

THE COURIER

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY



09/28/2006

Highlanders enjoy 'W,' ready for more

By: Mike Jones , Sports Editor



The Woodlands' Taylor Skaufel takes off for one of his two touchdowns last Friday night vs. Collins at Moorhead Stadium. (Staff photo by JERRY BAKER)

After starting the season with three of the toughest games in the state that resulted in a trio of losses, The Woodlands High School varsity football team got some reward for all its hard work in last week's 28-0 victory over Klein Collins.

"It was a much-needed win," said TWHS head coach Mark Schmid, whose squad had lost to top-10 state-ranked Smithson Valley, Katy and North Shore before belting the Tigers. "Our kids have played three tough opponents and they played really hard. For one reason or another, we were not able to come out with wins in those games.

"We finally played an opponent that wasn't state-ranked and we came out and did a great job. The defense shut them down and the offense got some rhythm going and scored some points. It was a very good coming-out party for us."

The Highlanders have been preparing for another Klein ISD school this week in Oak, which is coming off a 37-7 win over Magnolia after a 48-6 victory against Willis. The game is set for 6 p.m. Saturday at Klein Memorial Stadium.

The Panthers lost to Cy Creek 35-28 in their season-opener. Chris Coburn and Josh Cooley have each run for five touchdowns for Oak this year, while Cooley has also passed for over 300 yards and three scores.

"They have a good football team," said Schmid. "We have to step up our game from last week. I think they're a better football team than Klein Collins. They have some tradition from being the runner-up in their 4A district last year.

They were a 9-2 team and their kids are used to winning. They have a little more speed than Collins. We have to be better than we were on offense and defensively we have to continue to play well. If we do that, I think good things will happen."

The game is the final one for the Highlanders before district starts in two weeks after a bye next week.

"We want to come out of non-district feeling good off two wins," said Schmid. "We want to play well and stay healthy and that will catapult us into a strong district run."

In last week's victory over Collins, Tracy Milo ran for over 100 yards and quarterback Brett Parsons was 9-for-13 for 149 yards and two touchdown passes, to Colton McKey and Derek Wyatt. Taylor Skaufel, one of the Highlanders' starting defensive backs, carried the ball two times in the game for TWHS and had an impressive pair of touchdown runs.

"Tracy Milo continued to run the ball well," said Schmid. "Brett Parsons had a good night throwing the football. He was very effective. Taylor played well on defense and sparked us on offense."

Defensively, Raymond Cleboski had a whole handful of devastating hits on Tiger ball carriers.

"He had big hits all over the field," said Schmid. "He led us defensively. Also Chris Lake and Nate Mentzer both had interceptions."

©Houston Community Newspapers Online 2006

09/27/2006

Shutout Win: Highlanders defense holds Tigers scoreless

By: KIM RICHARDSON , Sports editor



Taylor Grote goes over the top for a first down during the Highlanders 28-0 win over Klein Collins last Friday night. The Woodlands ended a three-game skid with the shutout win. Photo by Kim Richardson

The scoreboard at Moorhead Stadium wasn't working last Friday night when The Woodlands played Klein Collins. That only mattered to the Highlander faithful because Collins wouldn't have been able to put anything on

their side anyway. The Woodlands defense gave the Tigers nothing but headaches and the offense scored twice in each half for a 28-0 win that ended a season opening three-game losing streak.

"This is a big win for us for a lot of reasons," Woodlands Coach Mark Schmid said. "We've kind of gone through the meat grinder, so to speak. The kids were hungry for a win. We got one tonight and we're going to build on it."

The Highlanders will start that building process against another old district opponent, Klein Oak. The Woodlands and Panthers have a long history, having been in and out of the same district for more than two decades. The schools played most years even when they weren't district opponents.

Klein Oak, back in 5A after a two-year stretch in 4A, has been a scoring machine this season. The Panthers put 56 points on Willis a few weeks ago and beat Magnolia 37-7 last Friday.

Desean Hales ran for 126 yards and a touchdown and returned a punt for a touchdown. Oak completed only three of 14 passes for 28 yards, but ran for 290 while the defense held Magnolia to just 115 yards total offense.

"Klein Oak is a good football team," Schmid said. "Their only loss is to Cy Creek and we're going to have to come with our A game. They've got some talented people on offense and we'll have to be ready to go."

The Woodlands set the tone early against Collins. The defense stuffed the Tigers and forced a punt and the offense went down and scored on the first possession. Taylor Skaufel swept left end for 13 yards and the first touchdown.

The defense continued to hold Collins and midway through the second period, quarterback Brett Parsons found Colton McKey behind the Tiger defense for a 32-yard touchdown.

The 14-0 halftime lead extended to 21-0 when Skaufel scored again with 6:31 left in the third quarter. Derek Wyatt's leaping grab of a Parsons pass in the back corner of the end zone and Derek Depasquale's fourth extra point capped the scoring late in the third period.

Collins managed to make a little headway against The Woodlands defensive reserves, but still could not find the end zone. Even with a lot of dry jerseys in the game throughout the final quarter, Collins only gained 71 yards total offense and just five first downs.

"Defense has been our backbone all year," Schmid said. "Tonight was no different. They did a great job in shutting them out and helping us out on field position. They kept them on their end which gave us a short field on some drives.

"We've been trying to spread the ball around on offense all year. I think we did a good job of that tonight. That's when our offense works best is when we're spreading the ball around. I was happy to see that. I think this was a total team effort."

©Houston Community Newspapers Online 2006