

Unsteady Panthers still unable to steer “ship” on right course versus Chiefs

Written by Levi Johnson, Sports Editor
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While trying to right a "ship" that continually strays off course, Carolina, in its recent trip to the Plains of the United States, returned home with similar problems.

Facing a Kansas City team that was recently rocked by a murder-suicide by one of its players, Ron Rivera's Panthers were obviously the more unsteady competitors while losing to the homestanding Chiefs 27-21 Sunday (Dec. 2), at Arrowhead Stadium. Last Saturday (12/1) K.C. linebacker Jovan Belcher shot and killed his 22-year old girlfriend Kasandra Perkins at a home they shared; then later took his own life at the Chief's practice facility. Belcher was 25.

In being outpointed by the grief-stricken but apparently still focused Chiefs, the Panthers lowly record dropped to 3-9, with four games remaining.

On the short end of a 17-14 count at the break, the Panthers allowed Romeo Crennel's Kansas City team to out score them 10-7 over the last 30 minutes of play, as the Chiefs won only their second game in 12 outings.

En route to losing another close game, the Panthers did improve their rushing game; gaining 165 yards, on 22 running plays.

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However, the Carolina defense was unable to shut down the Chiefs offensively, as the home participants netted 355 yards, with 158 coming via the overland route, on 43 carries.

In Carolina’s net of 385 yards, quarterback Cam Newton accounted for 232 of them, on a passing day that ended with numbers at 15-27-0. Newton also ran for 78 yards on 7 carries.

Trying to end the season on a better course, the Panthers return to action this Sunday (Dec. 9), when they play host to NFC South Division opponent Atlanta, at Bank of America Stadium. Kickoff time is set for 1:00 p.m.