

The Woodlands blows past Hightower



Saturday, September 8, 2012

By **Jim Mashek**

SHENANDOAH — The Woodlands used a splendid defensive performance and special-teams strikes to whip Fort Bend Hightower 29-7 on Friday night at Woodforest Bank Stadium.

“We just played assignment football,” said The Woodlands linebacker Mike Ciaramitaro, who forced the critical fumble that the Highlanders turned into a second-quarter touchdown.

Tyler Patrick scored from 4 yards out on the fumble return and The Woodlands bolted to a 16-7 lead.

“That play was a big turning point for us, on the ‘scoop and score,’” The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. “We got some big contributions from special teams, and our offense took advantage of the short field a couple times.

“We’ve got an opportunity to be a really good team, but it’s still a process.”

The Woodlands (1-1) recorded a safety less than three minutes into the game, when Hightower’s Brian Smith misjudged a pooch punt and the Highlanders’ Jayme Taylor made the tackle in the end zone.

Blaine Gillespie then hit Highlanders teammate Houston Brown for a 16-yard touchdown pass late in the first quarter, and The Woodlands grabbed a 9-0 lead.

The Hurricanes’ Delveince Chandler scored on a 1-yard quarterback sneak on the first play of the second quarter, but Hightower’s offense was held in check for the rest of the night.

“We did a good job of tackling (Chandler) in open space,” Ciaramitaro said. “We knew they were going to run right at us.”

Just before halftime, Patrick again burned the Hurricanes with a nifty 55-yard punt return, and Patrick Carr scored on a 9-yard run with 37 seconds left in the half.

Gillespie scored the Highlanders’ final touchdown on a 30-yard run in the fourth quarter.

Gillespie led the Highlanders with 78 yards rushing.

Woodlands' defense paves way to win over Hightower

Friday, September 7, 2012 | By Steven Thomson

SHENANDOAH - Defense did all the heavy lifting as The Woodlands defeated Hightower 29-7 Friday night at Woodforest Stadium.

Led by linebackers Mike Ciaramitaro and Tanner Birdsong, the Highlanders limited the Hurricanes to one scoring drive and 156 total yards.

Hightower quarterback Delveince Chandler endured a perilous night. Chandler was sacked three times and forced to scramble on 11 other occasions.

"We were taught this week in practice that, if we saw them breaking the pocket, we were to attack immediately," Ciaramitaro said. "We did a good job of that with Cole (Little), Tanner Birdsong and myself. I think we held them pretty good with not many rushing yards from the quarterback position."

Hightower helped out with several first half mistakes that left The Woodlands with a defensive score and two short yardage touchdowns on offense.

Hurricane miscues began early with a muffed punt in the end zone giving the Highlanders a safety with 9:20 left in the first quarter.

Hightower's defense went back on the field and stopped The Woodlands twice.

The Hurricane offense was unable to respond, going three-and-out on its first series and giving up an interception to Little on the second.

Little's pick put The Woodlands in business at the Hightower 18. It took just two plays for quarterback Blaine Gillespie to find Houston Brown with a 16-yard touchdown pass, giving the Highlanders a 9-0 lead with 2:34 left in the opening period.

With running back Jaquinn Henderson finding little room to run, Chandler had to scramble.

Henderson escaped for 31 yards and found Dominique Dickey with a 15-yard pass to help move Hightower to the Woodlands 1, where Henderson plunged over for the Hurricanes' only score on the opening play of the second quarter.

Highlander linebackers continued their domination on the next Hightower series.

After a punt backed up Hightower at its own 3, Henderson was smacked Ciaramitaro and lost the ball. Tyler Patrick picked up the loose pigskin and returned it for score with 9:22 remaining in the half.

"I was at safety that play and saw the gap open up," Ciaramitaro said. "I just did my job, filled the gap and we made the hit and we lucky enough to score the touchdown."

A 55-yard punt return by Tyler Patrick in the final minute of the first half led to 9-yard touchdown run by Patrick Carr, allowing the Highlanders to take a 23-7 lead into halftime.

Neither offense was productive in the second half. The Woodlands defense continued to dominate play and did not allow Hightower to get rolling.

"After last week's game against Skyline, we didn't really feel like we pressured their quarterback," Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "We spent a lot of time in practice working on pressuring the quarterback. The linebackers did a great job taking care of their offensive line and making their quarterback run."



Football: Highlanders dominate Hurricanes

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SHENANDOAH, Texas – The Woodlands High School football team was looking to make the 2012 season opener a distant memory - Mission accomplished. The Highlanders defense limited Hightower to just 103 yards rushing in a convincing 29-7 victory over the Hurricanes Friday night at Woodforest Bank Stadium.

The Highlanders (1-1) set the tone early, scoring first on a safety, before quarterback Blaine Gillespie fired a 16-yard touchdown pass to Houston Brown and The Woodlands led 9-0 at the quarter.

Gillespie threw for 89 yards (13-for-25) and rushed for another 104 yards, including a 30-yard touchdown dash midway through the fourth quarter to cap the scoring.

The Highlanders got a defensive score in the second quarter when Tyler Patrick returned a Hightower fumble five yards for a score. Patrick Carr added a 9-yard touchdown run just before halftime and the Highlanders led 23-7 at the break.

Carr finished with 52 yards rushing on 13 carries. Houston Brown led the Highlanders in receiving with 37 yards on five catches. Jayme Taylor added 19 yards on four pass receptions.

Hightower (1-1) controlled the football for most of the third quarter but couldn't put any points on the board against a Highlanders defense that refused to allow anything more than a second-quarter touchdown run.