks.

The Panthers take on Miles College on September 26, 2009 at Panther Stadium at 2 p.m.