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North Shore rips Woodlands

Mustangs record third consecutive shutout of season

By SAM KHAN JR.

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It's not clear whether the North Shore defense is as good or better than the unit that took the Mustangs to their first Class 5A state championship in 2003. But it is definitely champion-ship-caliber.

The North Shore defense showcased its speed, physicality, playmaking and flat-out toughness against The Woodlands in a 31-0 victory Friday at Galena Park ISD Stadium.

"We're going to finish what we start," senior defensive end Marcus Jones said. "This is the greatest defense to ever come through North Shore."

The Woodlands (0-3) defense might have been the subject of much preseason praise around the state, but it was North Shore's (3-0) that clearly was the most dominant on Friday. After a field goal put the Mustangs up 3-0 with 1:53 to go in the first quarter, the unit made its first impact play of the game.

Return for TD

When Woodlands quarterback Brett Parsons dropped back to pass on the first play of the Highlanders' ensuing drive, he zipped a ball to the right side that was snagged by North Shore defensive back Loston Smith, who returned it 27 yards for a touchdown to give the Mustangs a 10-0 lead.

"Every day in practice we (worked on) this," Smith said. "(Defensive coordinator Jon) Kay told me to break on the ball and make better reads, so that's what I did."

The Mustangs twice got deep into Highlanders' territory before the end of the first half, but The Woodlands' defense kept the Mustangs off the scoreboard.

When the second half began, North Shore was still looking for a big play on offense, and they got it from running back Chris Ganious (17 carries, 118 rushing yards), who took a handoff and sprinted 60

yards for a touchdown on the fifth play of the half to give the Mustangs a 17-0 lead.

"We knew they were a good team and would come out (strong) in the second half," Ganius said.

Considering how well the North Shore defense was playing, that run was the backbreaker for the Highlanders. The Mustangs were determined to keep their shutout, their third straight this season and their fifth consecutive in regular-season play.

"We've got a saying," Jones said. "When we've got them down, keep them down."

The offense was respectable in its own right in the second half, as quarterback Vance Fizer added to the Mustangs' lead with a 41-yard run with 9:05 to go to put the game out of reach. Sophomore running back Deandre Jones added an 81-yard run to round out the scoring. The Mustangs finished with 370 total offensive yards, 341 on the ground.

Safety net

"It feels great," Fizer said. "It gives me so much confidence and allows me to be a leader on offense. We know that even if we mess up we have a chance because of our defense."

Coach David Aymond said the defense might be as good as the 2003 version, but only if it wins a state title.

"That one was the greatest because it won the state championship. ... But this group is right there with them," Aymond said.

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Woodlands North Shore

First downs	8	11
Rushes-yards	35-56	34-341
Comp-Att-Int.	6-17-2	2-5-1
Passing yards	69	29

Punts-avg.	8-30	4-36
Fumbles-lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties- yards	7-54	8-65

Woodlands (0-3) 0 0 0 0 — 0

North Shore (3-0) 10 0 7 14 — 31

NOR — Miguel Prudencio 22 FG 1:53, 1st

NOR — Loston Smith 27 interception return (Miguel Prudencio kick) 1:40, 1st

NOR — Chris Ganius 60 run (Miguel Prudencio kick) 9:31, 3rd

NOR — Vance Fizer 41 run (Miguel Prudencio kick) 9:05, 4th

NOR — DeAundre Jones 81 run (Miguel Prudencio kick) 6:53, 4th

Leading rushers — WDV — Tracy Milo 20-48. NOR — Chris Ganius 17-118, 1 TD.

Leading passers — WDV — Brett Parsons 6-12-2, 69 yards. NOR — Vance Fizer 2-5-1, 29 yards.

Leading receivers — WDV — Colton McKey 3-28. NOR — Matthew Bolton 2-29.

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North Shore gets 3rd shutout over TWHS

From Staff Reports

The North Shore defense continued to live up to its hype Friday, recording its third straight shutout with a 31-0 win over the Woodlands at Galena Park ISD Stadium.

The Mustangs (3-0) limited the Highlanders (0-3) to just 122 yards of offense while racking up 380 of their own. Tailback Chris Ganious tallied 126 yards - including a 60-yard touchdown run - on 17 carries.

North Shore stole the momentum for good late in the first quarter. After Miguel Prudencio's 22-yard field goal put the Mustangs up 3-0 at the 1:53 mark, TWHS quarterback Brett Parsons was intercepted on the very first play of the next drive. Loston Smith returned the pick 27 yards to the end zone to make it a quick 10-0 game at the 1:40 mark.

The score remained the same through halftime before Ganious, quarterback Vance Fizer and Deandre Jones all scored on runs of 40-plus yards behind a dominating offensive line.

The Highlander offense, meanwhile, couldn't get past a physical North Shore D-line. Tailback Tracy Milo was limited to 47 yards on 20 carries, while Parsons threw two interceptions under heavy pressure.

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The Woodlands 0 0 0 0 - 0
North Shore 10 0 7 14 - 31

- NS - Miguel Prudencio 22 FG, 1:53 1Q
- NS - Loston Smith 27 int return (Prudencio kick), 1:40 1Q
- NS - Chris Ganious 60 run (Prudencio kick), 9:31 3Q
- NS - Vance Fizer 41 run (Prudencio kick), 9:05 4Q
- NS - Deandre Jones 81 run (Prudencio kick), 6:53 4Q

TW	NS	
8	First downs	11
35-53	Rushes-yds.	35-350
6-16-2	C-A-I	2-5-1
69	Passing yards	30
8-30	Punts-avg.	4-36
0-0	Fumbles-lost	0-0
7-54	Penalties	8-65

Individual stats

Rushing - TW: Tracy Milo 20-47, Alex Miseldine 4-10, Nate Mentzer 1-6, Derek Wyatt 2-4, Brett Parsons 8-(-14). NS: Chris Ganious 17-126, Vance Fizer 9-95, Deandre Jones 3-93, Aaron Bill 5-38, Jeremiah McGinty 1-

(-2).

Passing - TW: Parsons 6-11-2 69, Taylor Grote 0-1-0, Tony Rizzo 0-4-0. NS: Fizer 2-5-1 30.

Receiving -TW: Colton McKey 3-28, Miseldine 1-21, Drew Warren 1-12, Grote 1-8. NS: Matthew Bolton 2-30.

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