



## Trojans fight through adversity; move to top of district

by Sam Wolf

Coming into the 2009-2010 season, Parkland Football was looking to recover after posting a less than stellar record last season after being ranked in the top ten in the state. With a group of experienced seniors and several spry juniors and sophomores the Trojans have a chance to be a dominant contender in the conference.

To kick off the season, the Trojans travelled down the Pennsylvania Turnpike to take on their out of conference opponents, George Washington High School. They posed a big thundering defense, but it was not enough to contain Andre Williams and the Parkland scrappy offense, but it was Parkland's defense that truly stepped up by posting a shut out.

The next week, the Trojans began conference play by travelling the Bethlehem to take on the Liberty Hurricanes, the team that dominated Parkland the previous season. Liberty drew first blood by scoring on a four yard pass to Jarrod West, but Parkland fired back by scoring twice in the final two minutes of the first half, which was capped off by Dom Posocco's touchdown run as time expired, giving them a 14-7 lead at half. The Trojans then stood strong in the second half by only giving up one touchdown and scoring one themselves with a final score of 21-14. It was an accomplishing victory considering they

were not able to overcome the Hurricanes last season during the regular season or the postseason.

The Bulldogs of Easton brought on a completely different playing style compared to their previous two games. Parkland hit the scoreboard first with a 22-yard field goal by Mike Lawler, but took on a shut on from Easton for the next three quarters. The Trojan defense was not able to withstand the Bulldogs as well by giving up nearly 200 yards on the ground. Easton trampled Parkland with a final score of 14-3.

The following week, the Trojans were looking to recover by picking up a win over an agile and mobile Nazareth. Parkland owned the first half, outscoring their opponents, 14-7. The second half made things interesting as Nazareth scored twice and Parkland scored only once. In the final minutes, as Nazareth was driving down the field, Jon Brannon intercepted a pass and ran it back deep into Nazareth territory to bring the momentum and the ball back to Parkland. Andre Williams, who had a field day on the Blue Eagles, scored his fourth touchdown of the night with less than a minute remaining in the game to the lead his team to victory, 27-20.

Next up for Parkland was Freedom, led by their, first rank runningback, Darius Webb. Webb tested the Trojan Defense, but the red and grey were not able to pass. Not only did Webb have a field

day, but he put the exclamation on the game by breaking the Freedom High School rushing record by running for 369 yards. He also had an astonishing five touchdowns on the night, giving Freedom a 34-14 victory.

The following game was referred to as a "trap game" for Parkland by playing William

Allen, who have been running a sub-par campaign this season. Parkland dominated the entire game. A sign of victory came when the Trojan defense recovered a fumble on Allen's first play from scrimmage. Parkland went on to win 63-0. The Trojan Pak's chant at the end of the game was "We want Central".

October 16th, brought along the homecoming game against undefeated, Allentown Central Catholic. Andre Williams ran all over the Viking defense by scoring five touchdowns and racking up 384 yards on the ground. It most certainly was a happy homecoming for



Photo by Don Herb

Andre Williams runs through the Blue Eagle defense for a big gain.

Parkland high school by overcoming the undefeated Vikings, 42-21. "It felt good to know that we were the only team to beath them," said Junior Devon Jepson.

The week posed another "trap game" for Jim Morgans's players by playing the Dieruff Huskies on the road. However, they were able to coast by and take an easy victory, 43-6.

The Trojans will create a new chapter to their rivalry with Emmaus this Friday for Senior night. The Hornet defense should be a challenge for Parkland's "run it down their throat offense". Come out to the stadium this friday and be sure to wear a costum for Halloween.

## Jaleel Clark finds success outside of Parkland High School

by Ashley Youwakim

Believe it or not, Jaleel Clark did grace the hallways of Parkland High School just one year ago. He left the high school with a legacy only paralleled with that of Austin Scott in 2003. Ranked number 16 in Pennsylvania's best high school football players by Rivals.com, Clark continues to dominate the football field. With a new surrounding described by Clark as "insane," this wide receiver will surely make as great an impact on University of Missouri or Mizzou as he did on Parkland.

Since leaving the high school, Clark has had little down time from football. With Mizzou summer practices beginning the day after his high school graduation date, Clark has been eating, sleeping and breathing football since early June.

Clark trains in the gym as well as on the field. "I train a ton, two times a week. I wake up at 5:20 and workout, then go to class, then practice after that. We really don't get days off. We even come in on Sundays after we win and get ready for our next game."

One can assume high school football to be a completely different ballgame than college football. Clark reveals, "College football isn't that much different. I mean, it's a lot faster and everybody is just so much bigger, but besides that, football is

football."

Playing for a division one football team who is also in the Big Twelve would naturally bring hopes of playing football professionally. When asked if he would like to go professional after college, Clark said, "Hopefully I will go pro. I mean that has always been my dream so that's the first thing I want do after I get my degree of course."

However, Clark does have another dream he would like to pursue if he does not end up playing professional football. "If I don't go pro, I would love to open and run my own restaurant. My mother always wanted to so I would let her do all the cooking, and I'd just make the money." Majoring in business, Clark could easily become a successful entrepreneur.

For his first football season at Mizzou, Clark has been red shirted by his coaches. Clark said, "Red shirted means that the coaches think you are not ready for the next level yet or there are just so many other players at that position that they want to save you. So, instead of playing, you sit out a year and get yourself ready and prepared. In my case, I will still have four more years to play football."

Returning to the possibility of Clark's professional career in football, when asked which team he would like to play for most, he said, "I would love to play for any team back in Pennsylvania. I

would love to play in front of everybody I know once again." Clark went on to say moving back to Pennsylvania after college could be a definite possibility. He misses his home and his friends, but most of all, his family.

"I miss my brother a lot. It's weird not having him home anymore, but we talk on the phone, so it's all good," said senior Okala Stimpfl, Clark's sister.

When asked what he misses about the high school Clark responds with one word, "Everything."

All around, Clark is supported by his friends and family who would love to see him reach his goals. Clark's dream is alive and well. PHS students and their families alike should not be surprised to see Clark's name appear on the roster of a professional team someday.



Photo courtesy of Irene Rojas

Jaleel Clark tucks in a pass during football practice at the University of Missouri.