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SPORTS

Panther intra-squad work out kinks at BHS

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BULLARD – Those in attendance this past Saturday morning at the Bullard intra-squad game may have thought they were at a track meet after two plays.

Daniel Howard and Marquez Franklin did not take long in converting one play each in to 70-yard runs for scores and a needed shot-in-the-arm of the Panthers offense as they shined early on.

"It's an intra-squad game so it was really a high intensity practice," said Bullard third-year head coach, Jim Taylor. "But what we were hoping for was that our kid's performed and knew what they were doing, executing well, and for the most part we feel good about where we are at right now."

Two more touchdowns came from

Sydney Lawson as the senior scooted 60-yards for both of his tallies.

As far as the offense, Taylor feels his group has put in the work.

"At this time, they are all coming to work with the idea of improving and getting better at the position and that is all we can ask of these kid's is to work as hard as they can, and try to get better every day.

"So far each kid in their role has come out to improve not just for the team, but to make their contribution to being a successful unit," Taylor added.

The Panthers brought in some new faces to the coaching staff that is also making an impact on the team overall.

"We have some young coaches that are very excited and defensively we need that," Taylor continued. "We want our defensive unit to be excited, and to play with an atti-

tude, and when those things take place, you know you have a chance to compete.

"Defense is all about running to the ball, and getting to the football and making plays happen and a lot of times offense a lot more about execution and being precise with what you do," Taylor continued.

When asked for one focal point the Panthers are stressing, Taylor did not have to think long about an answer.

We are certainly looking for our defense to be better than it was last year," Taylor added, "and we can't afford to give up the amount of points and yards as we did last year either, and be successful."

The scrimmage started out with the ninth-grade team playing at 8 a.m., followed by the junior varsity and then the varsity finished off the morning of intra-squad battles.

"I was really pleased with what I saw from the freshman and junior varsity teams too," Taylor added. "The freshmen are still getting acclimated to the faster level of play, and also trying to take a lot of new stuff, but their effort has been outstanding and they are proving to be a great group of workers that push each other to be the best they can be."

The Panthers are looking to improve on a 3-7, and 1-4 in district. The Panthers travel to Troup for a scrimmage on Thursday before opening the regular season with Palestine-Westwood on the road, Friday, Sept. 4. The Panthers will have six home games against Troup (Sept. 18), Rusk (homecoming, Sept. 25, and district encounters with Gilmer (Oct. 9), Gladewater (Oct. 23), and Senior Night against Chapel Hill on Oct. 30.



Top left, the Panthers first team defense makes a big hit on the running back after nice blocking up front for Bullard. Middle, head coach Jim Taylor observes as Will Coleman and Sydney Lawson swarm to the ball as the quarterback hurries to get rid of the ball. Top right, BHS line coach, Heath Fults talks with his trenchmen after the Saturday intra-squad game at Panther Stadium. The Panthers will play White Oak in a scrimmage on Thursday in White Oak, before opening the regular season on the road, playing Palestine-Westwood, Sept. 4.

Brook Hill offense explodes in Overton pigskin scrimmage

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BULLARD - The Brook Hill Guard appears to be ready to make it four district titles in as many years after thrashing Overton in a scrimmage this past Saturday morning.

Defensively, The Guard gave in to a total 60 yards, and four first downs.

Making a big change in position, and more of a difference on the field was the play of Matt Ruark.

A linebacker last season, Ruark made the switch to nose guard for the sake of his team, and Ruark proved to be a force for the Mustangs to stop in the scrimmage.

Once The Guard got their hands on the ball offensively, Tyler Baker and crew picked up right where they left off last year with big numbers, and long scoring plays.

Baker threw for 136 yards and two touchdowns, going 10-of-11 for the scrimmage.

Both touchdown tosses went to Jeremey Chappelle who finished the day with six catches for 93 yards.

Eight different receivers were used by Baker, and back-ups, J.B.

Moss, and Travis Pirtle.

The three signal callers combined for 15-of-19 in completions and racked up 197 yards in the air.

The running attack was well dispersed also, running up 222 yards on the ground for a 419-60 advantage in total yards for the scrimmage.

"I was excited about our play on both sides of the ball," said Brook Hill first-year coach, Terry Pirtle said. "We did not make many mental mistakes and the offense looked pretty crisp.

"I'd have to say that the coaches and I are happy with where we are early on, and we seem to be progressing nicely and on pace," Pirtle added. "Sometimes I have to gear myself down and get back to the fundamentals of the game, but our offense is further along than at this point than last year, and the defense has really been getting to the ball and playing with a lot of intensity."

The Guard will play host to Cayuga on Thursday night in their final scrimmage of the season before the regular season opens up against Hawkins in the Tyler Classic at All Saints Field, Aug. 28 with a 7:30 p.m. kickoff slated.

Thirty-nine players are on the varsity with plenty of all-district and all-state nominees back for another year.

Baker was the district MVP last season, making all-district at quarterback and safety. Baker was also all-state both ways for the Guard.

Jeremey Chappelle was a ditto with the two-way honors and all-state kudos at wide receiver and linebacker.

A formidable line of returnees are also back with two-way star, Talen Harris, highly recruited, Heath Dickey, and Justin Northcutt all return with honors under their belts.

A plethora of running back combos can be mixed in with running backs, Jamel Bell, Zachary Cool, A.J. Minter, Cory Scheel, Ross Lee and other underclassmen.

"This next week we will get a little bit better of an idea of where we are at right now when we line up with Cayuga on Thursday," Pirtle said. "They have one of the best running backs in the state, and a returning state runner-up team with a lot to prove, and they will be coming after us," Pirtle added. "Just as long as we improve, and get better."



(Banner Staff photos by Paul Dickey)
At top, sophomore Slaton Hierrholzer looks for some yardage in the Brook Hill scrimmage this past Saturday. Above, senior, running back Zachary Cool breaks loose for some big yardage against the Mustangs of Overton in the Brook Hill football scrimmage.



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