FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Panthers Fall To Savannah State, 17-14

October 4, 2008
Atlanta, Ga. – Savannah State spoiled Clark Atlanta’s 2008 homecoming with a 17-14 win in front of 17,893 fans on Saturday afternoon at Panther Stadium in Atlanta, Ga. The loss snapped the Panthers’ four-game winning streak.

Clark Atlanta falls to 4-2 (3-1 SIAC) on the season while Savannah State improves to 3-3.

The Panthers had a chance to tie the game and send it to overtime, as senior quarterback Cedric Johnson drove CAU all the way to the SSU 17-yard line, but a 35-yard field-goal attempt by CAU kicker Henry Boynton was wide-left as time expired.

Cedric Johnson once again had a solid performance and led the CAU offense to 448 yards on 66 plays. Johnson threw for 175 yards and rushed for 99 yards and a touchdown on only nine carries. The SIAC’s leading rusher, Winston Thompson collected his fifth consecutive 100-yard game, rushing for 145 yards on 24 carries. Clark Atlanta outgained SSU 273 to 154 on the ground, while controlling the clock 33:14 to the Tigers 26:46.

The CAU defense was outstanding all day and was paced by seniors Norris Milton, Reggie Thomas and Zimier McCloud who all finished with a game-high nine tackles apiece.

Clark Atlanta took the opening kickoff 55-yards on six plays capped off by a 26-yard field goal by Boynton, giving the Panthers an early 3-0 lead.

In the second quarter CAU would add to the lead as Johnson orchestrated a 13-play, 95-yard drive that spanned 8:51, capped by his one-yard quarterback sneak. Johnson would find senior tight end Dashaun Johnson in the back of the end zone converting the two-point attempt, giving the Panthers an 11-0 lead with 4:29 remaining in the half.
Savannah State would respond on an amazing one-handed touchdown catch by Deron Talley from SSU quarterback Kurvin Curry. Curry would find Chris Bush for the two-point conversion, cutting CAU’s lead to 11-8 with 1:04 remaining in the first half.

The Tigers took the second-half kickoff 56-yards on 13 plays, and kicker Derek Williams connected on a 32-yard field goal tying the game at 11-11. Clark Atlanta would regain the lead 4:56 later as Boynton nailed a 37-yard field goal giving the Panthers a 14-11 lead going into the final stanza.

Savannah State would not go away and tied the game at 14-14 when Williams nailed a 27-yard field goal with 14:55 left in the game.

After a costly fumble by CAU running back Arthur Stokes, SSU drove 51-yards and Williams connected on his third field goal, and eventual game-winner--a 37-yarder with 1:09 remaining in the game.

The CAU Panthers return to SIAC action as they take on the Rams of Albany State on Saturday, Oct. 11, in Albany, Ga. Kickoff is set for 3 p.m. Both teams enter this crucial contest with identical 3-1 conference records.