

The Woodlands claims share of 14-5A title with win over College Park



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By **Jon Poorman**

SHENANDOAH — Despite a slow first quarter offensively and a 34-minute lightning delay halfway through the third quarter, No. 7 The Woodlands was able to fend off a desperate College Park team and clinch at least a share of the District 14-5A title on Friday night.

The Highlanders (7-2, 5-0) defeated the Cavaliers (4-5, 1-4) 31-10 at Woodforest Bank Stadium, officially eliminating College Park from playoff contention.

The Woodlands has now won six consecutive games. “This game, it’s a big rivalry game,” The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. “We’re so close together, everybody knows each other and we tried to prepare the kids all week for the emotion, to be able to ride the emotion, especially in the first quarter.

“(College Park) took the early lead, but hats off to our kids. They kept playing their game and really, really took over in the second half.”

The Highlanders were led by running back Patrick Carr, who carried 14 times for 187 yards and a pair of touchdowns (16 and 63 yards).

The Woodlands also got another impressive showing from its defense, which has held all of its district opponents to 14 points or less. The Highlanders limited College Park’s option running attack to only three yards per carry.

“The defense continues to play well,” Schmid said. “College Park did a great job on third down and longs tonight. That was a little bit frustrating for us, defensively. But the defense kept playing and kept them out of the end zone, and that was the key.”

Highlanders return man Jeremy Davis Harper made perhaps the biggest play of the game at the beginning of the third quarter. The senior wide receiver took the second-half kickoff back 91 yards for a touchdown, giving his team a two-score lead. The Woodlands only had a 14-7 advantage at halftime.

“That was huge,” Schmid said. “Jeremy came out, and he’s done it several times this year. He did it against Hightower, he did it against Lufkin and he did it again tonight coming out with a big, big kickoff return. That was a huge momentum-changer for us.”

Early on, College Park drew first blood as Jayden Holden hauled in a 15-yard TD pass from Colton Farmer in the front-left corner of the end zone, giving the Cavs a 7-0 lead.

The Woodlands was able to answer in the second quarter, however, when Carr found paydirt from 16 yards out to knot the game at 7. The score was set up by the Highlanders' defense, which forced College Park to punt from its own four-yard line. Chris Barnes' 26-yard boot gave The Woodlands the ball with a short field at the Cavs' 30.

The Highlanders took their first lead of the game later in the quarter when Chris Andritsos hit Tyler Patrick down the middle of the field for a 50-yard touchdown.

Davis Harper's return gave The Woodlands a 20-7 lead after a missed extra point. Chris Barnes kicked a 40-yard field goal for College Park late in the third quarter, but the Highlanders answered with a 37-yarder from Ryan Spaulding.

Carr capped the scoring at the beginning of the fourth with an explosive 63-yard run straight up the middle of the field.



Carr rushes Highlanders past Cavaliers

Highlanders clinch share of District Championship

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SHENANDOAH, Texas - Patrick Carr rushed for 187 yards and two touchdowns to lead The Woodlands Highlanders to a 31-10 win over the College Park Cavaliers Friday night at Woodforest Bank Stadium. The win clinches at least a share of the District 14-5A championship for the Highlanders.

"This game is a big rivalry game, we tried to prepare the kids all week for the emotion and to be able to ride the emotion, especially in the first quarter. Hats off to our kids, they kept playing their game and really took over in the second half," said Highlander Head Coach Mark Schmid.

[College Park \(4-5, 1-4\)](#) came out ready to play and the Cavaliers struck first when senior quarterback Colton Farmer connected with senior tight end Jayden Holden for a 15-yard touchdown on a third-and-14 play. College Park had a 7-0 lead at the end of the first quarter.

[The Woodlands \(7-2, 5-0\)](#) was efficient in the second quarter; they scored on back-to-back possessions in the second quarter, running only 20 total plays in the first half. The Highlanders took possession at the 10:12 mark of the second quarter and scored in 3 plays in one minute, capped off with a Carr 16-yard touchdown run up the middle. The Highlanders scored on their longest drive of night when they went 80 yards in six plays in 2:15 when Junior quarterback Chris Andritsos connected with senior wide receiver Bayley Novak on a 50-yard touchdown pass to give the Highlanders a 14-7 lead that they would take into halftime.

Any momentum that College Park had in the first half was quickly gone in the second half when senior Jeremy Davis Harper returned the second half kickoff 91 yards for a Highlander touchdown. The point after was no good and The Woodlands extended their lead to 20-7, 13 seconds into the third quarter.

"We had a chance to make some plays and have a couple more touchdowns before the first half was over, we didn't make those plays, and that was the difference in the game," said Cavalier Head Coach Richard Carson.

The game would then be delayed 34 minutes due to lightning in the area that was accompanied by a brief period of high winds and downpours.

The Cavaliers would not go away as senior defensive back Stephan Johnson intercepted a pass to give College Park the ball at their own 36-yard line with 5:36 left in the third quarter. The Cavalier offense would take advantage as they drove 41 yards in nine plays in 3:08 and junior Christopher Barnes kicked a 40-yard field goal to pull College Park within 20-10 at the 2:31 mark of the third quarter.

On the first play of the ensuing Highlander drive, Carr rushed 44 yards to the Cavalier 22-yard line. The drive would stall and senior Ryan Spaulding kicked a 37-yard field goal to give the Highlanders a 23-10 lead with a minute left in the third quarter.

Patrick Carr would cap off his night with an electrifying 63-yard touchdown run up the middle and Andritsos' two-point conversion gave The Woodlands a 31-10 lead with 11:31 left in the game. The Woodlands finished with 360 total yards on 46 plays to the Cavaliers 313 total yards on 66 plays.

The Cavaliers were eliminated from postseason play with the loss and will close out their season at Woodforest Bank Stadium on Saturday, November 9, against Bryan (2-7, 0-5) at 2:00 p.m.

The Highlanders have a chance at an outright district championship with a win over Oak Ridge (7-2, 3-2) on Friday, November 8, at 7:30 p.m. at Woodforest Bank Stadium.