

High School Football



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Smithson Valley running back Trent Rios barrels past The Woodlands defenders Taylor Charbonnet, left, and Kyle Bouthilet to score Smithson Valley's first touchdown.

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Smithson Valley cuts down The Woodlands

Highlanders' offense sputters after first drive

By SAM KHAN JR.

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SAN ANTONIO - With time ticking away and The Woodlands trailing by two touchdowns, senior quarterback Brett Parsons dropped back to pass, was sacked by the Smithson Valley defense and fumbled with 2:21 remaining.

The Rangers recovered. It was that kind of day for the Highlanders' offense.

In the first game of a tripleheader at the Dave Campbell's Texas Football Classic, the No. 7-ranked Highlanders fell to No. 9 Smithson Valley 17-3 on Saturday at the Alamodome.

Things didn't look so bad for The Woodlands (0-1) at the start, as its opening drive went 72 yards in 12 plays and netted a 24-yard field goal from Derek Depasquale to give the Highlanders a 3-0 lead.

It turned out that the drive would produce the only points and much of the offense the Highlanders would have as mistakes and the Rangers' defense kept The Woodlands off the board the rest of the way.

Can't find the rhythm

"It's one of those things you try to figure out," Parsons said of The Woodlands' struggles to find consistent offensive production. "Throughout the whole game we couldn't find (a rhythm) again."

Smithson Valley (1-0) had a similarly impressive drive to start its scoring, only it resulted in a touchdown — a 5-yard run by running back Trent Rios that capped a seven-play, 77-yard drive with 4:36 to go in the first quarter.

The highly touted Woodlands defense, which returns eight starters from last season, buckled down after giving up the initial score, but didn't get much help from the other two phases of the team.

With The Woodlands' offense sputtering (the Highlanders gained just 11 yards in the final 19:25 of the first half), Smithson Valley was able to take advantage of some special-teams blunders that put the Rangers in prime scoring position.

First, with The Woodlands backed up and forced to punt out of its end zone, punter Nate Mentzer kicked the ball off the side of his foot. The 15-yard effort set up the Rangers at The Woodlands' 20. The Highlanders were able to claim a minor

victory by holding the Rangers to a 24-yard field goal and trailed 10-3 with 1:57 to go in the half.

Critical kick

But on the ensuing kickoff, the Rangers squibbed the kick to the left side of the field, and the Highlanders couldn't recover, allowing Smithson Valley to retain possession, this time at The Woodlands' 31.

The Rangers took full advantage, as Rios (25 carries, 109 yards) visited the end zone again from a yard out to cap a six-play drive and put Smithson Valley up 17-3.

"That was a bubble-burster," The Woodlands coach Mark Schimd said. "We were on the sideline, and we felt good that we held them to a field goal and that we were at least going to go into the half down 10-3, which we felt was very manageable."

Though the Highlanders were able to string together some better drives in the second half behind the running of tailback Tracy Milo (20 carries, 92 yards), they were never able to get deep into Smithson Valley territory and make a serious scoring threat. The Rangers' defense pressured Parsons all game, limiting him to 8-of-20 passing for 98 yards and intercepted him three times.

With tough opponents looming in the next two weeks in Katy and North Shore, the Highlanders will have a lot of work to do.

"We're going to get better," Schmid said. "Smithson Valley is a good football team. We didn't come out here and just play anybody. I was proud of the way we fought."

Alamo City setback: TWHS falls to Smithson Valley in opener at Alamodome

By: Joel Weckerly, Assistant Sports Editor 09/03/2006

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SAN ANTONIO - The Woodlands' first drive of the 2006 season looked like an encouraging sign of things to come, as the Highlanders rolled out a 72-yard scoring drive.

Unfortunately, the remainder of their possessions hardly mirrored the initial one in the Texas Football Classic Saturday, as No. 9-ranked Smithson Valley stymied No. 7 TWHS, 17-3.

The Woodlands' Taylor Charbonnet picks off a pass in front of Smithson Valley receiver Chad Barrios during Saturday afternoon's showdown at the Alamodome. (Staff photo by JERRY BAKER)

The Woodlands' (0-1) offense made six costly turnovers and the Rangers (1-0) capitalized. Junior running back Trent Rios racked up 107 yards on 25 carries with two touchdowns to spur the convincing win.

"(Rios) was real fast," TWHS linebacker Jake Beller said. "We didn't hit him enough. We were able to stop him in the second half, but not early on."

The Woodlands' opening drive resulted in a Derek Depasquale 24-yard field goal at the 7:25 mark, but the Highlanders would only gain 88 yards the rest of the game.

The Rangers averaged 38 yards a punt and consistently kept TWHS pinned deep in its own territory.

"We did a lot of good things offensively, except we never finished," The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "We could put together some short drives, but we couldn't finish. Part of that had to do with Smithson Valley. We had a long field the whole second half. We have to be able to put together a string of first downs and put the ball in the end zone."

Smithson Valley did that on its own first drive, answering TW's field goal with a 77-yard drive of its own that was capped by Rios's 5-yard touchdown run.

In the second quarter, Smithson Valley benefitted from a shanked punt by Nate Mentzer that gave it field position at the Highlander 20. Six plays later, Travis Costanzo made good on a 24-yard field goal that expanded the Rangers' lead to 10-3 at the 2:12 mark.

The Rangers surprised TWHS on the ensuing kickoff with an on-sider, which Daniel Kemp bobbled and SV's Ben Woodchick recovered.

They carried the momentum on a six-play, 31-yard scoring drive capped off by Rios's 1-yard score that made it 17-3.

A scoreless second half ensued, as neither team could get anything going.

The Highlander defense held its own despite spending the majority of the game on the field, limiting the Rangers to 194 total yards. Beller spurred the charge with a forced fumble, sack and two tackles for loss.

Cornerback Taylor Charbonnet added an impressive third-quarter interception of Brian Hill, as well as a pass breakup in the end SV end zone.

"We were out there a lot," Beller said. "We made some turnovers but it seemed like they got more. When they got turnovers they scored, and when we got turnovers we couldn't make anything out of them."

The Rangers' defense - which only returned one starter - looked more like a veteran squad. Their linemen harassed Highlander quarterback Brett Parsons into 8 of 22 passing for 99 yards and three interceptions. Running back Tracy Milo threw another interception on a trick play.

"(Smithson Valley's) quick defensively," Schmid said. "They're not all that big but they're exceptionally quick, and they posed some problems for us."

Milo picked up 92 yards on 20 carries to power the ground game, while wideout Taylor Grote led all receivers with five catches for 78 yards.

The Highlanders were flagged 10 times for 72 yards, while Smithson Valley had only four penalties for 30 yards.

Rangers head coach Larry Hill said he would have been happy with a "2-nothing" win over TWHS.

"We'll take it any way we can get it against a group like this," he said. "I was pleased with the effort. I'm sure there's a lot of things we're gonna have to improve on, but we came to get one today and we did that."

The Woodlands, meanwhile, will have to rebound next week against defending state finalist Katy.

"We knew going in this would be a tough game," Schmid said. "Hopefully offensively we grew today and we'll do better next week."

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Saturday's high school football box score

The Woodlands 3 0 0 0 - 3 Smithson Valley 7 10 0 0 -17

TW -Derek Depasquale 24 FG, 7:25 1Q SV - Trent Rios 5 run (Travis Costanzo kick), 4:36 1Q SV - Costanzo 24 FG, 2:12 2Q SV - Rios 1 run (Costanzo kick), :24 2Q

Team stats TW SV 11 First Downs 12 27-61 Rushes-Yds 48-151 99 Passing yds 43 8-23-4 C-A-I 5-9-1 2-1 Fumbles-lost 2-1 4-29.8 Punts-avg. 5-38 10-72 Penalties-yds 4-30

Individual stats Rushing - TW: Tracy Milo 20-92, Brett Parsons 6-(-33), Taylor Grote 1-2. SV: Trent

Rios 25-107, Phil Barker 1-15, Chris Brehm 8-15, Brian Hill 13-7, Melvin Echard 1-7. Passing - TW: Brett Parsons 8-22-3 99, Tracy Milo 0-1-1 0. SV: Brian Hill 5-9-1 43. Receiving - TW: Taylor Grote 5-78, Ryan Mooney 2-19, Drew Warren 1-2. SV: Cody Renken 3-18, Chris Brehm 1-18, Chad Barrios 1-7.

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Football: Smithson Valley opens with a bang

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Dan McCarney
Express-News Staff Writer

With just one starter returning from last year's state semifinal team, it stood to reason that Smithson Valley's defense would need time to find itself.

Patience is apparently not one of the Rangers' virtues.

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Playing like veterans — aggressive, battle-tested veterans — they tore The Woodlands to pieces, forcing six turnovers and sacking Highlanders quarterback Brett Parsons four times in a 17-3 victory Saturday in the first game of a Texas Football Classic tripleheader at the Alamodome.

Rangers running back Trent Rios rushed for 110 yards and a pair of touchdowns to earn MVP honors.

As well as he played, a more logical choice might have been a member of the Smithson Valley defense, which allowed only 79 yards after the Highlanders' opening drive and 161 overall.



(Kin Man Hui/Express-News)

Smithson Valley's Trent Rios, who rushed

for 110 yards and a pair of touchdowns to earn MVP honors, dives in for the Rangers' first touchdown against The Woodlands' Kyle Bouthilet (11) in the first half.

"They were outstanding," Rangers coach Larry Hill said. "Are we a finished product? Probably not. But that's a great way to start the season."

More telling than the performance was the fact neither the coaches nor the players seemed particularly surprised.

"We expect to play like that every time we step on the field," said defensive back Travis Constanzo, who had two of the Rangers' interceptions. "We heard what people said about (our defense), but we don't pay any attention to that stuff. We know what we're capable of."

As does Highlanders coach Mark Schmid, who was expecting a tough game after scouting Smithson Valley's recent scrimmage against New Braunfels.

"They've got a lot of new guys, but we knew that wasn't going to be a problem for them after watching their scrimmage," Schmid said. "They can all run and they get a lot of people to the football."

Dominic Hamilton and Taylor Matthews also had interceptions for Smithson Valley, and Ben Woodchick and Collin Shurbet recovered fumbles.

The Rangers immediately clamped down after yielding 82 yards and a field goal on the game's opening possession.

Over the next five drives, they held The Woodlands to negative-1 yard and forced a pair of turnovers.

Bearing the brunt of Smithson Valley's fury was Highlanders quarterback Parsons. The Division I-A recruit started off well enough, completing 4 of his 6 first passes for 65 yards.

The rest of his afternoon was nothing short of a nightmare as the Rangers harassed him virtually every time he dropped back to pass.

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