

The Woodlands staves off upset, tops Kingwood



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By **Jim Mashek**

HUMBLE — Artistic? No. Memorable? Without a doubt.

The Woodlands football team earned an outright District 16-6A championship on Thursday night at Turner Stadium, and the Highlanders did it the hard way, turning back a dogged Kingwood squad 21-18.

The Woodlands (9-1, 6-0 in 16-6A) completed the regular-season task at hand without its starting quarterback, Eric Schmid, who will miss the Highlanders' bi-district playoff game, likely against Klein Oak, on Nov. 13 at Woodforest Bank Stadium.

Kingwood fell to 6-4 overall and 4-2 in 16-6A play.

With Eric Schmid sidelined with a dislocated elbow, veteran TWHS coach Mark Schmid turned to senior backups Craig Heiser and Harry Woodberry against the Mustangs. Heiser completed 8 of 12 passes for 109 yards and an interception, and Woodberry entered the game midway through the third quarter.

You might say it was Harry Woodberry's night.

"The coaches just told me I was going in," Woodberry said. "I was ready. I'm always ready. Ready to help my team win a game. Undefeated district champions ... it means a lot.

"It's our trophy."

The Woodlands has yet to lose in District 16-6A, which opened for the 2014-15 school year, but Kingwood was a tough customer. The Highlanders needed a 92-yard kickoff return from Antoine Winfield Jr. to grab a 14-10 lead in the opening moments of the third quarter.

"We were down, and I had to make a play," Winfield said.

Mark Schmid said the Highlanders thought Kingwood's Diego Garcia would kick it toward Winfield on the right side of the field. Winfield made a stop-and-go move shortly after fielding the kick and quickly traversed the width of the field before finding the left sideline on his way for the score.

"We were looking for a spark," Mark Schmid said.

Woodberry found TWHS receiver Reed Barber for a 21-yard touchdown pass with 4:45 left in the third quarter, but Kingwood's Dawson Trudell, returning from a back injury, kept the Mustangs in the game.

A special-teams disaster for the Highlanders — Barber couldn't handle a high snap and was tackled at the TWHS 8-yard line — put Kingwood in position to pull within three points.

Trudell got the ball across the goal line on a fourth-down quarterback sneak from 1 yard out, and he added the two-point conversion on a deft bootleg run that left the Highlanders out of position.

Then the Highlanders made plays when they needed them the most.

Carlos Ramos broke away for a 37-yard run, and Woodberry got the ball to Hunter Moore for a 16-yard completion on the left sideline. In the final moments of the game, the Highlanders' Mitchell Bell came up with an interception in the middle of the field, setting off a raucous celebration.

Winfield and TWHS teammate Talon Baskin gave Mark Schmid the water-bucket treatment after he was interviewed by the KUBE sideline reporter, and the Highlanders could savor yet another district title.

Kingwood played on even terms with The Woodlands in the first half and even took a 10-7 lead into the break.

The Mustangs held the ball for six minutes, 36 seconds to close the half before Diego Garcia kicked a 23-yard field goal from the right hash with one second left on the clock.

Kingwood opened the scoring on Griffin Lay's 1-yard touchdown run in the first quarter, and the Highlanders tied the score on Carlos Ramos' 1-yard scoring run early in the second quarter.



Highlanders pull win over Kingwood 21-18, named official district champions

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HUMBLE, Texas — The Woodlands Highlander football team was surprised by a close match in their district closer against Kingwood but finished with a 21-18 victory and became the official district champions.

Kingwood came into the game confident and scored the first touchdown of the game. The Highlander offense were on the field briefly after a loss on a run, an incomplete pass and a sack. At the end of the first quarter, Kingwood was up 7-0.

The Highlanders came back in the second quarter with a touchdown by junior running back, Carlos Ramos, and tied up the game score, but Kingwood was quick to answer by grabbing an interception and a good field goal attempt. By the end of halftime, the Highlanders were down three points.

Senior free safety, Antoine Winfield, gave the Highlanders a big start in the second half with a kickoff return for a touchdown and was followed later in the third quarter with a 21-yard touchdown pass to senior Harry Woodberry. By the end of the third quarter, the Highlanders were back on top 21-10.

Kingwood was yet to be stopped, and in the fourth quarter they scored a touchdown that was accompanied by a successful two-point conversion. The Highlander defense stepped up with huge stops with less than two minutes left in the game and closed the game out with an interception with a final 21-18 score.

With an undefeated district record, the Highlanders officially hold the district champion title and will face Klein Oak in the bi-district round of playoffs with a home field advantage at Woodforest Stadium Friday, November 13 at 7 p.m.

Late interception seals The Woodlands' win over Kingwood

By Jason McDaniel

Thursday, November 5, 2015



The Woodlands was out of sync on offense Thursday night without injured starting quarterback Eric Schmid. It barely touched the ball in the first half and turned it over four times. But this year's Highlanders aren't built on offense – and their defense remained on point.

They allowed only three points off the turnovers and sealed a win on Mitchell Bell's interception with 30 seconds left, lifting The Woodlands to a 21-18 victory over Kingwood at Turner Stadium.

"They played that way all year," The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said.

That's why the Highlanders (9-1, 6-0) are undefeated district champions for the third consecutive season. They face Klein Oak in the first round of the Class 6A Division I playoffs next week. Kingwood, despite dominating time of possession in the first half and taking a 10-7 lead into halftime, fell to 6-4, 4-2.

"We played a really good game," Kingwood coach Barry Campbell said. "There's definitely some things we can do better, and take care of some things that are on our end, but I'm proud of our guys. "They got after it with a really good team."

The Mustangs held the ball for more than 16 minutes in the first half. They used a 6-yard drive that chewed up 6:36 to take a 10-7 lead with 1 second left on Diego Garcia's 23-yard field goal.

The Woodlands had only four possessions in the first, two ending in turnovers. "It's hard to develop any kind of rhythm when you don't have the ball that much," Schmid said. "So the second half we were able to start the run game going a little bit and throw the ball around a little bit." "That was the difference."

Well, that, and Antoine Winfield Jr.'s 92-yard return for a touchdown on the opening kickoff of the second half. It was the first kick return of the season for the standout defensive back.

"We were looking for a spark, and they had been kicking it left, so we felt like if we lined it up left they might go ahead and kick it to him, and they did," Schmid said. "That's the great thing about having a guy like Antoine. He can do things like that." Winfield's return gave The Woodlands its first lead, 14-10.

The lead grew to 21-10 with 4:45 showing in the third on Harry Woodberry's 21-yard touchdown pass to Reed Barber.

Woodberry relieved Craig Heiser, who started for the injured Schmid, on the series. "They both made plays when they needed to," Coach Schmid said.

The Woodlands' coach Schmid, his son and the starter all year until he injured his elbow last week, will be fitted for a playing brace and practice next week, but he's unsure of Schmid's playoff status. "We'll see," Schmid said.

"(But) that's why it was so big for Craig and Harry both to play (Thursday), because we don't know what our status is for next week and we felt like they had to get in, in a meaningful situation, and under pressure."