



## Highlanders win 30th straight game at Woodforest by topping George Ranch

By Jon Poorman  
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SHENANDOAH — When Woodforest Bank Stadium opened its gates in 2008, it was the crown jewel of a Conroe ISD sports complex that came with a \$40 million price tag. And since that time, The Woodlands High School football program has certainly gotten its money's worth.

The Highlanders captured their 30th consecutive victory at their home venue on Friday evening, defeating George Ranch 52-12 in non-district action behind 313 all-purpose yards and five touchdowns from Texas Tech commit Kesean Carter.

The Woodlands, which entered the contest ranked as the No. 8 team in Class 6A by the Associated Press, has not lost at Woodforest since falling to A&M Consolidated on Oct. 4, 2012.

"I think that just kind of tells you how our kids feel about playing here," The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said of the winning streak. "They're excited to play in this stadium in front of their crowd, and it takes them to another level."

George Ranch (1-1), the 2015 Class 5A Division I state champion, lost at home to The Woodlands (1-1) last year, ending up on the wrong side of a 28-point blowout. It was much of the same this time around as the Highlanders pulled away in the second half.

The result also preserved another impressive streak for the Highlanders. The Woodlands has not lost consecutive games in the same season since 2007, and are 10-0 in games played the week after a loss since that time under Schmid.

The Highlanders lost to No. 3 Katy last week in the second-ever game played at Legacy Stadium, falling 24-21 on a 39-yard field goal as time expired.

"It was really good to see how the kids approached the week after the Katy game and things we did in practice in terms of improving and cleaning some things up," Schmid said. "They had the resolve that they were going to come out tonight and get a different outcome. I'm really proud that they were able to do that."

The Longhorns, who finished 6-5 last overall year and were ousted by Atascocita in the bi-district playoffs in their first season as a Class 6A program, knew they were in for another tough challenge against the defending state runners-up.

"That's our second ball game this year," George Ranch coach Ricky Tullos said. "We've got to go watch some film and take the good things we did and work on the things we made mistakes on."

Carter, who had four touchdown grabs against the Longhorns last season, was the first player to reach the end zone on Friday, catching a 17-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Quinn Binney on the Highlanders' opening drive.

George Ranch answered when Jay'Ren Miller scored on a 3-yard run later in the period. The Woodlands added a 23-yard field goal from Fabrizio Pinton in the second and got a huge play on special teams before halftime. With only two seconds on the clock, George Ranch attempted a 24-yard field goal, but Shane Sirdashney blocked the kick, and Carter scooped the ball up and raced 85 yards to the end zone.

That play gave The Woodlands a 17-6 advantage heading to the locker room. It was also Carter's 14th touchdown of 40 yards or more since the beginning of the 2016 season. He also returned the opening kickoff 104 yards for a score against Katy last week.

"It was just momentum," Tullos said. "Momentum is tough, and they had a big field goal block right before half that swung it their way. We needed to get into halftime 10-6. We've got to be better in that phase of the game."

Carter gave the Highlanders a 24-6 lead midway through the third quarter, catching a 20-yard touchdown pass from Binney. The Woodlands' Tommy Long then recovered a Longhorns fumble at the 1-yard line on the ensuing kickoff, and backup quarterback Quinton Johnson - subbing in for the injured Binney - hit Carter for a 1-yard score on his first play of the game.

George Ranch scored on an 18-yard pass from Cristian Jackson to Joshua Whitmore late in the third, but Carter countered with his fifth touchdown, taking the ensuing kickoff back 75 yards. Johnson reached paydirt on a 2-yard keeper, and Bryeton Gilford broke off a 61-yard run to cap the scoring in the fourth.

"It's a good feeling just getting back on the field and take control of the game like we did in the second half," Carter said. "It just felt great with Coach Schmid feeding me and me just doing everything I can to help the team, boost up their confidence and help them out a lot."



# The Woodlands football grabbed George Ranch by the horns

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THE WOODLANDS, Texas-- Woodforest stadium was the site for a prestigious game between The Woodlands Highlanders vs George Ranch Longhorns. This was an exciting matchup between two highly ranked teams in the state. The Woodlands came into this game 0-1 after a tough loss to Katy and for the second week in a row have a tough matchup as George Ranch is no slouch.

The Woodlands defense proved tough from the get go as they held the George Ranch star running back Jay'Ren Miller to almost nothing to start the game off. The Woodlands continued with the strong momentum as the offense looked ready to go and with 7:47 left in the first quarter, Quinn Binney through a slinger for a 17 yard touchdown to Kesean Carter.

In the second drive for George Ranch, the offense seemed to flow a lot better and ended with a 3 yard touchdown from Jay'Ren Miller with 2:40 remaining in the first quarter but unfortunately the extra point was no good and the chance to tie it up sailed away.

At the end of the first quarter, The Woodlands had a chance to increase their lead but kicker Fabrizio Pinton barely missed the field goal.

The short pass game seemed to be the answer for The Woodlands in the first half and Quinn Binney looked comfortable once again under center.

With 6:51 left in the second quarter, Brayden Turner of George Ranch recovered a lost ball from Quinn Binney to give George Ranch a chance to go ahead in the game. George Ranch seemed to get their passing going to start the drive off with a big 33 yard pass from quarterback Christian Jackson.

The offensive play was stopped short from a tough Woodlands front end.

The Woodlands continued the strong play with an beautiful 48 yard pass from quarterback Quinn Binney to Kesean Carter for the second big connection from the two. The drive ended with a field goal to put The Highlanders up 10-6.

George Ranch made a last minute surge down the field led by running back Jay'Ren Miller as he bursted upfield with a 65 yard run

George Ranch attempted a field goal that was eventually blocked and then recovered by Kesean Carter who returned it 93 yards for an amazing last minute touchdown to end the half.

The Woodlands led at the half 17-6. The key for The Woodlands in the second half was to keep the passing game strong because Binney and Carter were playing great in the first half. The key for George Ranch was to get Jay'Ren Miller the ball, he is the best offensive player on the team and yet he only had seven attempts in the first half.

At the start of the third quarter, the defenses ruled the game for both teams. The offenses were at a stalemate for a while until Quinn Binney of The Woodlands once again connected with Kesean Carter for 41 yards. The two connected once again for a 20 yard touchdown to increase The Highlander lead.

The Woodlands then kicked it off and recovered a fumbled ball on the one yard line with 7:55 left in the 3rd quarter. The recovery led to another touchdown for The Woodlands with a one yard pass from quarterback Quinn Binney to Kesean Carter once again.

After that touchdown, Kesean Carter had three receiving touchdowns in the game.

George Ranch then put on a push to catch up and with 1:33 left in the 3rd quarter George Ranch quarterback Cristian Jackson threw an 18 yard touchdown pass to Joshua Whitmore but once again Kesean Carter blocking the field goal attempt to make the score 31-12.

Once again, Kesean Carter making his presence felt returning a kickoff for a 74 yard touchdown with 1:25 remaining in the 3rd quarter. That made five total touchdowns so far in the game for Carter. The Woodlands defense just kept putting it on George Ranch in the 4th quarter and the Longhorns had no answer.

The Woodlands quarterback Quinton Johnson then ran in a quarterback keeper for a four yard touchdown.

With 5:05 left, The Woodlands running back Bryeton Gilford ran in a 61 yard touchdown to increase the score even more for The Woodlands which made the score 52-12.

The Woodlands came away with a victory and they won very convincingly 52-12 was the final at Woodforest Stadium.