



Andritsos sparks Highlanders road win



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COLLEGE STATION – Junior quarterback Chris Andritsos returned to the football field less than a month after having knee surgery to lead [The Woodlands High School football team](#) to a 24-7 victory, spoiling Homecoming for A&M Consolidated.

Andritsos came off the bench late in the second quarter, making his first appearance at quarterback since undergoing knee surgery in mid-September, and scored on a fourth-and-goal run from the 1-yard line to give the Highlanders a 10-7 lead at the break.

The Highlanders (4-2, 2-0) defense held a Tigers (3-2, 1-1) offense which had been averaging more than 40 points a game, to one score and just 23 yards rushing. They twice stopped the Tigers on fourth-down plays and Zach Coates recovered a first-half fumble while Jake Coll intercepted a fourth-quarter pass to help keep the Tigers in check.

Andritsos went eight yards on fourth-and-1 run at the Tigers 9-yard line to set up a second 1-yard touchdown run and with 7:32 left in the game the Highlanders led 17-7.

He looked as though he hadn't missed a beat, completing a 34-yard pass to Bayley Novak in addition to coming up with key running plays himself. And just for good measure, Andritsos fired a 26-yard touchdown pass to Chris Bell for the final tally.

"It's funny, they worry about your legs and running and all you do is run the ball," said Andritsos. "We just kind of ran over them tonight. I had a good week of practice and (the knee) felt good. I was just ready to go out there and hit somebody for a change."

Andritsos was originally scheduled to play sparingly, but he sparked the team late in the second quarter and finished up under center. "They told me I was going to play a little bit and then the time came and I guess they held nothing back." Andritsos said his quick return was made possible by the lack of swelling in the knee; "I guess youth paid off."

"We physically wore them down in the second half running the football," Highlanders head coach Mark Schmid said. "The kids took a lot of pride in it up front. The defensive linemen did a great job. Patrick (Carr) and Chris did a great job running the football and we threw the ball when we needed to. Chris Bell had a big reception to blow the game open."



A&M Consolidated's district-best offense neutralized in 24-7 loss to The Woodlands



Posted: Saturday, October 5, 2013 2:17 am

By LARRY BOWEN

The Woodlands pulled the plug on A&M Consolidated's high-powered offense Friday night, dimming the Tigers' chances for an outright District 14-5A football championship. Consolidated produced a touchdown on its second possession and it seemed as if it would be business as usual for the league's highest-scoring team, but the Highlanders frustrated Consol the rest of the way for an impressive 24-7 victory at Tigerland Stadium.

The Highlanders (4-2, 2-0) used sure tackling and a couple of fourth-down stops on defense, along with a powerful running game, to quiet a Consol team that had averaged 40.5 points per game entering the contest. The Woodlands, which began the night second statistically among 14-5A defenses, limited the Tigers to 293 yards, far below their district-leading average of 478.3.

"It would have been hard for me to believe that we'd hold them to 7 points," Highlanders head coach Mark Schmid said. "We did a great job tackling tonight. That was probably the big difference. There were really no broken tackles and big plays. We felt like we had to keep them in front of us and that's what we did."

Consol (3-2, 1-1) wasted a valiant effort by its defense. Although the Tigers allowed 307 yards rushing, they twice prevented The Woodlands from scoring after taking over with terrific field position, limiting the Highlanders to 10 points through three quarters.

"It was by far the best game the defense has played this year," Consol head coach David Raffield said. "I could see it coming. Their confidence was building. I'm really disappointed offensively that we didn't execute to give the defense even more confidence."

The defense gave Consol a chance to regain the lead late in the third quarter when senior linebacker Clint Hollis recovered a fumble at the Tiger 37.

Consol moved easily into Highlander territory, then faced third-and-2 at the 23-yard line. Quarterback Kobe Miller gained 1 yard on an option keeper, and then Miller was stopped short when the Tigers tried a quarterback sneak on fourth down. Those two unsuccessful plays summed up Consol's inability to run against the Highlanders, who yielded just 22 yards on 18 attempts.

"They stuffed us, and that hurt," Raffield said. "The running game was tough. We knew a big part of the game was going to be the offensive line. They pass-blocked great tonight, though."

The Woodlands didn't pass up a chance to capitalize on Consol's fourth-down misfire. The Highlanders marched 78 yards on 16 plays that chewed up 7 minutes, 7 seconds.

Chris Andritsos gained 8 yards on a fourth-and-1 keeper, then scored two plays later on a 1-yard quarterback sneak that put the Highlanders ahead 17-7 with 7:32 remaining.

Miller was intercepted two plays later, setting up a 26-yard touchdown pass from Andritsos to Chris Bell with 3:29 to play. Andritsos, a junior, came on in relief late in the first half and pumped life into a Highlander offense that struggled to that point. Playing for the first time since tearing a meniscus ligament in his knee three weeks earlier, Andritsos ran for 115 yards on 13 carries and passed for 76 yards, producing all three Highlander touchdowns.

"He's our guy, but he just came back to us this week so I didn't want to put too much on his plate," Schmid said. "I felt like we needed a little spark, and he came in and gave it to us."

The Woodlands also got a productive game from junior running back Patrick Carr. The district's leading rusher gained 162 yards on 30 carries.

Miller completed 27 of 37 passes for 271 yards, and senior receiver Kerry Thomas had a big night with 12 receptions for 144 yards. However, the Tigers had only five plays of 15 yards or more, and also paid for three turnovers.

"We misfired quite a bit tonight, and they do a good job of trying to keep everything in front of them," Raffield said. The Tigers got a better-than-usual performance from their defense, ranked last in the league, but still trailed at halftime for the first time this season.

Consol survived a failed fourth-down attempt near midfield on the game's opening drive as the defense forced a three-and-out. The Tigers quickly drove 73 yards, with Miller finding Derrick Dick for a 47-yard pass that set up Miller's 13-yard touchdown throw to Thomas.

The Woodlands pulled within 7-3 early in the second quarter, settling for a 32-yard field goal by Ryan Spaulding when it could have had more. The Highlanders easily drove to the Consol 15, but a penalty for sideline interference and accompanying unsportsmanlike penalty cost the visitors 30 yards.

Consol's defense came through again, holding The Woodlands after the Tigers lost a fumble at their own 31. The Tigers missed a chance to add to their lead when a low snap resulted in a missed field goal from 31 yards by Daniel Zivney. The Highlanders then changed quarterbacks and turned the tide. Andritsos, who had missed two games, replaced starter Matt Bonaguidi.

Andritsos led the visitors on an 80-yard drive that included two fourth-down conversions and was boosted by the sideline interference penalty. Facing fourth-and-2 at the Tiger 22-yard line, Andritsos scrambled for 18 yards. Andritsos gave the Highlanders a 10-7 lead when he plunged into the end zone from 1 yard out to score with 12 seconds before the halftime ceremonies during which Shelby Wagner was crowned homecoming queen.

The Woodlands defense delivers against A&M Consolidated

Saturday, October 5, 2013

By **Jim Mashek**

The Woodlands took a big step toward a possible District 14-5A championship on Friday night, and for that, the Highlanders' defense can take a bow.

The Woodlands limited A&M Consolidated to 22 yards rushing and the offense scored 14 fourth-quarter points to post a 24-7 road victory over the Tigers.

The Highlanders, ranked eighth by HSGridiron.com, improved to 4-2 overall and 2-0 in 14-5A play while A&M Consolidated fell to 3-2 and 1-1, respectively.

"Defensively, we played extremely well," The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "We had a great game plan and we tackled real well. I don't think they had a play of more than 15 yards, maybe one or two, and they're very explosive offensively. They like to play in space. "It was a big win for us."

One of the Tigers' big-play weapons, receiver/return specialist Derrick Dick, returned the opening kickoff to near midfield. A&M Consolidated quarterback Kobe Miller hit Dick for a 47-yard pass later in the first quarter, which led to the Tigers' only touchdown of the game.

After that, The Woodlands defense was in control.

"Derrick Dick was a focal point for our defense," Schmid said. "They tried to run the football with him, too. The longer the game went, the more you realized our defense was turning in a gem of a game." A&M Consolidated had been averaging a district-leading 478 yards of total offense per game. The Tigers managed 297 yards against the Highlanders, most of it through the air and some of it after The Woodlands had built a big lead.

"Our inside linebackers, Tanner Birdsong and Thomas Gilstrap, played extremely well," Schmid said. "They were around the ball all night."

Schmid was also impressed with the play of safeties Zach Coates, Antoine Winfield, Jake Coll and Geoffrey Keating. Winfield had an interception and 17-yard return that stopped the Tigers' last offensive series, and Coll's interception with about four minutes left led to the final touchdown of the game.

The Highlanders' victory also marked the return of junior quarterback Chris Andritsos, who passed for 76 yards while carrying the ball 13 times for 115 yards. Andritsos had missed The Woodlands' last two games with a torn meniscus.

"We were led to believe it was going to be a four- to six-week process," Schmid said. "The doctor cleared him and Chris was able to return to practice. Hopefully, we've developed a little continuity and consistency (on offense)."

Highlanders running back Patrick Carr, the leading rusher in 14-5A, carried the ball 30 times for 162 yards against the Tigers.

Schmid said Andritsos will be The Woodlands' starting quarterback in its home game against Lufkin (1-4, 0-1) on Saturday. The Highlanders, Lufkin and A&M Consolidated finished in a three-way tie for the district championship last season. A&M Consolidated edged Lufkin 42-41 in its first district game a week ago.

"We're loading 'em up front," Schmid said. "Lufkin doesn't have a district win yet and they'll definitely be motivated. They've got great team speed and two receivers (KeKe Coutee and Jamal Jeffery) who are committed to Texas and Texas A&M."

The Highlanders have an open date after their game against Lufkin at Woodforest Bank Stadium.