



Turnovers doom Cy-Fair in opening-night loss to The Woodlands

By [Kevin Cook](#)

Saturday, August 27, 2016

CYPRESS – Cy-Fair coach Ed Pustejovsky knew what he was getting with a non-district football matchup against The Woodlands. Pustejovsky said at practice the week before the game that, no matter the outcome – which, Friday night, was a tough 23-20 loss, mostly the result of turnovers in the passing game – the contest would make his Bobcats better.

“I think anytime you can play a worthy opponent, if you have a chance to have a competitive football game, I think you need to do it,” Pustejovsky said. “We’ll know we’ve played a worthy opponent, and we’re going to play some tough teams in our district down the road, so I think it’s good.” If one were to look for bright spots, they are not tough to find, despite the final result. The Bobcats committed five turnovers, four of them interceptions, and were still in a position to win, driving down the field with about a minute and a half left in the contest.

Credit the close final score to the outstanding Cy-Fair defense. Senior defensive end Derrick Jackson logged the Cy-Fair’s only sack on The Woodlands senior quarterback Eric Schmid, but the Highlanders’ signal-caller never looked comfortable. Schmid finished the game with a pedestrian 9-of-20 passing line, throwing for a single touchdown. Senior defensive backs Dylan Higgins (5.5 tackles) and Kyle Cervenka (4.0 tackles) led the way on a defense that held The Woodlands to 78 rushing yards on 31 attempts, an anemic average of 2.5 yards per carry.

After the game, Pustejovsky credited the defense with keeping the contest a winnable proposition, even after the multiple turnovers. “The defense played extremely well, the whole ball game really,” Pustejovsky said. “That’s what kept us in it.”

Another bright spot for Cy-Fair is the effort and tenacity. Simply put, giving up five turnovers in a contest could potentially be a dispiriting experience, but the Bobcats played through the adversity,

giving themselves opportunities to win a game that, by all reason, should have been hopefully out of reach. That fact was not lost on Pustejovsky.

“I’m proud of our kids,” Pustejovsky said. “I’m proud of the way they played. They played hard. We’ve just got to play smarter. You can’t have five turnovers and win a game. We were fortunate to be in it.” Junior starting quarterback Cam Arnold proved himself a bit of an enigma Friday night (16-of-31 passing for 125 yards, one touchdown and four interceptions), but his struggles had a lot to do with the situation.

Cy-Fair’s run game was held to 2.9 yards per carry on 30 attempts. The only way to move the ball on The Woodlands was through the air, which is typically a complementary facet of Cy-Fair’s offensive game, not the Bobcats’ bread and butter.

Arnold, at times, looked brilliant, in what was a tough round-peg-in-square-hole scenario for the young quarterback. Take away the final drive, when Cy-Fair was forced to pass on every down, and Arnold finished 14-of-23 passing (a 61 percent completion rate). But the four interceptions were killers. Pustejovsky implied that the offense as a unit needs to get a bit more savvy, not just Arnold.

“Cam played good at times, and did a great job getting the ball down the field,” Pustejovsky said. “We’ve just got to be a little bit smarter.”

Chambers was a standout on an offense that was otherwise stymied. He finished with eight receptions for 60 yards and a touchdown, contributing another 33 yards on three rushing attempts and another touchdown on the ground. The production did not surprise Pustejovsky.

“I thought (Chambers) played well,” Pustejovsky said. “And we were expecting that of B.J. He’s a great athlete with big-play capability.”

Senior tight end Brock Wright finished with three receptions for 32 yards, all in the second half, as he spent the first part of the contest blocking for a run game that Cy-Fair just could not seem to get going against a Highlander defense intent on making the Bobcats throw.

Pustejovsky said that Wright – who is a multifaceted, variously talented offensive weapon – was utilized in response to the situations the Bobcats were presented. “We were trying to get him involved and take what they were giving us,” Pustejovsky said. “[The Woodlands] puts a lot of pressure on you. That front four is pretty active and we’re a little bit young up front. But Brock did a good job.”

Pustejovsky has a pretty good idea of what the Bobcats will work on in the next two weeks, before facing Cypress Lakes on Sept. 9 at Cy-Fair FCU Stadium.

“We’ll work on getting better, getting these things fixed,” Pustejovsky said. “It’s mainly ball security and making good decisions, so we don’t turn it over like this in two weeks.”

Even just moments after the defeat, Pustejovsky could see the bright spots. And perhaps the brightest spot of all is that he sees a very tangible, achievable road to improvement. “We’re just going to have to get better across the board and play smarter,” Pustejovsky said. “All of our mistakes tonight are fixable. The effort was there and the kids played extremely hard. Of course, we’re disappointed we didn’t win the ball game, but I think we’ll be all right.”



The Woodlands uses stingy defense to top Cy-Fair 23-20

Friday, August 26, 2016

By **Kevin Cook**

CYPRESS — The Woodlands rode a staunch defensive effort to a close victory against Cy-Fair at Cy-Fair FCU Stadium on Friday night, edging the Bobcats 23-20.

Turnovers plagued the Cy-Fair offense early and often. Junior quarterback Cameron Arnold threw four interceptions, including two to Highlanders defensive back Ethan Bonner.

The Woodlands struck first, kicking a 28-yard field goal to take a 3-0 lead. Cy-Fair followed up with a one-two punch of an 11-yard touchdown reception and a 26-yard touchdown rush. Chambers was a bright spot on an offense that otherwise struggled.

The Woodlands harassed the Cy-Fair kicking team into two missed extra-point attempts and one blocked extra-point attempt, surely all the more frustrating due to the three-point margin in the final score.

Arnold finished the night 16-of-31 passing for 125 yards and a touchdown to go along with the four interceptions, a tough night on the field to be sure, but also one in which he and Chambers demonstrated some legitimate chemistry and a potential playmaking partnership that the Bobcats can develop as the season progresses.

The Woodlands' senior quarterback Eric Schmid took his lumps Friday, completing nine of his 20 attempts for 118 yards and one touchdown, to wide receiver Kesean Carter. With a swarming Cy-Fair defense, the effort from Schmid was not necessarily pretty, but it was ultimately enough.

Both teams excelled at stopping the run. Cy-Fair averaged 2.9 yards per carry on 30 attempts, while The Woodlands managed only 2.5 yards per carry on 31 attempts, which meant to make headway, the teams had to earn yardage through the air, forcing Arnold into some mistakes that head coach Ed Pustejovsky called "fixable," but which more or less negated a victory Friday night.

Woodlands senior linebacker Zach La Canfora was an absolute dervish, racking up 7.5 tackles, two tackles for loss, a sack, an interception and a fumble recovery, the standout on a defense that looked like world beaters.

Cy-Fair has the week off before taking on the Cypress Lakes Spartans in the first game of district play. The Woodlands has a quick turnaround before facing Spring at The Woodlands High School Thursday, Sept. 1.