



Highlanders edge Tigers in shootout

By Jason McDaniel | November 16, 2012

The Woodlands' Mark Schmid knows what he's thankful for this holiday season. The veteran coach has stayed in the hospital three times in the last month while dealing with health scares, but in his first game on the sideline since Oct. 4 he was reminded why he keeps coming back.

The Highlanders notched touchdowns on eight of their first nine drives en route to a 66-42 shootout win over Klein Collins in the Region II-5A Division I playoffs Friday at Klein Memorial Stadium.

"You come out here and you realize this is where you want to be, being around the kids and seeing them perform and just the whole atmosphere," Schmid said. "I told the kids, 'I've been in and out of the hospital, and I haven't been here every day, but I get to spend Thanksgiving with you guys, and that's the only place I want to be.'"

Next week, the Highlanders (8-3) will be at Floyd Casey Stadium in Waco to take on Round Rock Westwood in the area playoffs for the second straight year. They meet at 1 p.m. Saturday. Collins finishes its season 8-3.

The Highlanders looked like an inspired group on offense with their coach back on the sideline. They churned out 615 yards and 25 first downs, scoring on 10 of their first 11 possessions.

Schmid first checked into the hospital with lacerated intestines, then he returned twice with complications, forcing him to miss three of the last four games. He watched College Park from the press box.

"With coach Schmid being sick, it drove us through the past five weeks because we were playing for him and playing for each other," said Gillespie, who rushed for 158 yards and two touchdowns.

Collins punted on its first two possessions, allowing The Woodlands to build a quick 14-0 advantage. But it roared back, tying it at 21 on quarterback Blake Jackson's 3-yard TD run mid-second quarter. The Woodlands led 35-28 at halftime, but Collins opened the third quarter by recovering an onside kick, then scoring to tie it again.

Garrett Harvey scored on a 9-yard run to put The Woodlands back ahead, 42-35, then after a turnover on downs, it pushed the lead to 49-35 on Jayme Taylor's third rushing touchdown on direct snaps. When Sean McCanna scored his second TD early in the fourth, the rout was on.

"They're huge up front – it's one of the biggest high school offensive lines that we've ever played – and their running back is good ... (but) the biggest thing is they do a good job on offense and their whole goal is to keep you off-balance," Klein Collins coach Drew Svoboda said.

It was the second straight first-round loss to The Woodlands for the Tigers. "It's tough," Svoboda said. "You draw who you draw, and I guess the way to fix having to play them every year is being a district champion."

Collins finished with 460 yards. Jackson threw for 218 yards and two TDs and rushed for two scores. Patrick Carr led the Highlanders between the 20s, with 30 carries for 207 yards.

yourconroenews.com
powered by The Courier of Montgomery County



Rout 66: Highlanders light up Klein Collins

By **Matt Stephens** Posted: Saturday, November 17, 2012 1:15 am

SPRING — The Woodlands defeated Klein Collins in a shootout in the first round of the playoffs a year ago. The results were much the same Friday night at Klein Memorial Stadium.

The Highlanders erupted for 666 yards of offense and 66 points and got stops when they needed to in the second half to get past Klein Collins 66-42 in the Class 5A Division I bi-district playoffs.

They advance to the area round to face Round Rock Westwood at 1 p.m. next Saturday at Baylor University's Floyd Casey Stadium in Waco.

"I don't think we've ever (scored 66 points) in a playoff game, which was huge," The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "When I looked up at the scoreboard before the third quarter was over and I saw we had 31 first downs, I was amazed."

After a monstrous offensive output in the first half in which the two teams combined for more than 670 yards, the Highlanders led 35-28 and were set to receive the ball to start the third quarter.

But the Tigers (8-3) used an onside kick to swing momentum in their favor. A 48-yard direct snap and run by Jordan Thomas set up Thomas' 5-yard scoring run three plays later to tie it at 35.

The Woodlands (8-3) then turned to star sophomore Patrick Carr, who carried the offense on the next two possessions with eight rushes for 78 yards as the Highlanders pulled away to a 49-35 lead.

The Woodlands defense pitched in by forcing a turnover on downs while backed up deep in its own territory.

The defense got another key stop on third down and long on the following possession, which forced Klein Collins to punt. “(Getting those stops) was huge because the more separation you get, the more wind that gets taken out of their sails,” Schmid said. “Defensively, we did a great job in the second half.”

Then the Highlanders put their foot on the gas, running 10 straight plays for 82 yards and eating up nearly four minutes of clock to take a 56-35 lead.

Quarterback Blaine Gillespie was the star of the first half with 114 yards on 11 carries, and he completed 7 of 10 passes for 182 yards to go with three total touchdowns. It was Carr who took over in the second half with 148 yards on 17 carries.

“Blaine did a great job of making plays and protecting the football,” Schmid said. “Outside of the interception in the first half, he did a great job of managing the game and making plays with his legs. He was huge tonight.”

The Woodlands is now 8-0 all-time against Klein Collins.

The Highlanders had 268 of their 453 yards rushing in the second half while they attempted only three passes, and scored on every possession. They also never punted in the game.

“The offensive line has done a great job all year and they’ve really gotten better as the season has gone on,” Schmid said. “And tonight was a big night for them. The more they played, the more confidence they had.”



The Woodlands defeats Klein Collins

Published 11/16/2012 | By Glenn Sattell, Sports Editor

SPRING, Texas – The marching bands performed at halftime, on either side of that The Woodlands High School football team marched up and down the field with Klein Collins on Friday in a wild shoot-out at Klein Memorial Stadium.

The Highlanders scored early and often and in record-setting fashion took care of the hosting Tigers 66-42. The Woodlands rolled up 615 yards of offense, including 438 yards on the ground.

The Highlanders (8-3) advance to the area round of the playoffs where they face Round Rock Westwood at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24, at Baylor University.

The Woodlands head coach Mark Schmid, who was on the sidelines for the first time in several games because of health issues, said he couldn't recall The Woodlands ever scoring that many points in a game.

"Definitely never in a playoff game" Schmid said.

Highlanders' quarterback Blaine Gillespie threw for 222 yards (10-13-1) and a touchdown and also rushed for 158 yards and two touchdowns.

"I love my team," Gillespie tweeted after the game. "Let's keep this playoff run going."

"Let's roll," tweeted Jayme Taylor, who rushed for three touchdowns as well.

Klein Collins (8-3) had no answer, either, for sophomore running back Patrick Carr, who rushed for 207 yards on 30 carries.

Gillespie threw 43 yards to Sean McCanna for the first of nine Highlanders touchdowns. McCanna led all receivers with 87 yards on three pass receptions.

Blaine Gillespie ripped off a 36-yard touchdown run and the Highlanders jumped out to an early 14-0 lead.

But The Woodlands couldn't shake Klein Collins, at least not until midway through the third quarter when Garrett Harvey scored on a 9-yard touchdown run to spark a 21-0 run that broke a 35-35 tie.

Harvey put on the finishing touches with a 3-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter after Alex Garcia booted a 29-yard field.