

# THE COURIER

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY



## The Woodlands rolls past Montgomery, clinches 5th straight district title

By Demetrio Teniente  
October 28, 2016

SHENANDOAH - The Woodlands put on a show for its alumni Friday night at Woodforest Bank Stadium. Putting up 450 total yards while holding the Montgomery to just 41, The Woodlands cruised to a 49-0 win over Montgomery to begin the Highlanders homecoming weekend on high note.

"The kids are buying into it and want to be better each week," The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "In their performance in the different units - defense, offense, and special teams-I feel good about what we did tonight."

In the first ever meeting between two schools, the Highlanders (9-0, 5-0) jumped out to a five touchdown lead in the first half and never looked back. Senior quarterback Eric Schmid had another solid outing for the Highlanders completing 17 of his 21 pass attempts for 235 yards with three touchdowns, and no interceptions. The Sam Houston State commit accounted for four of the Highlanders seven touchdowns as he also rushed for a touchdown.

"Each week [Eric] gets a little more 'free reign' to do some things," coach Schmid said. "Hopefully by the time we get to the playoffs, he will have almost full control."

Eric Schmid's first score of the night was a three yard run to give The Woodlands a 7-0 lead in the first two minutes of action. The Highlander quarterback threw a pair of touchdowns to senior wide out Christopher Stewart - a 30 yard pitch and catch in the first quarter and a 10 yard hookup in the second. Stewart finished with 8 catches and 103 yards to go with his two scores.

Junior wide out Kesean Carter caught six of Eric Schmid's passes for 56 yards, including a 12 yard touchdown to make it a 35-0 game with just 15 seconds left in the first half.

The Woodlands' defense shut down a Montgomery (6-3, 3-2) offense that had been averaging more than 30 points a game through eight contests. It was a frustrating night for the Bears, who finished with just 41 total yards and five first downs Friday night.

"They are good," Montgomery coach John Bolfig said. "We did what we could do, but they whooped us. They whooped us up front and when that happens it is pretty tough to make plays. We made some mistakes and you can't do that against a good team. But all the credit goes to The Woodlands- they are a good team and they've been doing that to everyone."

The Bears had just 21 total yards in the first half and picked up three first downs, but one came via defensive penalty. "It was our first shut out [of the season]," Coach Schmid said. "Really we shut out Oak Ridge, but [the offense] gave up a safety. Great job by the defense. They've played well all season and tonight was no different."

While Eric Schmid was getting it done through the air, The Woodlands also dominated on the ground. Senior running backs Jordan Talford and Carlos Ramos ran for a combined 129 yards and two touchdowns. Talford picked up a large chunk of his yards on a 43 yard touchdown run in the second half. He finished the night with just seven carries but averaged 9.29 yards a pop to finish with 65 total rushing yards.

The win gives The Woodlands its fifth straight district championship and the right to host a playoff game in the bi-district round.

"It is huge [to host the game], especially with the region we are in and the draw that we get," coach Schmid said. "It is not like we are playing somebody that is 20 minutes away. We are playing somebody 300 miles away. Travel could be an issue and everything that goes with travel. To be able to make them come here is big for us."

The Woodlands will close out its regular seasons schedule against crosstown rival College Park (1-8, 1-4) while Montgomery will try to regain some momentum against Lufkin (4-1, 3-2) before the bi-district round.

"We are going to be looking for improvement like we do every week," Bolfin said. "We are just going to try and get better at all the things that we do. If we can just improve a little bit over the next few weeks, who knows what will happen."



# Highlanders obliterate Bears to clinch home field edge in first playoff game

By Jim East, Woodlands Online Sports

Published 10/28/2016

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS – Delivering a nearly flawless performance in the first half of Friday night's game, The Woodlands High School Highlanders wiped out Montgomery 49-0 at Woodforest Bank Stadium.



The Highlanders amassed a 35-0 lead by halftime, but even that doesn't tell the whole story. Consider these first-half numbers:

- The Woodlands had 14 first downs and allowed just two.
- They gained 349 yards and allowed only 25.
- The Highlander offense had six possessions and scored five touchdowns, including four scoring drives of 60-plus yards.
- The Highlander defense limited the Bears to negative yardage on three of their five possessions.

Of course, the most important number for The Woodlands is 9, as in 9-0. The Highlanders moved one win away from a perfect regular season record while also securing a key win over their conference rivals. The Bears (6-3) could have created a tie atop the conference standings if they'd managed to pull off the upset.

With the win, the Highlanders also guaranteed themselves home field advantage in the first round of the playoffs. "With the region we're in and the draw we're in, it's not like we're playing someone 20 minutes away. We're playing somebody 300 miles away," said Highlander coach Mark Schmid. "Travel and all the things that go with travel can be an issue. To be able to make them come here is big for us."

But before turning their attention to the postseason, The Woodlands will try to wrap up a 10-0 perfect season next week against hometown rival College Park. "It's always a big game with them," said Schmid, who said you can throw out the records when these two teams meet. "We're so close to each other, the kids go to the same churches. It's going to be fun."

The Woodlands didn't waste any time finding and exploiting weaknesses in the Bears secondary. The game was two minutes old when quarterback Eric Schmid had completed three passes for 51 yards and then capped off the drive with a three-yard keeper. Lockhart West booted through the extra point – he was a perfect 7-for-7 on the night – to make it 7-0.

The Highlanders doubled their lead to 14-0 with 6:10 left in the first quarter when Christopher Stewart hauled in a 30-yard touchdown pass on a crossing route over the middle. Stewart, the Player of the Game, caught eight passes for 96 yards and two scores. And that was ALL in the first half.

Schmid had another tremendous effort, completing 16 passes for 217 yards (an average of more than 13 yards per completion) and three touchdowns. Running back Jordan Talford gained 76 yards, 43 of which came on a touchdown run late in the second quarter.

Schmid, Talford, Stewart and the rest of the team's front-line offensive weapons saw only limited action as Coach Schmid seized an opportunity to get his reserves some valuable playing time. Grant Murphy and Quinn Binney both ran for touchdowns in the second half, and the defense stayed tough throughout to notch the Highlanders' first shutout of the year.

"We had a lot of different people touch the football," said Coach Schmid. "Whenever you get to do that, and when more kids get to contribute, that makes it a special night. You keep legs fresh, you reduce the chance of injury and no one is taking a pounding."