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TW falls to Westfield despite 258 yards rushing by freshman

By: Mike Taylor, HCN/Villager Staff



The Woodlands' Daniel Lasco (86) heads back to the huddle after making a long gain against Westfield at Klein Memorial Stadium Friday night. Also pictured are Bradley Roberge (50) and Josh Faw (56). (Courier photo)

KLEIN - The Woodlands got into a track meet with Westfield Friday night at Klein Memorial Stadium, but despite the best efforts of freshman tailback Daniel Lasco, the Highlanders were unable to keep up and suffered a 55-28 defeat.

The jack rabbit-quick Lasco ran away from speedy Westfield defenders all night, accounting for 258 yards on the ground. He had scoring sprints of 54, 68 and 49 yards, but the Highlanders could never stop the Westfield running backs or Mustang signal caller Jacoby Walker.

"He had a phenomenal game," Highlander coach Mark Schmid said. "I don't know many freshmen at this level, at the 5A level, playing against a team like that, have ever had a night like that."

Walker started out on fire, connecting on his first three passes, two of which went for touchdowns in the first quarter. Those scores went to Adam Watson, first from 21 yards and then from 42.

Down only 20-14, the Highlanders went for it on fourth-and-one from midfield with 3:00 left in the half, but Lasko was stuffed. The subsequent scoring drive for Westfield gave the Mustangs a 27-14 lead, the key play coming when Jacoby Walker scrambled 18 yards on third-and-11 from the Highlander 22.

"We knew it was going to be a big chore to stop them," coach Mark Schmid said. "They play power football and we were worried about how we would hold up in there. We knew that from an offensive standpoint we were going to have to be very aggressive because we felt like they were going to score so we had to take some chances."

Down 27-14 with only 18 seconds left in the half, the Highlanders got to the Mustang 35 after Lasco escaped for a 38-yard run. Three seconds remained before halftime and quarterback Tyler Eckenrode tried to connect with Randy Knust in the corner of the end zone. Eckenrode's pass was intercepted by senior safety Nick Sampson two yards deep in the end zone and Sampson ran all the way across the field, eluding the chasing Highlanders before scooting down the right sideline and outracing the last Highlander for a 102-yard return. After the point after, Westfield took a 34-14 lead into halftime.

Westfield looked like it would run away with the game in the first quarter, going on top 13-0. But the Highlanders would take the lead early in the second quarter. After The Woodlands forced a punt, Lasko took off on a 54-yard run to cut lead to 13-7.

Four plays after the Highlanders kicked off, Jacoby Walker was intercepted by defensive lineman Herman Watson, who lumbered 30 yards to the end zone, breaking two tackles along the way. After Daniel Weimer's extra point, the Highlanders were up 14-13.

Westfield answered quickly and then crushed the Highlanders' hopes just before halftime. Adam Watson's 44-yard return set the Mustangs up for the Darryl Ford touchdown drive. Starting at the Highlander 40, Ford carried four consecutive times for 24, six, five and five yards, his final tote going for a touchdown. That gave the Mustangs the lead again, and the two touchdowns in the last 18 seconds of the second did the Highlanders in.

Lasco scored on a 68-yard scamper with 11:34 left in the third, but Westfield answered on Jorius Day's 7-yard run.

In the fourth, Walker connected with James Logan on a 25-yard pass to put the Mustangs up 48-21.

Lasco would score on a 49-yard run and Westfield's JaMarcus Morning ran in from eight yards out to complete the scoring.

Rushing - The Woodlands: Daniel Lasco 13-258. Westfield: Darryl Ford 17-141, JaMarcus Morning 4-46, Bo Walker 5-14, Jacoby Walker 3-28, Jorius Day 3-13.

Passing - The Woodlands: Eckenrode 7-10, 54. Westfield: J. Walker 7-12, 149.

Receiving - The Woodlands: Lance Dozier 1-16, Mike Schneider 2-13, Grant Gullo, 1-12, Demny 1-7, Perry Cooper 1-3. Westfield: Barry Ford 1-42, Adam Watson 2-63, Ford 1-4.