

The Woodlands embarrasses defending champ Katy 47-0

By JENNY DIAL Copyright 2008 Houston Chronicle

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Steve Campbell Houston Chronicle

Katy's Michael Webber (26) is thrown for a loss by The Woodlands' Colin Renton (17), Cameron Knight (91 right) and Ryan Cusimano (30) in the first half on Friday at Woodforest Stadium in The Woodlands.

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THE WOODLANDS — The last time Katy started a season 0-2 was 1984. The last time Katy lost to a school in The Woodlands was 1991 against McCollough. And the last time Katy was shut out was 1991 in a 21-0 loss to Jersey Village.

That was before Friday night, when The Woodlands exposed all of Katy's weaknesses and defeated the Tigers 47-0 at Woodforest Stadium.

Katy, the defending Division I 5A state champion and Texas football powerhouse, struggled from start to finish, while the Highlanders executed with near perfection.

The Woodlands (2-0) has shut out both its opponents this season and is showing off the fruits of its rebuilding campaign in 2007. It began this season with a 42-0 rout of Cy-Fair last weekend.

"I didn't expect that we would come out and start the season with back-to-back shutouts," The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "But I am so happy we have and we came out ready tonight.

"We have several players coming back and they have very, very few, so tonight really was a tale of two teams."

The Woodlands won the battle with Katy in every way possible. Offensively, the Highlanders had 206 passing yards and 192 rushing. The Woodlands' defense held Katy to a total of 72 yards — all of it coming on the ground.

Blowout starts early

The Highlanders opened the game's scoring with a field goal. They went on to score back-to-back rushing touchdowns courtesy of Ryan Eastman. Then Logan Rowe extended The Woodlands' lead with a 12-yard touchdown catch. Logan followed up with a 44-yard catch that set up Daniel Lasco on a 1-yard running touchdown to finish the half with a 31-0 lead.

It didn't get any easier for Katy from there. The Woodlands came out, scored an almost-immediate safety, then another 1-yard touchdown run from Lasco.

Katy saw one highlight, a 54-yard run from Vernon Jeffries in the third quarter. On the next play though, the Tigers fumbled and The Woodlands had possession again.

It was clear on this night that Katy couldn't catch a break. On top of that, quarterback Parker Ray was shaken up late in the second quarter and missed the remainder of the game.

Sensing turnaround

The Woodlands used backups for the end of the third and the entire fourth quarter, with backup running back Art Arias scoring to start the fourth.

"We learned a lot last year when we weren't winning every game and we had some struggles," he said.

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They're Baaaaack!

By Howard Roden

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SHENANDOAH — "We're back!"

And how!

The Woodlands Highlanders needed only the first 24 minutes against Katy to validate the slogan they adopted for the 2008 season. Operating with ruthless efficiency, TWHS steamrolled Katy 47-0 Friday night that left Tiger fans stunned and the Highlander faithful rejoicing.

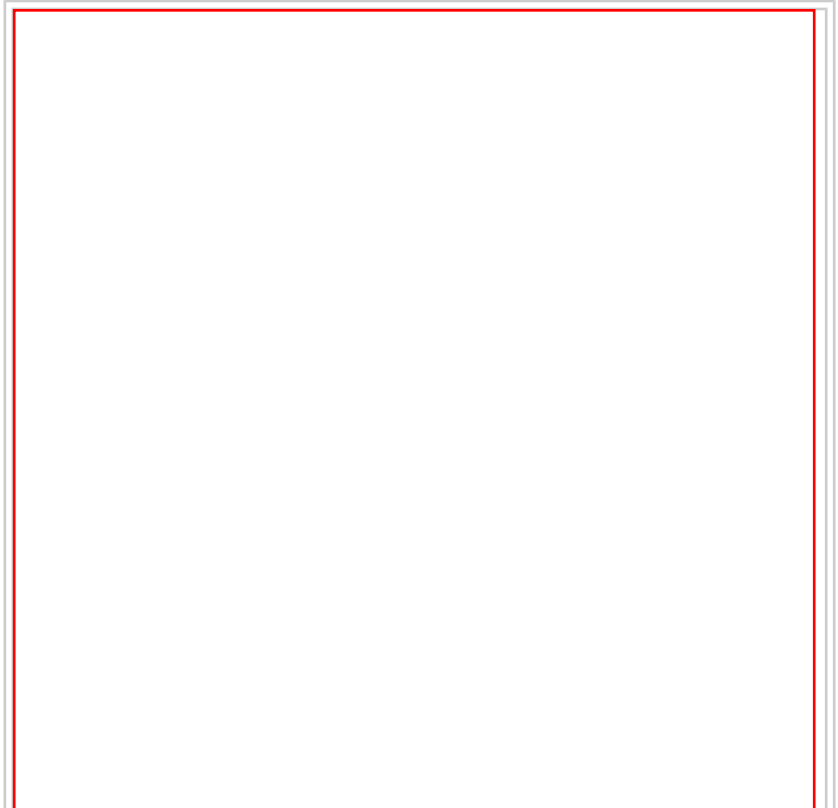
After a 42-0 blowout of Cy-Fair a week earlier, questions remained about The Woodlands' possible return to state-ranked prominence. But there's little doubt where the Highlanders stand after their destruction of the defending Class 5A Division II champion.

"I don't worry about the rankings," TWHS Mark Schmid said. "But I'd like to think that (this win) is a shot heard 'round Texas."

After a four-and-out on its first series, The Woodlands scored on its next five possessions en route to a 31-0 halftime lead.

Ahead 3-0 after Ben Pruitt's 37-yard field goal, defensive tackle John Michael Cochran pounced on a fumble by Katy tailback Michael Webber at the Tiger 33. Five plays later backup quarterback Ryan Eastman scored on a 9-yard run and the rout was on.

By the time it was over, the Highlanders had amassed 408 total yards — almost evenly divided on the ground and via the air. Eastman added another TD run of six yards, while



The Woodlands' Logan Rowe is tackled by Katy's Kyle Hirschfelder at the one yard line after a 44-yard catch in the second quarter at Woodforest Bank Stadium Friday night.

sophomore tailback Daniel Lasco (12 carries on 76) contributed with a pair of 1-yard scores.

Starting quarterback Andy McCloud and Eastman combined for 13 of 18 passing for 214 yards. McCloud found wide-out Logan Rowe wide open in the back of the end zone for a 12-yard touchdown midway through the second quarter.

"Our kids executed at a higher level than last week," Schmid said. "Our offense jelled a lot sooner."

Katy, off to its first 0-2 start since 1984, dropped a 10-6 decision to Galena Park North Shore last week. The Tigers were held to 135 yards in their opener and could muster only 72 yards against a swarming Highlander defense that counted Chase Maires, Robert Bouthilet, Loren Baker and Ryan Clapsaddle among its many stars.

Katy had only two first downs and contributed to its woes with three lost fumbles and an interception.

"We're not this bad," Katy head coach Gary Joseph said. "They (The Woodlands) made some plays and they've got a good football team. But I don't think they're 47 points better than us.

"They certainly were tonight."

The shutout loss was the Tigers' first since a 21-0 setback to Jersey Village in the final contest of 1990. The points allowed was the most the Tigers had surrendered since a 54-0 loss to Northbrook in 1980.

If Katy was hoping to mount a remarkable comeback in the second half, the Tigers fumbled away their first three possessions.

Katy crossed over into TWHS territory only three times. The Tigers' biggest moment came when Vernon Jeffries broke through a gap off left tackle for a 54-yard game down to The Woodlands 32. But Maires recovered a fumble at the end of Jonathan Barnette's 16 yard run with 3:04 left in the quarter.

The Tigers recovered a fumble at the TWHS 13 with 3:29 to play. But on fourth-and-10, lineman Andrew Kern dropped Katy backup quarterback Michael Stojkovic for a 1-yard loss.

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