

Brewer, Lake Travis take down The Woodlands in Class 6A final



By Demetrio Teniente
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ARLINGTON - Capturing the first state title in program history, in honor of a seriously injured teammate, with a coach that was on the school's very first varsity team, led by that coach's son, seemed like the perfect ending to The Woodlands season.

But that's not the story the Highlanders got.

Saturday night, the Lake Travis Cavaliers wrote their own storybook ending—throttling The Woodlands 41-13 in the Class 6A Division I State Championship at AT&T Stadium.

"I'm extremely proud of these kids and the way they've played all season long," The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "It is unfortunate that someone has to lose this game, because in my opinion there are really no losers. But when you lose the game you walk off the field feeling a little differently than [the team that won]."

Lake Travis' senior quarterback Charlie Brewer carved up the Highlanders' defense to the tune of 434 total yards of offense with 4 touchdowns and one interception.

The Woodlands (15-1) struggled to move the ball all night, picking up just 15 first downs to the Cavaliers 22. Lake Travis (15-1) also outgained the Highlanders with 490 total offensive yards to The Woodlands' 291. The Highlanders averaged 488.9 yards per game coming into Saturday's matchup.

"Lake Travis jumped out on us and we couldn't catch up," Mark Schmid said. "It got hard because it took us out of our game plan. We were forced into doing some things and because they had the lead they could sit back and play it differently in the secondary. They are a good football team, they played better than we did tonight and they deserved the win."

Saturday's championship win gives Lake Travis its sixth in program history and it's first in Class 6A. The Cavaliers lost to Katy 34-7 in last year's championship game.

The Highlanders didn't have the greatest of starts in its return to the championship stage for the first time since 2003.

A three-and-out on their opening possession was quickly followed by Lake Travis effortlessly driving down the field for a touchdown.

Charlie Brewer completed all four of his throws on the drive, including a pass to a wide open Cade Green in the end zone for a 9-yard touchdown to make it 7-0 Lake Travis with 8:28 left in the first quarter.

The Highlander defense managed to keep Lake Travis from building too much momentum and forced a three-and-out of its own on the Cavaliers second drive.

But, the Highlanders simply couldn't get anything going offensively. The Woodlands went three-and-out on its first three possessions and senior quarterback Eric Schmid threw an interception on the Highlanders' fourth drive.

It wasn't until midway through the second quarter that The Woodlands picked up its first, first down of the game and on its final drive of the half, Eric Schmid found senior wide out Dylan Casey one-on-one on the outside.

A Lake Travis' corner got a hand on the pass, but Casey kept his focus and corralled the ball to get The Woodlands on the board with 25 seconds left in the first half.

The Highlanders had their point after blocked, so Lake Travis took a 27-6 lead into the locker room.

Charlie Brewer, an SMU commit, put on a clinic Saturday night—further demonstrating why he was named Offensive Player of the Year in Class 6A by the Associated Press.

The senior quarterback was 12-of-16 passing for 162 yards with three touchdowns in the first two quarters. He also rushed for 53 yards on five carries.

He was 27-37 passing on the night, bringing his completion percentage at 77.2 for the year, making him the national record holder for best completion percentage in a season, passing Dano Graves from Folsom, Calif (75.2 in 2009).

Trailing by multiple scores in the second half, The Woodlands kept fighting but was unable to move the ball consistently against the Cavaliers' defense.

Down 34-6 in the third, a door seemed to open for The Woodlands when Dylan Casey picked off Brewer with 5:23 left in the quarter. It was just the third interception thrown by Brewer in 2016.

The Highlanders were unable to do anything with the turnover though, as on their ensuing drive, Eric Schmid was intercepted in the end zone by Lake Travis junior defensive back Jake Foster on a pass intended for Casey.

Eric Schmid finished the night 16-for-24 passing with 131 yards and two touchdowns. Senior running back Carlos Ramos finished the night with 91 rushing yards on 21 carries.

It wasn't the ending The Woodlands wanted, but senior defensive lineman Zach Loane said it was important for the Highlanders to remember the journey that got them to the championship game.

"It is very disappointing and obviously not the outcome we wanted," Loane said. "But we said we'd be here, and to actually be here is still a great feeling. There is so much to be proud of this season. Taking down teams like Katy, George Ranch and Allen—those are great football teams. There is just so much to be proud of."



The Woodlands Highlanders Fall Short to Lake Travis in State Title Game

By Jim East, WOL Sports
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ARLINGTON, Texas – The Woodlands Highlanders, who all season long had been the team applying pressure to the opposition, finally felt the squeeze in Saturday night's state championship game against Lake Travis at AT&T Stadium.

The Lake Travis Cavaliers defeat The Woodlands Highlanders 41-13 in the UIL Texas State Championship

The Cavaliers jumped out to a 27-0 lead early in the second quarter, and that early deficit was too much for the Highlanders to overcome as Lake Travis cruised the rest of the way to a 41-13 victory. The Cavaliers' sure-tackling defensive line and all-state quarterback Charlie Brewer were the keys to the team's fast start.

For The Woodlands (15-1), a record-setting and emotional season ended on a bittersweet note, but that takes nothing away from the marvelous accomplishments of this Highlander squad. On Saturday, they simply ran into a great team that executed its game plan to perfection in the first 15 minutes.

There were several players who stepped up and had big games for The Woodlands. Running back Carlos Ramos lowered his head and bruised his way up the middle for a solid performance. He was especially effective on first down, picking up five or more yards and putting his team in good shape to keep the drive alive.

Wide receiver Dylan Casey had a touchdown reception and an interception, and quarterback Eric Schmid finished with more than 200 yards of total offense and two touchdown passes.

Lake Travis (15-1) relied on their defense to set the tone early. The Cavaliers grounded the Highlanders' high octane passing game while also containing Schmid and Ramos, something no team had managed to do all year.

Meanwhile Brewer threw touchdown passes on two of the Cavaliers' first three possessions to give his team a 14-0 lead with less than three minutes to go in the first quarter.

But the knockout blow came on two plays in a span of three minutes. Lake Travis intercepted Schmid late in the first quarter, and on their first play following the turnover, they pulled off a reverse option pass as Garrett Wilson lofted a 40-yard touchdown to Maleek Barkley.

Sensing the game was slipping away, the Highlanders tried to rally on their next drive, but a pass interference call went against them – there was plenty of contact by both players involved – and a tremendous apparent catch by Casey was ruled incomplete. After The Woodlands punted the ball away, Brewer hooked up with Barkley on a 65-yard touchdown pass with nine minutes left in the half.

The Woodlands had the last word in the half when Casey hauled in a 30-yard touchdown. The PAT was blocked, making it a 27-6 game.

The Highlander defense made excellent adjustments at halftime and only allowed two touchdowns. One of those scores, a 15-yard touchdown catch by Cade Brewer, was conclusively revealed to be an incompleting on the replay. That upped the Cavalier lead to 34-6.

In the final seconds of the game, and of their season, The Woodlands showed their determination to fight until the very end. Schmid zipped a nine-yard touchdown pass to Connor Patrick to make it 41-13.