



The Woodlands tops 2nd state champ in George Ranch 42-14

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By Corey Roepkin

ROSENBERG — The Woodlands is knocking off defending state champions left and right. The Highlanders are doing it in convincing fashion, too. Eric Schmid on Friday night threw four of his six touchdown passes to Kesean Carter to lead The Woodlands to a 42-14 victory over George Ranch at Traylor Stadium.

George Ranch won the Class 5A, Division I state title last season. Friday's victory comes one week after The Woodlands defeated 2015 Class 6A, Division II state champ Katy, 26-3. Two weeks ago the Highlanders defeated Spring by 29 points. Spring played into the 6A regional semifinals last year and finished with 11 victories.

"Going into the season you look at your non-district schedule and you go, 'What was I thinking?'" The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "Each week the kids continue to perform. We improved and we got more confident. The win last week was big in terms of momentum."

The Highlanders (4-0) started quickly in both halves. They scored on the first three drives of each half. Their second touchdown in the third quarter gave them a 35-7 lead that George Ranch (2-2) never threatened.

The homestanding Longhorns had no answer for the Highlanders' passing game that struck quickly and with big plays. Schmid connected with Carter for touchdown passes of 60, 62, 44 and 40 yards. He finished with five receptions for 204 yards.

“He was just getting open,” Eric Schmid said. “I had to get the ball to him. He was running good routes.” Added Mark Schmid: “Kesean has some afterburners. He can go get just about any ball. I don’t know if it is necessarily a connection, but he has the ability to close on balls. Kesean does an outstanding job.”

Eric Schmid finished completed 13 of his 17 passes for 272 yards. He did not play the majority of the fourth quarter. Grant Murphy and Christopher Stewart also caught touchdown passes.

George Ranch has high hopes for its first season as a 6A team, but so far it is not going well. The Longhorns opened with a big win over Weslaco but have struggled in two games against Houston-area 6A teams The Woodlands and Dickinson.

Running back Alex Fontenot, a Colorado pledge, was a bright spot for George Ranch. He gained more than 109 yards on 21 carries and scored two touchdowns. His 25-yard touchdown run after a fumbled pitch got the Longhorns within 21-7 with seven minutes left in the second quarter.