

#44

When Coach Jim Rattay arrived at EC in 1976, he had a talented roster of 44 Panthers. One of the Panthers was Bryan Thomas, a lightning-fast tailback that was destined for greatness. Coach Rattay handed Bryan the #44 jersey in a team meeting and explained that when #44 crosses the goal line, it is because the entire TEAM got him there. #44 crossed the goal line many times that year and many times since. This attitude of team unity propelled the Panthers to EC's first State Championship and started a tradition of star tailbacks and a team first characteristic that every EC football team strives for.

#44 Recipients

Bryan Thomas

Kevin Ziegman

Lester Rivera

Jeff Werner

John Mihalik

Chris Ambrosio

Al McKinney

Cory Hodge

Terrel Dixon

Joe Dempsey

Justin Rankin

Leighton Banjoff

Chris Jackson

Levi Ellis

The #44 jersey is semi-retired and may be worn only by a special player with unique skill, leadership, and a team first attitude.

