

## Highlanders' late score, late stop edge Round Rock



Posted: Saturday, November 23, 2013 9:45 pm

By **Jim Mashek**



WACO — Tyler Patrick came through with the reception that allowed The Woodlands to grab the one-point lead on Round Rock in the Class 5A Division I playoff game at Waco ISD Stadium on a cold, blustery Saturday.

Perhaps then it's appropriate that Patrick extinguished the Dragons' last-gasp hopes by blocking Parsa Kosari's try at a 37-yard field goal, a kick that had barely left the ground when Patrick blocked it into the artificial turf.

24-23 in a wild area-round playoff game, a victory that will send The Woodlands (10-2) into a regional game against unbeaten Allen, the defending 5A Division I state champion, on Saturday at Baylor's Floyd Casey Stadium.

"I was a little nervous (during Round Rock's final drive)," Patrick said, "but I had faith in my teammates. I don't think (Parsi's kick) would have made it anyway, but we weren't taking any chances."

Parsi's kick was into the teeth of a 20-mph wind, a factor throughout the game. The Woodlands had the wind at its back in the fourth quarter, which allowed Highlanders quarterback Chris Andritsos to get off a 63-yard punt, pinning the Dragons at their 1-yard line with 3:54 left and Round Rock holding a 23-17 lead.

The Highlanders' defense forced a punt and Andritsos found Patrick over the middle on a crossing route on a second-and-12 play from the Round Rock 45-yard line. Patrick got a downfield block from Kalif Johnson and went out of bounds on a 44-yard completion that put the Highlanders at the 1-yard line.

Andritsos scored on the next play and Rhett Pruitt added the extra point with 1:26 left in the game.

“Chris did a great job on that play and got the ball to Tyler,” TWHS coach Mark Schmid said. “Tyler had two big plays in the last few minutes. Two weeks in a row with exciting playoff wins. If you’re not a believer now, something’s wrong with you.”

The Highlanders, who have won nine straight games, opened the playoffs with a 34-31 victory over Klein. Now they’ll play Allen, the state’s No. 1-ranked 5A team.

Andritsos played much of the game with a sore throwing shoulder and struggled with the wind, regardless of its direction. But his pass to Patrick was on the mark and the Highlanders were on their way to victory.

“We couldn’t throw the ball very well, with the wind,” Andritsos said. “I didn’t have much touch on the ball. But in a clutch situation, it’s like baseball kicked in. Throw a fastball and let (Patrick) catch it.” Patrick Carr, the Highlanders’ leading rusher, had 102 of his team-high 144 yards on the ground in the first half. Round Rock controlled the ball much of the second half, and the Dragons’ Deandre Story had 26 carries for 201 yards.

Round Rock grabbed its first lead when quarterback Collin Hinson scored on a draw, a 17-yard run with 5:55 left in the game. Mason Ramirez then added his second two-point conversion run out of the Wildcat formation, after the Dragons lined up for an apparent extra-point try. Hinson’s score put Round Rock in front 23-17.

“(Hinson) was pretty good and they ran some trick plays that hurt us,” Highlanders defensive end Zak Krolczyk said. “We knew what we had to do at the end of the game.”

The Dragons got a 37-yard run from Story on a fourth-and-10 play in the final minute, a draw that left the Highlanders out of position until Kade Markle knocked Story out of bounds at the TWHS 28.

Andritsos opened the scoring with a 2-yard touchdown run with 3:34 left in the first quarter. Sterling Scott, the Highlanders’ undersized change-of-pace back, had a 38-yard run on that drive. Round Rock answered on Hinson’s 11-yard touchdown run in the opening moments of the second quarter to tie the game at 7.

The Woodlands would later drive 94 yards for its second touchdown. Carr had runs of 17 and 22 yards before Scott sliced through the Dragons’ defense for a 23-yard gain. Carr leaped over a diving Round Rock defender on his way to a 24-yard touchdown run with 4:00 left in the first half.

The Highlanders added three points on the final play of the first half, putting together a quick drive in just 39 seconds. Andritsos hit Patrick for a 12-yard pass before going 21 yards on a draw with 12 seconds left. Ryan Spaulding kicked a 24-yard field goal from the left hash mark as the first half came to a close.

Now The Woodlands turns its attention to Allen, which defeated Mesquite Horne 42-14 on Friday night to remain unbeaten in 12 games.

“They’re the defending state champions,” Schmid said, “and we’re looking forward to the opportunity.”



## Highlanders edge Round Rock

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WACO, Texas - Chris Andritsos rushed for two touchdowns and Patrick Carr added another as The Woodlands High School football team defeated Round Rock, 24-23, in an area playoff game Saturday afternoon at Waco ISD Stadium.

The Highlanders (10-2), winners of nine consecutive games, advance to a 2 p.m. Saturday region playoff game against defending 5A Division I state champs and unbeaten Allen (12-0) at Floyd Casey Stadium in Waco.

Andritsos scored on a 1-yard run with 1:26 left in the game to tie Saturday's area playoff game and kicker Rhett Pruitt tacked on his third PAT kick to provide the margin of victory.

Andritsos opened the scoring with a 2-yard run before Patrick Carr ripped off a 24-yard touchdown dash and Ryan Spaulding booted a 24-yard field goal as time ran out in the first half to give the Highlanders a 17-7 lead at the break.

However, Round Rock rallied with a pair of touchdowns and followed each with successful two-point conversion runs to take a 23-17 lead with just under six minutes to play in the fourth quarter.

But Andritsos drove the team for one final tally. He threw 44 yards to Tyler Patrick to set up his second touchdown run.

Both teams enjoyed success running the football. Round Rock had one rusher surpass the 200-yard mark and another surpassed 100 yards. As a team, the Dragons rolled up 350 rushing yards.

The Woodlands churned out 263 yards on the ground. Carr led the way with 136 yards on 19 carries. Sterling Scott added 71 yards on six carries while Andritsos finished with 56 yards on 13 tries.

Andritsos threw for 99 yards (6-17-0) with Patrick leading The Woodlands' receiving corps with three pass receptions for 55 yards. Chris Bell added 38 yards on two catches. Hunter Moore also had a 6-yard reception.

## Round Rock falls to The Woodlands by a point in Class 5A playoffs

Posted: 7:40 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013

By [Danny Davis](#)

**Waco** — By game's end Saturday afternoon, a 38-yard field goal attempt stood between Round Rock and the third round of the Class 5A, Division I football playoffs.

Confronted by a vicious wind inside Waco ISD Stadium, Parsa Kosari missed his lengthy kick on the final play of a 24-23 loss to The Woodlands. With the defeat in the area-round playoff, Round Rock finished its season with a 7-5 record. "It's crazy, my senior year is over. Football is over," said Round Rock senior running back Deandre Story. "I grew up with half these guys on this team. It's bittersweet."

Down by as many as 10 points in the second half, Round Rock stormed back to take a 23-17 lead with 5:55 to play in the game. Dragons quarterback Collin Hinson scored on a 17-yard run, and Mason Ramirez then ran in his second two-point conversion of the afternoon.

After the two teams traded possessions, The Woodlands began at the Round Rock 43 with just more than two minutes on the clock. The Highlanders only needed three plays to score. Fueled by University of Kansas recruit Tyler Patrick's 44-yard catch, The Woodlands retook the lead on quarterback Chris Andritsos' 1-yard keeper and the ensuing extra point.

"(Patrick) is a hell of a player; he makes a good play," Round Rock junior defensive lineman Breylin Mitchell said. "I thought we played good defense until that point."

With 1:26 remaining, Round Rock got the football at its 25. A pass-interference call on the drive's first play moved the Dragons up 15 yards, and Story got the team closer to the end zone with a 37-yard run on a fourth-and-10 play from his team's 40. But Round Rock gained only two yards on the three plays after Story's run, and Kosari was forced into a difficult kick. The junior, who had made 10 field goals this fall, kicked the ball into a herd of linemen.

"I think anytime you get into a situation like that, we knew he probably had to put a lot of foot on it," Round Rock coach Jeff Cheatham said. "I'm just really, really proud of the way the kids fought ... they never doubted the fact that we could be able to try to pull this off."

A series of missed opportunities hurt the Dragons in the one-point loss. Kosari also missed a 35-yard field-goal attempt, and Round Rock's failed fourth-and-7 attempt near midfield in the first half's final minute led to a field goal for the Highlanders. In the third quarter, Story lost a fumble at the Highlanders' 33. "We left a lot of opportunities on the board," Story said, "but it is what it is. We played hard, we fought to the end and I have no regrets."

Story rushed for 217 yards on 24 carries. Hinson piled up 118 rushing yards and in addition to his two rushing touchdowns, the junior quarterback also threw a 52-yard touchdown pass to Zach Nash-Kelly.

Patrick Carr led The Woodlands with 136 rushing yards. The Highlanders (10-2) will play top-ranked Allen in the regional round of the Class 5A, Division I playoffs.