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## **Katy defeats The Woodlands with defense**

### **Highlanders go scoreless in second half**

**By SAM KHAN Jr.**

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CONROE - If someone had told Katy coach Gary Joseph that his Tigers would fail to score in the second half of their game against The Woodlands and still come out victorious, he might have come away confused.

That's what the Tigers did, however, as their defense matched wills with The Woodlands and the Tigers protected a halftime lead. Katy went on to defeat the Highlanders 10-7 on Saturday at Moorhead Stadium.

"I have to credit our kids on both sides of the ball," Joseph said. "They hung in there. The Woodlands had a couple of drives on us, but our players made the plays when they had to."

The biggest plays came in the final 15 minutes as Katy fended off a few long drives by the Highlanders (0-2) and was able to come up with big plays at key times.

As the Tigers (2-0) were clinging to a field-goal lead late in the third quarter, the Highlanders looked poised to score a go-ahead touchdown when they put together a 10-play drive that covered 71 yards that put them in the Katy red zone.

On the 11th play, Woodlands running back Tracy Milo broke a few tackles before being hit by a pair of Katy defenders at the 12, forcing him to cough up the ball. Tiger linebacker Aaron Cotton jumped on the ball at the 9, killing the drive and The Woodlands' momentum.

"That's one thing we talk a lot about," Joseph said. "We had to take advantage of the mistakes they made."

It was Milo's second fumble on the day, with the other coming at the Katy 22 on the Highlanders' first

possession of the game.

"I can't fault the effort that we played with," Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "The two turnovers in critical situations against a good football team can kill you."

## Missed opportunities

The Highlanders had one last chance to tie or take the lead with time winding down in the fourth, but their drive stalled at the Katy 45. On a 4th-and-21 with just over a minute to go, quarterback Brett Parsons rolled right but was pressured off the right side by the Tigers' defensive front and fumbled the ball out of bounds as he was unable to find an open receiver downfield.

Earlier, the Highlanders bounced back from their first turnover as Parsons found receiver Taylor Grote for a 49-yard touchdown pass to give The Woodlands a 7-0 lead in the first quarter.

Katy's offense came alive in the second quarter when it was given a short field to work with after the Highlanders were forced to punt out of their own end zone. The Tigers put together a five-play drive that covered 46 yards and ended with a 1-yard touchdown run by Aundre Dean to tie the game up at 7.

During Katy's final possession of the first half, Dean was shaken up after a big hit and came out of the game.

## Fuda comes in

That's when the Tigers called on Michael Fuda, who took a handoff on an end around and scampered 37 yards to set up a 33-yard James Muscarella field goal to give the Tigers the 10-7 lead.

The big plays by Fuda and Dean combined with minimal mistakes and a stout defensive effort added up to a hard-fought victory for the Tigers. Dean and Fuda combined for 179 of Katy's 243 offensive yards.

"(Fuda and Dean) made some great plays," Katy quarterback Bo Mitchell said. "They really lead this football team in whatever they do on or off the field. Their big plays helped us win this ballgame."

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# THE COURIER

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY



09/10/2006

## Katy battles past TWHS 10-7

By: Howard Roden , Courier Staff



The Woodlands' (bottom to top) Nate Mentzer, Jake Beller, John Bonnette, Matt Hinton and Thomas Eakin stuff Katy's Aundre Dean during first-half action on Saturday at Buddy Moorhead Memorial Stadium. (Staff photo by JERRY BAKER)

### A sluggish season opener followed by a much-improved effort in Week Two. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

The Woodlands High School's football script in 2006 is remarkably similar to the one the Highlanders penned a year ago. Their performance in a 10-7 loss to Katy Saturday night at Moorhead Stadium leaves them at 0-2 for the second year in a row, but moving ahead with a shot of confidence.

Quarterback Brett Parsons may have come away with the biggest boost. After a three-interception performance in the opener against Smithson Valley, the 6-4 senior was afforded better protection by his offensive line. He connected on his first six passes; including one that was a picture-perfect, 49-yard strike to wide receiver Taylor Grote for the Highlanders' lone touchdown.

Parson finished 8 of 13 for 141 yards, while Grote snared five for 107.

Katy (2-0) racked up 31 points in its opener against Klein, but the Highlanders' defense held the Tigers scoreless for three quarters. And a determined front seven headed up by the standout efforts linemen Matt Hinton and Herman Watson made Katy's highly-touted tailback, Aundrea Dean, pay for every yard he picked up Saturday.

After 156 yards and 3 TDs the week before, the 190-pound junior had to settle for 74 yards on 20 carries. He accounted for the Tigers' touchdown on a one-yard plunge early in the second quarter that tied the score at 7. But turnovers remained the Highlanders' bug-a-boo. They cut down on the six turnovers they committed against Smithson Valley last week, but the two fumbles they lost at the Katy 22 and 9, respectively, were enough to thwart their hopes at victory.

"I can't fault the effort," head coach Mark Schmid said. "We made huge strides from last week. We're going to come away from the game with a great deal of confidence.

"We came to play smash-mouth football and the kids did an outstanding job. But those two turnovers in critical situations can kill you," he said.

The second one erased what appeared was about to be The Woodlands' go-ahead drive in the third quarter. Trailing 10-7 after Katy's James Muscarella booted a 33-yard field goal late in the first half, the Highlanders started their first possession of the second half from their 27.

The Highlanders were full of confidence after Parsons threw a trio of completions - two to Grote twice and one

to wide-out Ryan Mooney. The second catch by Grote - coming on third-and-seven at midfield - was good for 20 yards to the Katy 31.

At that point, the Highlanders turned the controls over to junior tailback Tracy Milo. He got the call on four successive plays. Facing second-and-16 at the Katy 25, the 5-foot-9, 200-pounder broke through a wide gap in the Tigers' defense.

But the football popped from his grasp as he was hit on both sides by Katy defenders, and linebacker Aaron Cotton who pounced on the ball at the nine yard-line with 4:06 remaining in the third quarter.

The Highlanders had two chances after that. Their first opportunity died at their own 30. They got the ball back at their own 15 with 6:23 to play, setting the stage for what appeared would be a heart-stopping triumph.

Derek Wyatt converted third-and-7 at the TWHS 18 with a 23-yard gain around left end. Reserve fullback Taylor Skaufel pounded at the interior of the Tiger defense on five carries to the Katy 37.

But he was dropped for a three-yard loss on first down. Parsons couldn't connect with Grote on a deep sideline pass on second down, and the next two plays ended with Wyatt and Parsons fumbling the ball out of bounds.

Katy was able to run out the final 1:34 for the win.

The Highlanders started the game by driving from their 38 down to the Katy 22. But on third-and-three Milo fumbled and Sammy Shelden recovered for the Tigers.

But after a three-and-out by Katy, the Highlanders need just 1:49 and four plays to cover 61 yards for a 7-0 lead. Parsons hit Grote, who slipped behind Bobby Knauss, on the dead run for the touchdown with 4:05 remaining in the quarter.

The Tigers, meanwhile, had managed just seven yards on eight plays during the first quarter.

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## KATY 10, THE WOODLANDS 7

Score by quarters

Katy (2-0) 0 10 0 0 - 10

The Woodlands (0-2) 7 0 0 0 - 7

Scoring summary

TWHS: Taylor Grote 49 pass from Brett Parson (Derek Depasquale kick), 4:05, 1st Qua.

KATY: Aundre Dean 1 run (James Muscarella kick), 8:47, 2nd Qua.

KATY: Muscarella 33 FG, 1:45, 2nd Qua.

Team statistics

Katy	TWHS
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9	First downs	16
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29-129	Rushes-yards	43-132
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114	Pass. yards	141
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6-11-0	C-A-I	8-14-0
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0-0	Fumbles-lost	4-2
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2-36.0 Punts-Avg. 3-25.3

0-0 Penalties 2-18

Individual statistics

RUSHING - KATY: Dean 20-74, Michael Fuda 1-37, Jair Stover 4-16, Taylor Stuckey 2-3, Bo Levi Mitchell 2-(-7). TWHS: Tracy Milo 28-89, Taylor Skaufel 10-26, Derek Wyatt 2-15, Parson 1-3, Grote 2-(-1).

PASSING - KATY: Mitchell 5-9-0-111, Daniel Paredes 2-1-0-3. TWHS: Parson 8-13-0-141, Wyatt 1-0-0-0.

RECEIVING - KATY: M. Fuda 3-68, Markham Stayton 1-23, Joey Fuda 1-18, Brian Rowe 1-5. TWHS: Grote 5-107, Ryan Mooney 3-34.

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