



## Highlanders and Cavaliers fight till the end, The Woodlands prevail 17-6

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SHENANDOAH, Texas- The Highlanders (6-1, 3-0) continue to win football games, this time at the expense of their cross-town rival the College Park Cavaliers, 17-6, at Woodforest Bank Stadium Friday night. The Woodlands haven't felt defeat since their week one affair at Cy-Fair, 9-0. This is the seventh straight win for the Highlanders in their rivalry with College Park.

"It was a hard fought battle," said Highlander Head Coach Mark Schmid. "College Park did a great job of holding onto the football. We only had two possessions in the first half, but thankfully we got points out of the drive. We're excited about the win, when you play good people you always appreciate a win. We're looking forward to our open week (now), we're a little bumped up, it will be good to get fresh again."

Leading the charge for The Woodlands was running back Patrick Carr, who ran for 85 yards and a touchdown. Quarterback Matt Bonaguidi threw for 82 yards and ran for another 59 yards, plus a rushing score. Quarterback Chris Andritsos threw for 43 yards and a touchdown. The Highlanders garnered 301 yards of total offense in the win.

For College Park (1-5, 0-2), quarterback Robert Ferguson threw for 102 yards and a score. He added 37 yards on the ground. Running back Dominic Garcia ran for 39 yards and had 11 yards receiving, while running back AJ Sanders ran for 37 yards and caught three balls for 23 yards on the night. Greg Maxie caught five balls for 60 yards and an impressive touchdown catch just before half. The Cavaliers totaled 231 yards on the night.

The Cavaliers got the ball to start the game after the Highlanders won the toss and deferred, and started at their 25-yard line after the kickoff return. They were putting together a good drive, and got the ball down to the Highlander 4-yard line, but a costly fumble recovered by Highlander linebacker Zak Yglecias gave The Woodlands the ball at their own 3-yard line with 8:05 left in the first quarter.

"We had a great first drive," said College Park Head Coach Richard Carson. "Our kids played hard and got after it. I'm proud how we've responded (to injuries) and came back and went after it."

The Highlanders first drive was efficient. A Chris Bell catch on one-on-one coverage for 26-yards got the ball into Cavalier territory at the College Park 44-yard line. A few plays later Carr picked up six yards on 4th-and-2 to move the chains, and The Woodlands had the ball down to the Cavalier 30-yard line with 3:45 left in the first quarter. The 12-play, 97-yard drive ended when Bonaguidi ran a read-option play with running back Adam May, keeping the ball himself and scoring from 17-yards away to make the score 7-0 Highlanders with 1:58 left to play in the first quarter.

"The turnover was huge as they appeared to be going in for some type of scoring drive," said Schmid. "We got them off the field and go 97, 98 yards to score."

The next Cavalier possession was similar to the first, moving the ball well down the field. On 4th-and-short Ferguson ran a quarterback sneak for a first down and the ball sat at the Cavalier 41-yard line. However some incomplete passes ended the drive, and we saw our first punt of the night from either time with 9:54 left in the second quarter, and the Highlanders got possession at their own 43-yard line.

The Highlanders following drive looked to be stalled, by a great jump-ball catch by wide receiver Hunter Moore on 3rd-and-8 went for 32-yards, and got The Highlanders into Cavalier territory at the 49-yard line. However, after an incomplete pass a few plays later on yet another 3rd-and-8, Nacho Garcia came out and knocked home a 32-yard field goal to give the Highlanders a 10-0 lead with 5:52 until halftime.

The Cavaliers continued their trend of successfully moving the ball on their next drive, and on 3rd-and-4, Dominic Garcia caught a pass for 9-yards to get a first down at the Cavalier 41-yard line with 4:15 left in the half. On 4th-and-inches, Ferguson ran a successful quarterback sneak for two yards and got the ball into Highlander territory at The Woodlands 48-yard line. A huge run by Garcia for 20-yards got the ball to the Highlander 24-yard line with 23 seconds left in the half. The drive ended when wide receiver Greg Maxie made an impressive one-handed catch over two defenders from 24-yards out, and after the point after was missed the game went to the locker room with The Woodlands leading College Park, 10-6.

“Maxie, we just got him back this week” said Carson. “He went up, sometimes players just make plays. What we (play) call is overrated sometimes, kids have to step up and make plays. It was a great effort on his part to win the ball, and that’s what he did.”

The third quarter was all about momentum, as both teams were looking for field position and time of possession. After both teams punted, the score remained 10-6 with 3:11 left in the third with neither team ready to break the game open.

The Highlanders took possession at their 12-yard line with three minutes left in the third quarter, and they went out with a new quarterback at the helm, Chris Andritsos. On a 3rd-and-2, Andritsos attempted his first pass of the series, an 18-yard completion to James Toups to get the ball to The Woodlands 48-yard line. He then completed a pass on 2nd-and-14 to Christopher Stewart for 20-yards, to get the ball into Cavalier territory at the 32-yard line to end the third quarter. The next series saw a 4th-and-5 for the Highlanders from the Cavalier 27-yard line. This time Andritsos ran a draw play for 12-yards to get the ball to the Cavalier 15-yard line. Three Carr runs later, the ball was punched it in from one yard out and the lead grew to 17-6 Highlanders with 9:15 left in the contest.

“Both Andritsos and Bonaguidi played well tonight, and to me it’s a pretty good formula for us right now,” said Schmid. “Chris made some big plays on our scoring drive, and both guys continue to make plays and will continue to see action.”

After a Cavalier three-and-out, their first of the contest, the Highlanders returned the favor with a three-and-out of their own, and with 5:41 left the Cavaliers had the ball at their 21-yard line, looking to come back from a 17-6 deficit. The Cavalier next possession ended when a 4th-and-6 pass was completed to Maxie for seven yards, but he was called for a fumble at the end of the play, and the ball was recovered by the Highlanders at the Cavaliers 44-yard line with 4:01 left in the game.

The Highlanders got the ball and took the clock down to 2:43, but their drive ended with an interception by Cavalier linebacker Brenden Hall on 4th-and-2, getting the ball back to the Cavalier 39-yard line. Hall was in the open field and almost broke it for a touchdown, but Carr made an open field tackle to keep the return from Hall to 14-yards.

The final series for the Cavaliers got the ball into Highlander territory, but a pass from the 34-yard line was intercepted by defensive back TC Schneider at the 11-yard line, and with 1:53 left the Highlanders ran out the clock and took the game, 17-6.

“Come last week of the season we’re going to be playing for a playoff spot, and that’s what’s going to happen,” emphasized Carson.

# The Woodlands turns back College Park

Saturday, October 11, 2014

By Jon Poorman

SHENANDOAH — The Woodlands defeated its crosstown rival College Park for a seventh consecutive time on Friday night, holding off the Cavaliers for a 17-6 victory in front of a packed house at Woodforest Bank Stadium.

The Highlanders (6-1, 3-0 in District 16-6A) used timely takeaways and long scoring drives to derail College Park (1-5, 0-2) and remain at the top of the District 16-6A standings.

“It was a hard-fought battle,” The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. “We’re excited about the win — it puts us at 3-0. When you play good people, you always appreciate a win, and I think we played a good football team tonight.”

The Highlanders’ defense held its opponent to single digits for the fifth time in seven games and limited the Cavs to 231 total yards. Three key turnovers — two fumble recoveries and a game-clinching interception — went a long way in helping The Woodlands secure its sixth straight win.

College Park, meanwhile — reeling from the season-ending injuries to senior tight end/punter Chris Barnes and offensive tackle Ben Shepard — will go back to the drawing board as it tries to hang on to its postseason hopes.

“We had a couple of devastating injuries, season-ending injuries in our last game, and I am very proud of how our kids responded and came back,” College Park coach Richard Carson said. “We’re going to go play and get after it, and I told our kids the last week of the season, we’re going to be playing for a playoff spot.”

The Cavs moved the ball down the field on their first drive of the game, but Dominic Garcia fumbled inside the Highlanders’ 10, and Zak Yglecias recovered at the 3 for The Woodlands.

The Highlanders then went on a 12-play, 97-yard drive and took a 7-0 lead when Matt Bonaguidi found paydirt from 17 yards out on a quarterback keeper. The Woodlands made it 10-0 on Nacho Garcia’s 32-yard field goal with about six minutes to play before halftime.

“College Park did a great job holding onto the football,” Schmid said. “The first half, we had two possessions — that’s all we had. Thank goodness we got points out of both possessions.”

College Park went 74 yards in 12 plays and put their first points on the scoreboard with an acrobatic 24-yard touchdown catch by Greg Maxie with just 11 seconds remaining before intermission. The Cavs mishandled the snap on the extra-point attempt, however, and were left with a four-point deficit.

“He went up, and sometimes, players just make plays,” Carson said. “Sometimes kids have to step up and make a play. It was a good throw, and it was a good effort on his part to win the ball, and that’s what he did.”

After a scoreless third quarter, The Woodlands capped a 12-play, 88-yard drive with a one-yard touchdown run by Patrick Carr early in the fourth. That score gave the Highlanders a double-digit lead with 9:15 to play. “We were able to put a pretty good drive together and kind of put it out of reach,” Schmid said.

With about four minutes left to play, Kade Markle recovered a fumble by Maxie at the Cavs’ 43. The Woodlands gave it right back four plays later, however, when Chris Andritsos was picked off by Brenden Hall.

College Park, which needed two scores in two and half minutes, saw any last hope it had dissipate when TC Schneider intercepted Roberts Ferguson’s desperation heave at the Highlanders’ 11. “That was big,” Schmid said.