



The Highlander Football Team exploded for 42 first-half points and held on to defeat Aldine Nimitz 42-20 and advance to the second round of the playoffs. The Woodlands in playing in their 30th consecutive postseason and have now advanced past the first round in seven of the ten seasons.

The Cougars got on the board first with an Omar Thomas touchdown run, giving Nimitz a 6-0 lead. The Highlanders responded with 42 straight points before the halftime to build a 42-6 advantage.

Cody Jordan was first to find the end zone for The Woodlands with a 59-yd burst. The Scott Starzyk extra point would give TWHS a 7-6 lead that the Highlanders would never relinquish. Quarterback Jack Daulton took command of the game after that with 5 touchdown passes to 5 different receivers. Parker Stewart, back in his first action since the Willis game earlier in the season, was next to score on a 48-yd reception. That score was followed by a 36-yd touchdown catch by Kimo Kouletsis.

Cody Jordan scored his 2nd TD of the night on an 18-yd catch and run. Jordan finished the night with 146 yards rushing and 18 yards receiving along with his 2 touchdowns.

Receivers Eli Lancaster and Preston Stephenson wrapped up the first half with touchdowns as the Highlanders went to the locker room in complete control of the game.

Nimitz came out after the half and fought till the end. The Cougars outscored the Highlanders 14-0 in the 2nd half but the Highlanders' lead was too much to overcome.

Jack Daulton finished with 223 yards passing to go along with 96 yards rushing. In total, the Highlanders compiled 534 yards on offense (223 passing, 311 rushing).

On the defensive side of the ball, Jake Dorsett led the team in tackles with 14 along with 3 quarterback hurries. Caycen Bartolazzi added 11 tackles and his 6th interception of the year. Ben Bridges (11) and Timmy Parke (10) also recorded double-digit tackles. Jy'Ree Jefferson added 5 tackles and a team-leading 7th sack of the season.

The Woodlands advances to face Cy Ranch (a round 1 winner over Klein Cain) next week in the 2nd round.