

THE COURIER

OF MONTGOMERY  COUNTY



The Woodlands routs Conroe, remains unbeaten in 12-6A

By Rob Tate
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SHENANDOAH — Having already defeated the three other teams currently slotted for the playoffs out of District 12-6A, state-ranked The Woodlands is looking to continue improving to close out league play. The Highlanders did just that against Conroe Friday night.

The Woodlands remained unbeaten in district play and atop the standings with a 42-0 win over the Tigers at Woodforest Bank Stadium on winter-hat-and-gloves kind of homecoming night.

"Every time we step on the field, it's an opportunity for us to get better as a football team," The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "That's how we approach it. We know that everybody that we play does a great job in preparation and is going to give us a great game. Tonight was no different. Conroe did a great job in posing some problems for us and making things hard for us."

The Highlanders (5-1, 4-0), ranked No. 8 in this week's Associated Press Class 6A poll, have won 10 straight contests over Conroe with the victory.

The Tigers (1-5, 1-3) came in off their first win of the season against College Park last week. Sophomore running back Bryeton Gilford totaled four rushing touchdowns on the night to lead the Highlanders. He totaled a game-high 112 yards in the process.

But to start out the night, it was senior speedster Kesean Carter who made an electric run to the end zone after Conroe's game-opening possession resulted in a punt.

Carter missed the Beaumont West Brook game two weeks back but is looking like he's in prime condition these days. "He's back," Schmid said with a grin. "That was just him deciding that he was going to take that thing to the house. He cut and jetted and did what he needed to do to get it in the end zone. That was all him."

Carter caught the punt, reversed field and found a seam up the middle for a 56-yard return. "Coach just told me to come around the wall that they were setting up," Carter said. "Then make some magic happen."

Kyle Trauffler set up The Woodlands' second score of the night with an interception of Conroe quarterback Jordan Black.

Lucas Summers scored on the ensuing drive as it opened up with a 28-yard gain. Two plays later, he pushed through with a 3-yard touchdown. Summers totaled 74 yards on eight carries for the night. Gilford found the end zone twice in the second quarter to help the Highlanders to a 28-0 halftime lead. His touchdowns came from 11 and 1 yards out.

The sophomore then rushed home a 45-yard score with 6:39 left in the third quarter for this third of the game. Gilford's fourth came on the next Highlanders possession, and he put it home from 14 yards to cap a seven-play drive with Casey Sunseri taking over at quarterback.

Starter Quinton Johnson was 5-of-10 for 77 yards. Malik Johnson had a 41-yard reception while Carter had a 24-yard grab.

Connor Klapesky also picked off a pass in the first half. Jake Roome recovered a fumble on Conroe's last possession of the night.

The shutout by The Woodlands was its first since beating Montgomery 49-0 nearly a year ago on Oct. 28, 2016. It also marked the first time the Highlanders didn't allow the opposition to reach double digits this year.

"Very impressed," Schmid said of the defensive efforts. "Those kids on defense have a tremendous amount of pride at what they do. They play extremely hard and very unselfish football. To get a shutout says a lot about their effort."

Conroe moved the ball well at times with five first downs in the first half. But the two interceptions and a turnover on downs kept it from any point production.

The Tigers totaled 155 yards of offense, 76 of which came on the ground by senior Donaven Lloyd. Ameer Patton picked up 55 yards on six carries in the fourth quarter. Jalen Allen made three catches in the first half for 27 yards.

"I thought we did what we had to do offensively," Conroe coach Robert Walker said. "We tried to take the air out of them."

In the second half, Conroe's Alen Barrera blocked a punt, and Earl Roy pounced on it at the 50. Ty'Dus Clay recovered a fumble in the fourth quarter.

With 41 seconds to go before halftime, a trick double-pass completion to Highlanders quarterback Quinn Binney saw an ugly hit made by a member of the Conroe secondary, Tyrese Lewis. Lewis had to be carted off the field after the delay. In unity, the entire Tigers roster came on the field to pray for their teammate. The injured Tigers player gave a thumbs up as he was taken off the field on a stretcher. Walker didn't have an official update on Lewis postgame.

The Woodlands travels to Montgomery next Friday night while Conroe hosts Lufkin.



The Woodlands' Bryeton Gilford scores four as Highlander football shut out Conroe Tigers

By: J.C. Cartagena, Woodlands Online Sports

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THE WOODLANDS, Texas—Coming off an impressive win last weekend against previously unbeaten Oak Ridge, The Woodlands Highlanders continued their high-scoring ways shutting out Conroe 42-0.

The scoring was opened up early by Texas Tech commit Kesean Carter with his 60-yard punt return touchdown just two minutes into the game. Carter had a relatively silent game from then on but his early score set the tone for the Highlanders. Sophomore running back Bryeton Gilford, last week's Player of the Game with three touchdowns, one-upped himself scoring four rushing touchdowns to go along with 116 yards and another nod as our Player of the Game award.

The Highlanders saw four different quarterbacks get snaps in their Friday night rout of the Tigers. Quinton Johnson started his fourth consecutive week, while Quinn Binney saw action for the Woodlands for the first time since sitting out due to injury. Casey Sunseri and Parker Heath also took snaps in the second half.

Conroe was held to 79 total yards on the night with the Highlanders focusing on the Tigers' game plan to run the ball with running back Donaven Lloyd. Lloyd, last week's Athlete of the Week, accounted for 61 of the Tigers' 79 total yards. It was evident that Conroe's main focus was to get their standout running back the ball early and often. While Lloyd was able to find slight success against the Highlanders defense Tigers' quarterback Jordan Black was unable to get the passing game going, completing only four passes for 22 yards and two interceptions by Kyle Trauffler and Jacob Moore.

The Woodlands remains undefeated in district bringing their record to 5-1 overall and 4-0 in district play. Conroe, unable to capitalize on last week's victory over College Park, move to 1-5 overall with a district record of 1-3. The Highlanders will matchup against the Montgomery Bears while Conroe looks to bounce back in their game with Lufkin.