

Last-second field goal lifts Katy over The Woodlands



By Jon Poorman
Saturday, September 16, 2017

KATY - In a game full of momentum-shifting plays, Katy made the most important one of them all in the waning seconds of a Class 6A heavyweight battle against The Woodlands on Saturday night. With just 29 seconds remaining in the game, the Tigers forced a fumble by The Woodlands quarterback Quinn Binney, and defensive lineman Moro Ojomo made the recovery at the Highlanders' 24.

Seth Small then connected on a 39-yard field goal with two seconds to play to hand the Tigers a 24-21 non-district victory in the second-ever game played at Legacy Stadium. The Tigers (1-0) now lead the all-time series against The Woodlands (0-1) by a count of 7-6 and avenged a 23-6 loss to the Highlanders last season.

"They're a talented team," Katy coach Gary Joseph said of The Woodlands. "They're a good football program, and they're well-coached, and early on in the year, it's tough on us. But it's a process, and it was a good ball game for both of us. I'm proud of our win, and I would have been proud of the kids no matter which way we went in this thing because we fought, and that's what I wanted us to do."

Both teams were ranked by the Associated Press entering the contest - Katy at No. 3 and The Woodlands at No. 6. But it was also the first game for each team this season in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

Katy was led by a powerful running game and BYU commit Josh Oglesby, who rushed for 164 yards and two touchdowns on 24 carries. He filled in as the starter as four-star recruit Deondrick Glass saw only moderate playing time due to some minor lingering injury issues.

"It's a team game, and that's what we have to have," Joseph said. "Last year, when Deondrick went down in the playoffs, [Oglesby] had a couple really fine games. It's an expectation, and I knew that Josh would do well. It was really tough in there. They have a really fine football team, and no doubt, all our kids really stepped up and showed a lot of character out there."

The Woodlands' Kesean Carter - the reigning Class 6A champion in the 100-yard dash - got the game started with a bang, showing off his game-breaking speed with a 104-yard return for a touchdown on the opening kickoff. "That was electric," The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "We had been waiting around for three weeks to get on the field, and to start your season off that way was pretty exciting."

Neither team could get much going offensively in the opening frame, but Katy was finally able to answer in the second when Oglesby took a handoff and raced 80 yards up the right sideline to knot the game at 7.

Later in the quarter, the Tigers took advantage of a costly miscue by the Highlanders. Katy forced a fumble after a catch by Zayne Watson, and Kaden Gonzales was there to recover at the 3-yard line. Oglesby did the rest, sprinting to the left pylon to give his team a 14-7 advantage with 3:11 to play before halftime. Oglesby collected 123 yards in the first half alone.

Despite trailing at halftime, the Highlanders came out with some firepower in the third quarter. Watson found redemption when he hauled in a pass from Quinn Binney and raced 61 yards to even the score.

The Highlanders then produced a turnover of their own. Sean Stavinoha pounced on a fumble by Oglesby, and The Woodlands' offense set up shop at the Katy 30-yard line. Four plays later, Lucas Summers dove into the end zone from 1 yard out to put the Highlanders up 21-14 with 5:09 remaining in the third quarter.

"I think we saw some great things out of the defense, being able to step up and play with a very power run-oriented team like Katy," Schmid said. "All those guys up front, those three down linemen, they're brand new, so you got to see them do their thing and know that they can play physical football. We made some big plays when we had to and made some big stops."

With the clock winding down in the 4th quarter, Glass found paydirt from 7 yards out to tie the contest once again. The touchdown came on a fourth-and-1 play with just 4:20 remaining on the clock.

The Woodlands started its final drive of the game on its own 20-yard line with 56 seconds left. But the Tigers came through with a huge play one final time to give themselves a shot at the win in regulation.

The Highlanders managed just 23 yards rushing on 29 carries. Binney, despite a couple of fourth-quarter turnovers, made some plays in the passing game in his first start, completing 17 of 29 passes for 221 yards. Watson finished with five catches for 99 yards, Malik Johnson had seven receptions for 57 yards, and Carter added three grabs for 48 yards.

"Unfortunately, we're playing what should have been a Week 3 game on our first ball game, but they are too," Schmid said. "But we made way too many mistakes tonight to beat a quality football team like Katy. We turned the ball over a couple times, got a lot of penalties, and so those are things we can fix. And that's what I told the kids - we did some great things tonight, and our effort was awesome, intensity was awesome, but we've got to clean some stuff up, and we will."

Seth Small's field goal sends Katy over The Woodlands in season opener

By Jason McDaniel
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Seth Small saved his best for the biggest moment.

After misfiring on two field-goal attempts, Katy's senior kicker nailed a 39-yarder with no time left, lifting the Tigers to a 24-21 victory over The Woodlands in both teams' season opener Saturday night at Legacy Stadium.

"We bounced back from adversity just like with the hurricane," said Small, referencing his community's recovery from Hurricane Harvey, which cost the Tigers their first two games of the season.

The victory sent the Tigers to 4-4 against the Highlanders since 2008. Katy is 81-3 against all other regular-season opponents in that span.

"They're a talented team," Katy coach Gary Joseph said. "They're a good football program, and they're well-coached. Early in the year, it's tough. But it's a process, and it was a good ballgame for both of us. I'm proud of our win, and I would have been proud of our kids either way we went in this thing because we fought, and that's what I wanted to see."

Joseph was looking at a deficit in the third quarter after the Highlanders surged ahead. First, they forced a three-and-out by Katy. Then quarterback Quinn Binney let loose, finding Kesean Carter for 15 yards and Zayne Watson - who atoned for a costly fumble - for a 61-yard TD and 14-14 tie. Josh Oglesby's fumble set up The Woodlands' go-ahead score. Sean Stavinoha recovered, and six plays later, Lucas Summers punched in a 1-yard score for a 21-14 lead.

Then Katy pulled even after a Woodlands turnover. KeShon Rowe intercepted Binney, and Deondrick Glass, who was sick and didn't check in for his first carry until the third quarter, relieved Oglesby and scored on a 7-yard run on fourth-and-goal.

"I challenged him to step in a little bit and give Oglesby a break after a long run, and he believes in himself," Joseph said. "He's not where he needs to be, but we're going to get him there."

Another Highlanders turnover - their third - set up the winning kick by Small, who missed a 27-yard attempt in the second quarter and a 47-yarder in the fourth before coming through - after he was iced. "Short-term memory loss," Small said. "The guys always have my back, always saying, 'It's the next one, next kick,' and I had to flush it and forget about it."

The state-ranked powers spent the start of the game struggling to capitalize on clock-consuming drives. The Woodlands held the ball for 4½ minutes before stalling, and then the Tigers kept it for nearly 5 minutes - with help from three Highlanders penalties - before giving it back on a failed fake punt. But two big plays book-ended those empty possessions.

The game started in spectacular fashion, with Carter, a Texas Tech pledge, taking the first kickoff 2 yards deep in his end zone and returning it 102 yards for a score.

"That was electric," said Highlanders coach Mark Schmid. "We've been waiting around for three weeks to get on the field, and to start your season off that way was pretty exciting."

Katy answered when Oglesby, a BYU commit, reached the right sideline and pulled away for an 80-yard TD and 7-7 tie.

The Tigers had two chances to take the lead on a short field. They came up empty on the first, set up by a Michael Matus sack and Rowe's 20-yard punt return, with Small's 27-yard field-goal try sailing wide. But they cashed in on the second after defensive back Kaden Gonzales recovered Watson's drop at the Katy 5.

Two plays later, Oglesby notched his second TD from 3 yards out for a 14-7 Katy lead, which stood at halftime. Oglesby finished with 164 yards on 25 carries.

"Unfortunately, we're playing what should have been a Week 3 game on our first ballgame," Schmid said. "They are, too, but we made way too many mistakes to beat a quality football team like Katy."



Katy squeaks by The Woodlands football in final seconds

By: Kyle Roberts, Woodlands Online Sports
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KATY, Texas-- Legacy Stadium was the site for a dream high school football matchup as The Woodlands took on the Katy Tigers. Both teams came into this game with top ten rankings and this is always an exciting matchup every year.

The Highlanders made the first mark on the scoreboard right at the opening kick as Kesean Carter took it 104 yards all the way to the house. The Woodlands seemed a lot more energized to start the game off. Quinn Binney also started off the game well, completing a few key passes and even getting away from the pressure of the solid Katy front end.

Katy's offense couldn't seem to get anything going early. The Woodlands secondary and linebacker core held them to short yardage for most of the first quarter.

With 29 seconds remaining in the first quarter, Katy went for a fake punt on a 4th and five situation and The Woodlands front end stuffed the surprise play and the story of the first quarter remained the same.

Katy finally had their breakthrough as running back Josh Oglesby cruised right up the middle and took it 80 yards for a touchdown to tie it up with 9:50 left in the second quarter.

Both defenses held tough in the first half and neither offense really had a groove quite yet in the second quarter. Katy did show signs of breaking through with the run from Oglesby but not much was going well offensively.

With 7:13 left in the half Katy Quarterback Austin Marshall just missed the go ahead pass up top to his receiver. Katy also barely missed a field goal from almost 20 yards out, once again missing their chance to go ahead.

Katy's defense kept being relentless as they forced a fumble with 3:22 left on the five yard line with yet another chance to go ahead. Josh Oglesby ran to the outside for a Katy touchdown with just over three minutes on the clock. Katy led 14-7 at the end of the second quarter.

At the half, Katy led 14-7 and both defenses looked very good in the first half. In the second half, The Woodlands key needed to be to get their passing game going and Katy needs to keep running the ball as it worked very effectively in the second quarter.

The Woodlands came out strong in the 3rd quarter with a beautiful pass play from Quinn Binney to Zayne Watson for 61 yards to tie it up with 9:19 left to play in the quarter. Binney looked very comfortable in the pocket and that play proved his poise. Later in the quarter, The Woodlands recovered a fumble that turned into a score with a one yard run by Lucas Summers. The Woodlands continued to control the game going into the 4th quarter as their defense dominated the struggling Katy offense.

Katy's offense then brought in their powerhouse Deondick Glass for a 4th and 1 play that ended in a touchdown that tied the game up with 4:20 left to go in the game.

With 29 seconds left Katy recovers a fumble on the 24 yard line for the last possession. Katy ran the ball to get the clock down to two seconds. Katy chose to bring out their kicker Seth Small who made the game winning field goal. Katy won 24-21 in a classic game to say the least.