

Panthers bye week hope fades on heels of missed opportunity versus Seahawks

Written by Levi Johnson, Sports Editor
Thursday, 11 October 2012 12:03 -



CHARLOTTE - Heading into a bye week, the Carolina Panthers had hope to enter it with momentum for the rest of the season.

However, someone forgot to tell the Seattle Seahawks that their cross country trip would result in a setback.

Consequently, boosted by a strong defensive effort and leverage offensive play, the Seahawks were able to best the host Panthers 16-12 Sunday (Oct. 7), at Bank of America Stadium.

It was a game wherein the Carolina offense couldn't find any consistent rhythm. However, right down to the end, the home players had a chance to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat; but couldn't.

The reality of a come back victory faded when quarterback Cam Newton's attempted pass in the endzone hit the ground with less than a minute remaining in regulation action.

Newton, who was 12-29-0 in the passing game, for 141 yards, in the end took the loss as yet another missed opportunity.

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"I've just got to play better," said the Carolina No. 1 field general. "We had a chance to pull this one out but just didn't get it done."

Wide receiver Brandon LaFell echoed the sentiments of Newton, adding that it doesn't make sense to dwell on what has already happened.

"We just need to go back to work and do all we can to improve our (individual) play; and thus improve as a team," said the Panthers wide receiver, who had three catches for 44 yards. "We are definitely better than we showed today and we have a chance in our next game to go out and prove it."

Refusing to offer excuses for a downward slide that is currently three games old, Greg Olsen talked about not losing focus in the wake of the skid.

"What we have to do now is stay focused," said the Carolina tightend. "There is still a lot of football left to be played; and we have a chance to turn things around."

Saying his players simply failed to get it done, when the game was on the line, Ron Rivera cited their failure to close it out with a win.

"We simply didn't get it done there at the end," the Carolina coach said. "But we still have talented players here and I'm confident that we still can be a playoffs team."