

The Woodlands doubles up Conroe



Posted: Saturday, September 29, 2012 By **Jim Mashek**

The Woodlands unleashed a quick-strike offense but had to go to its bullpen to knock off Conroe on Friday night. Blaine Gillespie, the Highlanders' senior quarterback, left the game with a head injury in the second quarter. But backup Jayme Taylor threw three touchdown passes as The Woodlands cruised to a 56-28 victory on Friday night at Buddy Moorhead Memorial Stadium.

Conroe quarterback Stedman Bell turned in a strong performance but the Tigers' defense was no match for Gillespie and the rest of the Highlanders. "We've got to find a way to get better on defense," Conroe coach Roger Holtkamp said. "These kids won't quit. We've got a lot of football ahead of us."

The Highlanders (3-2, 1-0 in District 14-5A) led by two touchdowns when Patrick Carr reeled off back-to-back runs of 18 and 13 yards just before halftime. Taylor then found Garrett Madore on a deep pass on the right sideline for 33 yards. Taylor then hit Bayley Novak in the end zone for a 12-yard touchdown pass with three seconds left in the half. Conroe (1-4, 0-1) gave up 601 yards total offense.

Gillespie was injured with about five minutes left in the first half. Gillespie scored the Highlanders' first two touchdowns on 1-yard runs. "Blaine took a knee to the facemask and his head hit the ground," The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "He'll have to be evaluated (by medical personnel). Jayme came in and did a nice job. His first couple passes were high, but he settled in and played well." Gillespie and Taylor teamed up for a 95-yard reception before the Highlanders' fourth TD, a 3-yard run by Chris Warren.

Devondric Smith's 2-yard touchdown run, and subsequent run for a 2-point conversion, pulled the Tigers to within 42-28 in the third quarter. But Taylor hit Sean McCanna on a third-and-6 play for a 43-yard touchdown pass, McCanna's second score of the night, to put the Highlanders comfortably ahead by three touchdowns. "A lot of guys stepped up tonight," Taylor said. "I was definitely concerned for Blaine, but I had to concentrate on what I had to do. The offensive line did a great job. I had all day to throw the ball."

Bell completed 13 of 23 passes for 206 yards and a first-quarter touchdown. He also rushed for 66 yards. Patrick Carr led The Woodlands with 160 yards on the ground. "Patrick did a good job of running the ball and helping us keep the clock moving," Schmid said.