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TW tops Magnolia; OR-CP game crucial

By: Mike Jones , Sports Editor



The Woodlands High School senior Alex Miseldine tries to avoid a tackle by Magnolia's Brandon Moore during Thursday night's District 15-5A finale at Buddy Moorhead Memorial Stadium. (Staff photo by JERRY BAKER)

Thursday's result: The Woodlands 38, Magnolia 7 (Magnolia eliminated from playoff contention)

Tonight's Games

College Park at Oak Ridge, 7:30 p.m., Radio 105.3 FM (OR clinches playoffs with win; loss gives Conroe berth)

Conroe at Lufkin, 7:30 p.m.

Willis at Montgomery, 7:30 p.m.

Caney Creek at Brenham, 7:30 p.m.

Splendora at Coldspring, 7:30 p.m.

New Caney at Crosby, 7:30 p.m.

Pine Drive Christian at The Woodlands Christian, 7:30 p.m.

The Woodlands High School varsity football team's 38-7 victory over Magnolia on Thursday night at Buddy Moorhead Memorial Stadium cleared up some things, but not everything, in the 15-5A playoff chase.

"It was a great win for us," said TWHS head coach Mark Schmid.

"Everyone on the team contributed. All the kids work hard, so it's always good when everybody plays. We'll enjoy this tonight and then get ready for the playoffs."

The Highlanders, who had already clinched a playoff spot and are going to be in the 5A Division I bracket, finished 4-1 in district play and 6-4 in the regular season. The win eliminated Magnolia from playoff contention and made things perfectly clear regarding what needs to happen for either Oak Ridge or Conroe to earn the league's final playoff spot tonight.

An Oak Ridge victory over College Park puts the War Eagles in the playoffs even if Conroe wins at Lufkin. A loss by Oak Ridge against the Cavaliers gives Conroe the berth even with a loss at Lufkin. So, it all boils down to the outcome of the ORHS-CPHS battle.

The outcome will also affect The Woodlands, which will play Klein at Klein Memorial Stadium at 7:30 p.m. Friday in bi-district if College Park wins or Westfield at Humble's Turner Stadium at 7:30 p.m. Friday in bi-district if Oak Ridge wins. A College Park win means TWHS would be Division I's top seed from 15-5A, with Conroe taking the second seed. Lufkin would drop to Division II's first seed and College Park would be the second seed. If Oak Ridge wins, Lufkin is the Division I top seed and TWHS the No. 2 seed, while College Park would be the top seed in Division II and the War Eagles the second seed.

The Woodlands took control early Thursday night, scoring on its first three possessions, with quarterback Brett Parsons completing his first nine passes for 148 yards and three scores, which were a 19-yarder to Taylor Grote and 45- and 20-yarders to Derek Wyatt.

Magnolia would show some bite in the second quarter, when the Bulldogs got a strong rush and hit Tony Rizzo as he threw. The ball was picked off by Michael Hinkelman and taken 55 yards the other way for a touchdown. Magnolia would get a second interception on the Highlanders' next pass, when Parsons came back in and was hit as he threw, with Roderick Coburn getting the pick. The Bulldogs then drove the ball just into Highlander territory before stalling out.

Another first-half highlight was Taylor Skaufel's blocked punt on the Bulldogs first possession.

In the second half Skaufel, who was the Highlanders' leading rusher with 59 yards on three carries, darted 36 yards to paydirt. Wyatt then entered the game at QB and scampered across the field for a 53-yard scoring run. Derek Depasquale, who connected on all five of his PATs and consistently booted the ball into the end zone on kickoffs, added TW's final score on a 30-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter.

Magnolia (2-8, 1-4) got a spark late from Ned Thomas, who came in at running back and had a game-high 69 yards on 13 carries, all in the second half.

The Woodlands 38, Magnolia 7
Magnolia 0 7 0 0 - 7
TWHS 14 7 14 3 - 38

Magnolia		TWHS
10	first downs	16
37-135	rushes/yards	29-182
40	passing yards	199
11-4-0	C-A-I	19-14-2
2-0	fumbles/lost	3-0
3-30	penalties/yards	5-40
9-31.5	punts/avg.	1-40

Scoring summary

TWHS-Taylor Grote 19-yard pass from Brett Parsons (Derek Depasquale kick), 8:36, 1st
TWHS-Derek Wyatt 45-yard pass from Brett Parsons (Derek Depasquale kick), 4:34, 1st
TWHS-Derek Wyatt 20-yard pass from Brett Parsons (Derek Depasquale kick), 11:08, 2nd
Magnolia-Michael Hinkelman 55-yard interception return (Brad Hicks kick), 4:26, 2nd
TWHS-Taylor Skaufel 36-yard run (Derek Depasquale kick), 7:21, 3rd
TWHS-Derek Wyatt 53-yard run (Derek Depasquale kick), 4:59, 3rd
TWHS-Derek Depasquale 30 FG, 11:54, 4th

Statistical leaders

Rushing leaders: TWHS - Taylor Skaufel 3-59; Derek Wyatt 1-53; Tracy Milo 15-52; Magnolia - Ned Thomas 13-69; Cody Harvey 14-37; Blake Noland 4-19
Receiving leaders: TWHS - Derek Wyatt 4-89; Taylor Grote 4-63; Alex Miseldine 2-16; Colby Dodson 2-15; Ryan Eastman 1-12; Yhwh Ellils 1-4; Magnolia - Michael Dennis 1-22
Passing leaders: TWHS - Brett Parsons 10-11-1, 155 yards; Tony Rizzo 4-8-1, 44 yards; Magnolia - Robert

Hernandez 4-11-0, 40 yards

Interceptions: Magnolia-Michael Hinkelman, Roderick Coburn

Records: TWHS 6-4, 4-1; Magnolia 2-8, 1-4

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