

THE COURIER

OF MONTGOMERY  COUNTY



The Woodlands rolls to bi-district win over Aldine Davis

By Justin Maskulinski
November 16, 2018

SHENANDOAH — The Woodlands scored early and often and defeated Aldine Davis 66-7 in a Region II-6A (Div. I) bi-district game Friday at Woodforest Bank Stadium. The Highlanders (8-3) will take on Cedar Ridge — a 21-15 winner over Langham Creek on Friday — in the Region II-6A Area round next weekend.

The Woodlands scored first Friday night, then Davis (6-5) answered quickly with a kickoff return score. After that, the Highlanders put up 59 unanswered points. “You can’t hardly script it any better than that,” The Woodlands coach Jim Rapp said. “I’m excited about the way the kids played — they were fired up and ready to go.”

The Highlander defense sent the Falcons backward nine yards on its first drive, setting up a short 29-yard scoring drive to break the scoreless tie with 9:11 to play in the opening quarter.

Davis tied the game with Culverson Taylor, Jr.’s 96-yard kickoff return score, then it was all The Woodlands.

The Highlanders unofficially totaled 481 yards of offense and, due to the lopsided score, 16 different players got an offensive touch. “We had a great week of practice on both sides of the ball,” Rapp said. “I’m not surprised that we moved the ball and did the things that we did. I’m not surprised at how we played defense.”

The Highlanders scored four more times in the opening quarter. Casey Sunseri and Chase Taylor scored rushing touchdowns of 33 and 26 yards, respectively, just 11 seconds apart thanks to a Davis fumbled on a kickoff return.

Bryeton Gilford’s second rushing score of the night, a 3-yard plunge, made it 28-7 with 5:10 to go in the first. Ben Mills entered the game as the quarterback in the heavy package, then found defensive tackle Sean Stavinoha — who made a nifty catch and toe-tap — for a 1-yard score with 2:44 to go.

“I know Ben’s a really good quarterback, so I thought it would he would lay it right in my hands,” Stavinoha said. “I’m glad I actually caught it, because I thought I was going to drop it at the end.”

The Woodlands added two scores in the second quarter. Sunseri threw a 9-yard pass to Palmer Jacobs early, then Mills connected with Malik Johnson for 32 yards late.

The Highlander defense held Davis to just 13 yards of offense in the first half. “We lost a couple times during the season and we were ready to go by this time of year with the playoffs starting,” Stavinoha said. “We didn’t want to let anything up. We wanted to make them quit early, and that’s what we did.”

With a steady rushing attack, the Highlanders held the Falcons down in the second half. Johnson made it 56-7 on the second play of the second half. He caught the tapped snap from Sunseri and ran it 64 yards just 45 seconds into half. Jacoby Clarke’s 3-yard run made it 63-7 just past the midway point of the third quarter.

Early in the fourth quarter, Fabrizio Pinton kicked a 27-yard field goal to cap a lengthy time-draining drive and make it 66-7.

Sunseri completed 8-of-9 passes for 192 yards and two scores, while also rushing for 56 yards and a touchdown. Johnson was the top target, catching five passes for 141 yards and a pair of scores. Clarke, who got most of his carries in the second half, led the team with 66 rush yards.

As a defense, The Woodlands totaled four sacks and four tackles for loss while holding Davis to just 42 yards of offense.

Friday's win was the first postseason win for the Highlanders since a 2016 state semifinal win over Allen.

THE WOODLANDS 66, ALDINE DAVIS 7

Aldine Davis	7	0	0	0	—	7
The Woodlands	35	14	14	3	—	66

SCORING SUMMARY

First quarter

TWHS: Bryeton Gilford 1 run (Fabrizio Pinton kick), 9:11.

ADHS: Culverson Taylor, Jr. 96 kickoff return (Carlos Pardo kick), 8:54.

TWHS: Casey Sunseri 33 run (Pinton kick), 7:48.

TWHS: Chase Taylor 26 run (Pinton kick), 7:37.

TWHS: Gilford 3 run (Pinton kick), 5:10.

TWHS: Ben Mills 1 pass to Sean Stavinoha (Pinton kick), 2:44

Second quarter

TWHS: Sunseri 9 pass to Palmer Jacobs (Pinton kick), 10:40.

TWHS: Mills 32 pass to Malik Johnson (Pinton kick), 1:17.

Third quarter

TWHS: Sunseri 64 pass to Johnson (Pinton kick), 11:15.

TWHS: Jacoby Clarke 3 run (Jordan Blethen kick), 5:33.

Fourth quarter

TWHS: Pinton 27 field goal, 8:45.