

## THE “FIRSTS” OF PANTHER FOOTBALL

- **The first practices** conducted by Coach Bill Chappell and Coach Earl Marshall during the 1953 – 54 school year
- **The first 27 players that participated in the first practices during 1953 – 54**  
\* These players were on the first team in 1954

C. J. Story	* G. H. Duckworth	Jack Riddle
Spiegel Pitzer	Gordon Conley	* Gene Ford
* Earl Lewis	* Kenson Vance	* Jim Malone
Clarence Flournoy	Mike Petrovich	Ted Duncan
Paul Morrow	Julian Kersey	Marcus Anderson
* James Lasseter	* Roy Henson (manager)	Wayne McCormick
* Fred Langston	* Raymond Howard	* Francis Arnold
* Ronnie Hall	* Jerre Hartley	Jimmy McCommon
Edward Peed	* Charles Davis	* Kay Murphy

- **First Head Coach** Herb St. John April 1, 1954
- **First Assistant Coach** Bill Chappell 1954 season
- **First Football Schedule** April 22, 1954

9-10 Hawkinsville	10-21 Fitzgerald JV
9-24 @ Jones Co.	10-29 @ Warner Robins
10-1 @ Dudley Hughes	11-4 Americus JV
10-8 Eastman	11-12 Cochran
10-14 @ Cordele JV	11-19 @ Mount Vernon

- **First Spring Roster** April 22, 1954 37 players  
\*These players were on the first team in 1954

Marcus Anderson	*Jerre Hartley	*Kay Murphy
*Francis Arnold	*Bobby Horton	*Virgil Peavy
Robert Chesney	*Raymond Howard	Spiegel Pitzer
Milton Culpepper	Julian Kersey	William Price
*Charles Davis	Hamp Kicklighter	Jack Riddle
Kemp Dorsett	*Fred Langston	James Stewart
Ralph Dorsett	*James Lasseter	Donald Simmons
*G. H. Duckworth	*Earl Lewis	C. J. Story
Ted Dungan	*Jim Malone	Ted Thames
Clarence Flournoy	Wayne McCormick	*Trent Turner
*Gene Ford	James Mealer	*Jimmy Wilson
*Ronnie Hall	Franklin Middlebrooks	
*William Harrison	*David Moulder	

- **First Spring Practice**    May 1954
- **First Summer Camp**    West Georgia (Warm Springs)    August 15, 1954
- **First Booster Club** was the Perry Touchdown Club    September 1954
- **First Officers of the Booster Club**    September 1954

Hugh Beatty – President  
 Cooper Etheridge – Vice President  
 Buck Tolleson – Secretary / Treasurer  
 Julian Cawthon – Membership Commissioner  
 Sgt. C. D. Leverette – Head of the motorcades

- **First Team Roster**    1954    27 players

Rudolph Adams	Danny Hughes
Francis Arnold	Fred Langston
Jimmy Beatty	James Lasseter
Ed Beckham	Earl Lewis
Charles Davis	Jim Malone
G. H. Duckworth	Johnny Mobley
Gene Ford	David Moulder
Joe Griffin	Kay Murphy
Ronnie Hall	Virgil Peavy
Percy Hardy	Robert Pitzer
William Harrison	Trent Turner
Jerre Hartley	Kenson Vance
Bobby Horton	Jimmy Wilson
Raymond Howard	

- **First Seniors to Play for Perry High**    1954

William Harrison  
 Jim Malone

- **First Juniors to Play for Perry High**    1954

Francis Arnold	Charles Davis
G. H. Duckworth	Ronnie Hall
Percy Hardy	Jerre Hartley
Raymond Howard	Danny Hughes
Fred Langston	Earl Lewis
Kay Murphy	Virgil Peavy
Kenson Vance	

- **First Sophomores to Play for Perry High** 1954
 

Jimmy Beatty	Ed Beckham
Gene Ford	Joe Griffin
Bobby Horton	James Lasseter
David Moulder	Trent Turner
  
- **First Freshmen to Play for Perry High** 1954
 

Rudolph Adams
Johnny Mobley
Robert Pitzer
Jimmy Wilson
  
- **First Starting Line-up** vs. Hawkinsville September 10, 1954
 

Ends – Ronnie Hall, Jerre Hartley
Tackles – Virgil Peavy, Earl Lewis
Guards – James Lasseter, Fred Langston
Center – Jim Malone
Quarterback – Jimmy Beatty
Halfbacks – William Harrison, Percy Hardy
Fullback – Raymond Howard
  
- **First Game, First Home Game, and First Loss** vs. Hawkinsville 6-32  
September 10, 1954
  
- **First Kickoff Return** Percy Hardy for 11 yards vs. Hawkinsville  
September 10, 1954
  
- **First Carry (Rush)** Percy Hardy for 23 yards vs. Hawkinsville  
September 10, 1954
  
- **First Punt** Jimmy Beatty vs. Hawkinsville September 10, 1954
  
- **First Pass** Jimmy Beatty vs. Hawkinsville September 10, 1954
  
- **First TD by Rushing** Jimmy Beatty vs. Hawkinsville  
September 10, 1954
  
- **First Bye Week** September 17, 1954
  
- **First Away Game** vs. Jones County in Gray September 24, 1954
  
- **First Loss by Shutout** vs. Jones County 0-13 September 24, 1954

- **First Win and First Shutout** vs. Dudley Hughes 14-0 October 1, 1954
- **First PAT by Run** Raymond Howard vs. Dudley Hughes October 1, 1954
- **First TD by Passing** Ronnie Hall from Jimmy Beatty vs. Dudley Hughes  
October 1, 1954
- **First Team to Score 40 or more points** 1954 vs. Fitzgerald JV 40-6  
October 21, 1954
- **First Running Back to Lead in Scoring** William Harrison 1954 31 points
- **First PAT by Passing** Ed Beckham from Percy Hardy vs. Hawkinsville  
September 9, 1955
- **First Punt Return for TD** Julian Kersey vs. Warner Robins  
September 16, 1955
- **First Safety by Individual Players** Virgil Peavy and James Lasseter  
vs. Dudley Hughes September 30, 1955
- **First Interception Returned for TD** Percy Hardy vs. Eastman  
October 7, 1955
- **First Team to Win 8 Games** 1955 Team
- **First Player to Receive a Scholarship** Virgil Peavy Spring 1956 Georgia
- **First Kickoff Return for TD** Jimmy Beatty vs. Manchester  
September 14, 1956
- **First Playoff Game** vs. Lyons November 30, 1956
- **First Players to Play Three (3) years in a Row** 1954 – 1956  
Jimmy Beatty, Ed Beckham,  
Gene Ford, David Moulder,  
Jimmy Wilson
- **First Team to Win Their First 3 games** 1957 Team
- **First Team to be Ranked During the Season** 1957 Team  
5th in Class B by Atlanta Journal  
9th in Class B by Atlanta Constitution

- **First Team to be Ranked in the Final Polls** 1957 Team  
9th in Class B by Atlanta Journal
- **First Player named Middle Georgia Player of the Year** 1957  
Stewart Bloodworth
- **First Team to be Ranked in Pre-Season** 1958 Team  
8th in Class B by Atlanta Constitution  
9th in Class B by Atlanta Journal
- **First Tie Game** Hawkinsville 14 – 14 September 5, 1958
- **First Team to give up 40 or more points** 1958 vs. Sandersville 47 points  
October 24, 1958
- **First Quarterback to Lead in Scoring** Boot Hunt 1958 100 points
- **First All State Player and First Back – 1st Team (AJC)** Boot Hunt 1958
- **First Team to Win Their First 5 games** 1959 Team
- **First Win After End of Regulation on Penetration (3 points)** vs. Vidalia 10-7  
(First downs, Total yards, Penetration inside opponent's 20 yard line)  
November 12, 1959
- **First Sub – Region Playoff Win** vs. Vidalia 10-7 November 12, 1959
- **First Region Playoff Win** Emmanuel County Institute 28-27  
November 20, 1959
- **First Team to Play in December** 1959 Team vs. Brooks County  
December 4, 1959
- **First Team to Play for the South Georgia Championship** 1959 Team  
vs. Brooks County 6-26 December 4, 1959
- **First Team to Win 9 Games** 1959 Team
- **First Player to Play 4 Years** Pierce Staples 1956 – 1959
- **First Player to Play in a College Game** Larry Giles Troy State 1961
- **First Team to Score 60 points or more** 1961 vs. Wilkinson County 67-0  
September 22, 1961

- **First Team to Play in August** 1962 Team August 31, 1962 vs. Hawkinsville
- **First Player to Start in a College Game** Larry Giles Troy State 1962
- **First Fumble Returned for TD** Harry Pritchett vs. Statesboro  
November 2, 1962
- **First PAT Try by Kick** Alton Ellis vs. Screven County October 4, 1963
- **First Field Goal Made by an Opponent** Screven County October 4, 1963
- **First Successful PAT by Kick** Alton Ellis vs. Manchester  
October 11, 1963
- **First All State Players – Honorable Mention** 1964  
Dick Gayle  
John McNeill  
Joe Norman
- **First Black Player to Play Against Perry** vs. Brooks County  
September 16, 1966
- **First Team to be Ranked 1st During the Season** 1967  
Atlanta Journal poll
- **First Player to be named First Team All State for 2 years (AJC)**  
Lee St. John 1966-67
- **First All Black Team to Play Against Perry** vs. Center – Waycross  
October 18, 1968
- **First Team to have at least 50 players** 1969 70 players
- **First PAT by Pass to Count 2 Points** Curtis Booney from Bert Richards  
vs. Fitzgerald November 7, 1969
- **First PAT by Run to Count 2 Points** Joel Ferguson vs. Wilkinson County  
September 4, 1970
- **First Team to Win Their First 6 games** 1970 Team
- **First Field Goal** Danny Hamsley vs. Dodge County November 13, 1970
- **First Soccer Style PAT Kick** J. B. Goheen vs. Wilkinson County  
September 3, 1971

- **First Team Safety** Peach County September 28, 1973
- **First Win by Forfeit** Central – Thomasville August 30, 1974
- **First Overtime Game** Dublin November 1, 1974
- **First Blocked Punt Returned for TD** Ronnie Clarington August 29, 1975  
vs. Central – Thomasville
- **First Team to be Ranked 1st in a Pre-Season Poll** 1978  
Atlanta Journal
- **First Blocked Punt Returned for a TD** Rodney Bridges September 25, 1981  
vs. Peach County
- **First Blocked Field Goal Returned for TD** Rodney Norwood  
vs. Crisp County October 2, 1981
- **First Team to be Ranked Tied for 1st During the Season** 1982  
Associated Press
- **First Senior Class (1982) to Make the Region Playoffs Two Years in a Row**  
(1981 – 1982)
- **First Soccer Style PAT Kick by an Exchange Student** Pen Hansen (Denmark)  
vs. Dublin November 11, 1983
- **First Senior Class (1983) to Make the Region Playoffs Three Years in a Row**  
(1981 – 1983)
- **First Loss by Forfeit** vs. Greenville August 30, 1985 0 – 10 record  
Had to forfeit all 6 games that were won
- **First Soccer Style Field Goal by an American Student** Shawn Thrift  
vs. Peach County September 1, 1989
- **First Soccer Style PAT Kick by an American Student** Shawn Thrift  
vs. Crisp County September 15, 1989
- **First Team to Win Their First 7 Games** 1989 Team
- **First Full-Time Kicker to Lead in Scoring** Jason Brett 1993 38 points
- **First Overtime Win (one point)** vs. Jackson October 1, 1999

