

# THE COURIER

OF MONTGOMERY  COUNTY

## The Woodlands rolls over New Caney

By Mike Taylor

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NEW CANEY – At least the scoreboard wasn't working. The Woodlands football team steamrolled through New Caney Friday night at Don Ford Stadium with a 42-0 win that clinched a share of the District 14-5A title.

The Highlanders quickly erased any memories of last weekend's 15-13 loss to Lufkin with a 28-point first quarter, taking only 11 plays to build that margin.

But before the offensive fireworks began, the scoreboard displaying the gameclock and The Woodland's point total went out. It was a good thing, because the Highlanders needed a mere minute to build a 7-0 lead. It didn't get any better after that.

The Woodlands scored three touchdowns on its next five offensive plays, and Highlanders' coach Mark Schmid sent his starters to the bench at the conclusion of the first quarter.

"It really turned out like I wanted it to," Schmid said. "I wanted our starters to get some quality reps early and then I wanted to get them out."

The backups packed on two quick touchdowns by the midway point of the second quarter, and from there it was time to run out the clock.

"I wanted the rest of the kids to get in and play quite a bit," Schmid said. "Those kids practice hard and they do the same things that the starters do. This was their reward and their opportunity to get to play for a majority of the game."

Backup running back Cory Michalak ran for 21 yards on two carries for the Highlanders, including a 16-yard score in the second that ended up being the final points of the game.

Art Arias added 25 yards on five carries and Greg Merchant finished with six carries for 32 yards.

Backup quarterback Ryan Eastman completed all five of his passes for 54 yards and an 11-yard scoring toss to Logan Rowe.

Cole Jordan played the second half for The Woodlands and completed seven-of-eight for 74 yards. Alex Tweedy had six receptions on the night for 50 yards, while Erik Wolfe, Brett Felton and Jonathan Wilcher also hauled in passes for the Highlanders.

New Caney (1-8, 0-5) couldn't recover an onside kick on the opening kickoff, and didn't convert a first down in the first half, gaining only 13 yards on 16 plays and losing two fumbles.

The second half did see the Eagles move the chains twice, but they ended up with only 49 yards of total offense and didn't complete a pass all night.

The Woodlands' starting quarterback Andy McCloud hit an open Peter Filivene in the endzone for a 30-yard score and 14-0 lead at the 9:30 mark of the first. New Caney followed with a three-and-out and The Woodlands covered 54 yards in two plays, the latter a 44-yard run by McCloud.

Seconds after the senior signal caller crossed the goal line, the stadium lights went out, enveloping the field in darkness and causing a fifteen-minute delay.

Ben Pruitt kicked the extra point for 21-0 lead when the lights were again fully illuminated.