

No. 8 The Woodlands coasts to 17-0 win

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By **Jack Marrion**

MISSOURI CITY — Hightower entered its matchup with No. 8 The Woodlands at home at Hall Stadium carrying a little confidence, with several University of Houston commits contributing to a low-scoring opening win against Eisenhower. But the Highlanders showed they can play defense on Friday night.

The Woodlands evened its record at 1-1 with a 17-0 victory over Hightower, forcing four turnovers and limiting Hightower to 177 yards total offense.

The Highlanders opened the season with a tough 33-30 overtime loss to Dallas Skyline. In this game, the closest Hightower came to scoring was a 26-yard field-goal attempt that was pulled wide wide left. “Everything was the key tonight,” The Woodlands senior defensive defensive lineman Zak Krolczyk said. “I was doing my job, he was doing his, everyone on defense was doing their job.”

unit as well. The Woodlands evened their season record with a 17-0 victory, forcing four turnovers and holding Hightower to 177 yards.

“It was really just making sure we flew to the ball every time,” junior defensive back T.C. Schneider said. “It was all about intensity and effort.”

The Highlanders (1-1) followed a 33-30 loss to Dallas Skyline by rarely allowing Hightower into their territory. The closest the Hurricanes came to scoring was a 26-yard field goal attempt pulled wide left. Andritsos later found Chris Bell for a 22-yard completion in the second quarter, but the Woodlands was stopped on fourth down to kill the drive.

Hightower’s best drive of the first half came to an end when Krolczyk recovered a fumble by the Hurricanes.

A long return by Jeremy Davis set up The Woodlands in Hightower territory in the second half. Quarterback Chris Andritsos zipped the ball to Tyler Patrick for 18 yards. Two plays later, tailback Patrick Carr took a delayed handoff and accelerated through the line for a 26-yard touchdown and the first touchdown of the game.

The Highlanders brought a quicker offensive tempo to the second half, hitting Hightower with short passes.

The defense was at it again moments later as Brandon Barnett recovered a fumble at the HHS 20. The Highlanders needed only a nine-yard run by Andritsos, a seven-yard reception by Bayley Novak and a four-yard option-read touchdown by Andritsos for a 14-0 lead.

The teams exchanged turnovers, with Hightower’s Edward Thompson picking a deflected pass and The Woodlands’ Justin Martin recovering a fumble at the Hightower 11. The Highlanders capitalized with a 22-yard field goal by Ryan Spaulding.

Hightower avoided another score late in the fourth quarter when linebacker Matthew Adams intercepted a pass at the goal line. The Hurricanes held The Woodlands to 255 yards. Roosevelt Appleton amassed 73 yards on 24 carries for Hightower.

The Woodlands gets its rematch with No. 1 Katy, the defending state Class 5A champions, at 6 p.m. Sept. 14 at Rhodes Stadium.