

# Cypress Creek edges Klein Oak 21-17 in a wild one

By JASON MCDANIEL, FOR THE CHRONICLE

Updated 11:01 p.m., Saturday, September 3, 2011

Cypress Creek suffered just about every misfortune possible in its season opener against Klein Oak on Saturday, from interceptions and fumbles lost to a blocked field goal try and a blocked punt.

But none of those setbacks compared to the Panthers losing standout quarterback [Nicky Baratti](#) in the first half. The Notre Dame commit took a blow to the helmet and didn't return to the [Berry Center](#) turf.

In the end, the Cougars pulled out a wild 21-17 victory, coming back to score in the final seconds after the Panthers' improbable 51-yard field goal gave them their first lead with 2:20 left in the game.

"The game boiled down to, ultimately, who could absorb the most blows and yet keep on persevering in what they do," Cy Creek coach [Greg McCaig](#) said.

"I mean, golly, they lost a Division I quarterback in the (second quarter). Don't think that's not a big deal.

"That hurt them a lot."

Klein Oak coach David Smith said it didn't hurt much, because backup [Connor McQueen](#) did such a good job in relief. His first pass went for a touchdown and Klein Oak's first score.

Smith said he held Baratti out for precautionary reasons, adding he wouldn't call the injury a concussion, and his status for next week will be determined later.

Baratti was just 3-of-13 passing for 17 yards, with 21 yards on six rushes, when he left.

"We've just got to do what we've got to do," Smith said. "We're football coaches and football players. The next guy steps up. Connor McQueen came in and showed great courage, and led the team to the lead. Yeah, we missed Nicky, you betcha, but Connor did a great job."

Down 14-7 in the fourth quarter, the Panthers tied the score after defensive lineman [Jay Andrews](#), who also had a fumble recovery, intercepted [Brandon Pryor](#) and took it 46 yards to the end zone.

After a pick at the goal line by [Dashone Smith](#), who also blocked a field goal attempt, McQueen drove the Panthers to the Cy Creek 34, where kicker [Kwame Kuffour](#) set up for a 51-yard try.

With the wind at his back, the ball bounced off the crossbar and through the uprights, giving Klein Oak a 17-14 lead with 2:20 left in the game.

The Cougars went with a wide receiver pass from [Kyle Huff](#) to [Sam Adams](#), who hauled in a 39-yard completion with the tips of his fingers while falling down at the [Klein Oak 15](#).

Two plays later, [Devan Demas](#) ran up the middle for the 10-yard, game-winning score with 28 seconds remaining. Demas had 25 carries for 124 yards and two TDs - the other a 50-yarder in the third.

"That last drive, that's a quarterback's dream right there, and we just put it together and we scored," said Pryor, who completed 12 of 27 passes for 100 yards, with a 53-yard scoring pass in the first quarter.

Austin Andrej had a blocked punt and a fumble recovery for Klein Oak, which wasn't able to take advantage of all the opportunities that came its way, including four turnovers by Cypress Creek.

The Cougars (1-0) finished with 283 total yards and 12 first downs to 271 and 13 by the Panthers (1-1).

"We had some uphill battles to climb and the kids did a fantastic job," McCaig said. "I'm really proud of the way they responded. We could have folded our tent. I mean, a 51-yard field goal? And it hits the crossbar?"

(<http://www.chron.com/sports/highschool/article/Cypress-Creek-edges-Klein-Oak-21-17-in-a-wild-one-2154853.php>)