

In yet another winnable game, Panthers fail to close the deal

Written by Levi Johnson, Sports Editor
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CHARLOTTE-In yet another game they didn't finish well in, the Carolina Panthers, again, ended up in the loser's column.

Bothered a lot by the same failure to close the deal action, during a 7-9 run in 2012, the Panthers came out of their 2013 season opener in a similar way versus Seattle after a five point loss(12-7)Sunday afternoon(Sept.8),at Bank of America Stadium.

Appearing to be driving in for the go ahead score, which was thought to be the deciding tally late in fourth quarter action, the Panthers by way of a fumble by running back DeAngelo Williams turned the ball over and the visiting Seahawks promptly ran out the clock over the final 5:25 minutes of the National Football Conference(NFC)showdown.

However, during remarks to media, on the heels of what he termed was a "tough" loss, Ron Rivera refused to solely blame DeAngelo Williams for the 0-1 start.

Instead the Carolina coach zeroed in on coaches and players equally

"There's enough blame to go around for all of us,"Rivera said. "To be frank about it, we just didn't take advantage of our opportunities(to win). We definitely had our chances."

Then turning his attention to what specifically worked against his team and in the Seahawks

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favor, the Carolina sideline leader talked about the ability of Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson to extend plays with his legs.

"That was huge(in the game),"deadpanned Rivera, of Wilson's scrambling tactics. "We knew he had that kind of ability and that kind of play certainly made a difference for them."

Kawann Short agreed with the thoughts of his coach, relating to Russell Wilson's impact on the game.

"He's that kind of player,"said the Panther's rookie defensive tackle, of Wilson, who was 33-25-0, with 1 touchdown toss. "A lot of times we had him cornered but he got away and got the pass off. That was big for them in the game."

Saying it's just a matter of them making the plays when needed, Josh Thomas refused to make any excuses for the loss.

"It definitely was a winnable game. We just didn't finish it,"said the Panthers standout cornerback, of the five-point setback.

"What we have to do now is get ready for our next game. We certainly can't can't afford to get too down on ourselves."

To Jordan Gross, it's just a matter of improving.

"It's that simple. We need to improve our play,"the Carolina offensive tackle said. "Today, we definitely had a chance to start this season off the right way but we just didn't get it done."