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## Katy takes down The Woodlands

Tigers exploit several early errors by Highlanders to earn big victory

By JENNY DIAL

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(Alex Tweedy scores The Woodlands' only Touchdown  
**MARGARET BOWELS**

KATY — The Woodlands just didn't have any answers Saturday night.

The Highlanders' defense couldn't stop Katy and their offense couldn't catch a break. While the Highlanders tried to fix mistakes, Katy picked away at them en route to a 48-7 win at Rhodes Stadium.

The Tigers were able to capitalize early on Highlanders mistakes. Katy's first touchdown, an Aundre Dean 12-yard run with 9:56 in the first quarter, came three plays after Katy defensive end Micah Marks recovered a Highlanders fumble on The Woodlands' 27-yard line.

Katy scored again with 4:55 left in the quarter when quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell hit Joey Fuda with a 29-yard strike in the endzone.

"Our offense didn't have a slow start," Dean said. "We got the ball rolling early and kept it going throughout the game."

In the second quarter, The Woodlands fumbled again and Katy's Andrew Harell returned it 54 yards. Then Dean zipped 17 yards on the next play for the score with 4:17 left in the half.

"When you are able to get the other team to fumble the ball, you need to be able to turn around and do something with it," Katy defensive end Sean Alexander said. "We made the most of those chances."

The Woodlands' lone touchdown came with 2:25 remaining in the second when Alex Tweedy caught a 22-yard pass from quarterback Tyler Eckenrode for the score.

Katy had one more chance to score late in the second quarter. After the ball was snapped, Mitchell threw a 41-yard bomb with no time on the clock to Brian Rowe for the touchdown. Katy led 28-7 at halftime.

"That touchdown put all the momentum on our side," Katy coach Gary Joseph said. "That was a big play to make before halftime."

The Tigers struck first in the second half. Dean rushed for the 7-yard touchdown, after rushing for 54 yards on the play before. Katy missed the extra point, but kept the 34-7 lead. Dean finished the night with 203 yards on 20 carries.

"I felt confident and comfortable running out there tonight," Dean said.

The Tigers extended their lead in the fourth quarter when Mitchell ran the ball in from 4 yards out. Katy struck again with 3:48 left in the game on a Seth Chism 1-yard leap into the end zone to make it 48-7.

Katy is headed into a week off; The Woodlands will face North Shore on Saturday at Moorhead.

Joseph said the Tigers will use the week to continue improving before they head to College Station to play A&M Consolidated in two weeks.

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## Hats off to Katy: No. 2 ranked Tigers top TW 48-7

By: Howard Roden , Assistant Sports Editor



The Woodlands defense put a temporary halt to Katy back Aundre Dean, who ran for 204 yards Saturday night at Rhodes Stadium. (Staff photo by Jerry Baker)

**KATY - The state's No. 2-ranked Katy Tigers didn't need any help in defeating The Woodlands, 48-7, Saturday night. But the Highlanders' self-inflicted errors made their chore a lot easier.**

Highly-recruited running back Aundre Dean plowed through and around The Woodlands defense Saturday night at Rhodes Stadium for 204 yards and touchdown runs of 12, 17 and 7.

While that effort alone was enough for the Tigers to notch their third consecutive win over TWHS in as many years, the Highlanders contributed to the Katy cause with four lost fumbles and a defensive breakdown before halftime that struck an emotional dagger into the visitors' hearts.

"You can't do that against somebody like Katy," TWHS head coach Mark Schmid said. "Hopefully, there were lessons learned and eyes opened tonight."

The Highlanders lost three fumbles in the first half, which Katy converted into a pair of scores by Dean. However, it appeared the Highlanders would head to the locker room trailing 21-7 after quarterback Tyler Eckenrode scrambled, then found wide receiver Ryan Eastman for a 22-yard touchdown pass with 2:25 remaining before intermission.

Instead, Katy stunned the Highlanders on the final play of a 60-yard drive. Quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell lofted a perfect attempt of 41 yards to Brian Rowe in the back of the end zone between three TWHS defenders.

"During the time-out we talked about that (pass)," Schmid said. "It was a breakdown we couldn't afford to make. It was a back-breaker. If we go in at halftime at 21-7 it's still a manageable game."

The Highlanders were driving before their lone score when Eastman, having snared a pass from Eckenrode, was stripped of the football. The Tigers returned the fumble 50 yards and Dean scored from 17 yards out on the next play with 4:17 before halftime.

Tailback Tracy Milo fumbled on the third play of the game, which Katy capitalized on Dean's 12-yard TD. The Highlanders reached the Katy 10 in the fourth quarter, but running back Drew Erickson lost control of the handoff and the Tigers recovered.

Katy 48, The Woodlands 7 TWHS (0-2) 0 7 0 0 - 7 Katy (2-0) 14 14 6 14 - 48 First Quarter K-Aundre Dean 12-yard run (Raul Balbuena kick), 9:56 K-Joey Fuda 29-yard pass from Bo Levi Mitchell (Balbuena kick), 4:45 Second Quarter K-Dean 17-yard run (Balbuena kick), 4:17 TWHS-Alex Tweedy 22-yard pass from Tyler Eckenrode (Daniel Weimer kick), 2:25 K-Brian Rowe 41-yard pass from Mitchell (Balbuena kick), 0:00 Third Quarter K-Dean 7-yard run (kick failed), 10:56 Fourth Quarter K-Mitchell 4-yard run (Balbuena kick), 10:01 K-Seth Chisum 1-yard run (Balbuena kick), 3:48 TWHS Katy First downs 12 18 Rushes-yards 32-96 36-365 Passing yards 180 112 Comp-Att-Int 13-17-0 7-13-0 Punts-Avg. 4-38.5 2-47.5 Fumbles-Lost 4-4 0-0 Penalties-Yards 5-25 8-50

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS RUSHING-W, Tracy Milo 17-61; Drew Erickson 6-20; Greg Merchant 5-16; Tyler Eckenrode 4 (-1); K, Aundre Dean 23-204; Seth Chisum 6-40; Hayden Munsell 3-87 PASSING-W, Tyler Eckenrode 8-11-0, 100 yards; Carey Poarch 5-6-0, 80 yards; K, Mitchell 7-13-0, 112 yards RECEIVING-W, Alex Tweedy 4-49; Mike Schneider 1-39; Ryan Eastman 3-32; Logan Rowe 1-25; Grant Gullo 2-15; Milo 1-0; K, Brian Rowe 1-41; Fuda 1-29; Ryan Doerr 3-35