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Klein Oak trips up Highlanders in non-district finale

By: Howard Roden , Assistant Sports Editor



The Woodlands' Alex Tweedy, who had 9 catches for 184 yards and two TDs, gets tripped up by Klein Oak's Mark Hunter (81) during Thursday night's game at Moorhead Stadium. (Staff photo by Jerry Baker)

Five plays deep into the game, The Woodlands quarterback Tyler Eckenrode hit Alex Tweedy for a 56-yard touchdown pass and a 7-0 lead. But that early score did not provide any indication how the night would unfold for the Highlanders.

The Woodlands hoped to enter District 15-5A play with a two-game winning streak, but that won't be the case after Klein Oak cruised to a 33-14 triumph Thursday night at Buddy Moorhead Memorial Stadium. Now 1-4 on the season, the Highlanders never could figure out a way to control - much less halt - the Panthers' quicksilver-fast quarterback Terrence Robinson. The 5-foot-10, 175-pound senior dashed and dodged his way through The Woodlands defense 28 times for 195 yards and touchdowns of 6, 12, 16 and 2 yards.

Robinson directed 4-0 Klein Oak on two lengthy scoring drives that broke the Highlanders' back. His 12-yard TD with 2:01 before halftime completed a 90-yard, 14-play march that consumed 7:09 of the clock and put the Panthers ahead 20-7 at the half.

Robinson carried the football on all but two of Klein Oak's nine-play, 88-yard possession in the third quarter. He sliced off left tackle for his 16-yard touchdown at the 2:22 mark of the period.

Trailing 26-7 by then, the Highlanders produced their only points of the second half. With Carey Poarch having replaced Eckenrode behind center, the Highlanders covered 66 yards in seven plays.

But the last 43 yards of the drive came on one play, when Poarch connected with Tweedy for the touchdown pass at 11:08 of the fourth quarter.

Tweedy, a 6-foot-1 junior, reeled in a total of nine passes for 184 yards and his two touchdowns.

Eckenrode, who completed his first six attempts of the game, was 10-of-14 for 128 yards in the first half. Poarch was 6-of-14 for 102 yards and his fourth-down attempt to tight end Erik Wolfe was intercepted in the Klein Oak end zone with 3:36 remaining in the game.

The Highlanders' other real threat occurred late in the first half when they reached the Panthers' 29-yard-line. Eckenrode completed his first four attempts en route to Klein Oak territory, but the drive stalled when the Highlanders couldn't connect on third and fourth down passes.

As they had two weeks earlier against North Shore, the Highlanders resorted to some trickery for their early.

Starting the game at its 22-yard-line, The Woodlands reached its 44 when, on first down, Eckenrode handed the football off to wide receiver Lance Dozier. Dozier, who had gone into motion, tossed the ball back to Ryan Eastman. Eastman, in turn, lobbed the ball back to Eckenrode.

Stepping into the face of the defensive pressure, Eckenrode lofted his pass to Tweedy. At least five steps behind two Klein Oak defenders, Tweedy gathered in the pass at about the Panthers' 10.

Although tripped up by one of the defenders, Tweedy was able to dive into the end zone with 9:45 remaining the quarter. But that 78-yard march represented only half of the Highlanders' offensive output in the first half.

Aside from its two scoring drives, The Woodlands managed just 124 yards of offense on its other six possessions. The Highlanders ran the football just 23 times for 38 yards.

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