

THE COURIER

OF MONTGOMERY  COUNTY

The Woodlands' season slips away



The Woodlands High School running back Daniel Lasco can't get control of the football as he is hit by Stony Point's Kenneth Browder during second-quarter action at the Round Rock ISD Sports Complex Friday night. TW's Matt Pettitt is also pictured. To view or purchase this photo, and others like it, visit

By Howard Roden

Updated: 11.21.08

ROUND ROCK – Limited to 168 yards and victims of their own mistakes, The Woodlands Highlanders' state playoff trek came to a frustrating finish Friday night.

Stony Point running back Glasco Martin pounded his way through The Woodlands defense 28 times for 173 yards and two critical touchdowns that lifted the Tigers to a 21-7 Class 5A Division I area round victory at Round Rock ISD Stadium.

The District 16-5A champions (11-1) advance to the Region II semifinals against either Tyler Lee or Garland. Those two teams square off at 1 p.m. today in Corsicana.

In the second round of the state playoffs for the first time since 2004, the Highlanders (9-2) never found a way to deflect the pressure applied by the Stony Point defense. Ends Tevin Mims and Arthur Nweke were a constant presence

in The Woodlands backfield, sacking TWHS quarterback Andy McCloud four times and forcing him into 7-of-15 passing for 83 yards.

The Tigers picked off two passes and recovered two of the Highlanders' four fumbles. They were just as effective in stopping The Woodlands' ground game. Sophomore Daniel Lasco, who came into the game with more than 1,100 yards, was held to a season-low 11 yards on 11 carries.

Three of the Highlanders' turnovers occurred in the first quarter. Recovering The Woodlands' first fumble of the game at the TWHS 3-yard line, Stony Point cashed in on the next play with quarterback Nykolas McKissic's toss to Stephen Williams with 6:22 remaining in the period.

However, despite those errors, the Highlanders first had a chance to cut into Stony's Point 7-0 lead and then appeared as if they would escape to the locker room behind by only one score.

After the Tigers' Austin Caswell missed a 39-yard field goal at the start of the second quarter, McCloud put the Highlanders deep into Stony Point territory with a 40-yard keeper. But the drive died when, on third-and-13, lineman Darnell Armstrong dropped the quarterback for a 6-yard loss.

McCloud quick-kicked the football down to the Stony Point one. The Tigers went nowhere and the Highlanders regained possession at midfield. Another McCloud burst – this time for 29 yards – had the Highlanders at the Stony Point 20. But on third-and-one at the 11 Lasco was dropped in the backfield by Mims.

A 36-yard field goal try by Keaton Layden bounced off the left upright.

The Tigers embarked on an 11-play march that consumed more than five minutes. They were facing third-and-14 at the TWHS 39 when Martin caught the Highlanders in a blitz and raced to the end zone. Caswell's second extra point made it 14-0 with 52 seconds before the intermission.

Stony Point lost two fumbles in the second half, the first one leading to the Highlanders' only touchdown. Ryan Eastman punted from his 23 yard and teammate Ryan Clapsaddle made the recovery at the Tigers' 46 when Kenneth Browder couldn't hang onto the football.

Completions of 20 yards to Matt Pettitt and 21 to Logan Rowe put the Highlanders at the Stony Point six.

Eastman needed four tries to reach the end – following the blocks of Cory Michalak, Adam Sibal, Sean Finney and Zach Frazier into the end zone with 6:10 remaining in the third quarter.

The momentum seemed to have shifted in The Woodlands' favor when linebacker David Flook pounced on another Stony Point fumble at the TWHS 33 with 3:05 left in the quarter. But a fumble and a sack of McCloud pushed the Highlanders back 19 yards and they wound up having to punt.

The Tigers secured the victory on their next possession. They converted a pair of third-down plays, the second for 33 yards by Martin. The play was almost identical to his touchdown run in the first half and it set up the Tigers at the TWHS 17. Martin's one-yard plunge off right tackle came with 8:14 to play.

Stony Point beats The Woodlands 21-7 in football playoffs

By **Danny Davis**

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Saturday, November 22, 2008

ROUND ROCK — If Stony Point running back Glasco Martin is called "Shakespeare" because he makes plays, people should start giving nicknames to his defensive teammates — like Michelangelo and Picasso.

Why? Because on Friday night, the Stony Point defense put together a masterpiece.

The Tigers shut down The Woodlands' offense — allowing minus-17 yards in the first and final quarters combined — in a 21-7 playoff victory.

With the win, Stony Point advanced to play the winner of the Garland-Tyler Lee matchup, next Saturday at Floyd Casey Stadium in Waco.

The school's first trip past the area football playoffs was on the line, and the Stony Point defense was fueled by recent comments by its opponents.

Stony Point senior Julian Dozier said earlier in the week a Woodlands coach had referred to the Tigers as simply a "good" defense. "We felt we're more than pretty good," Dozier said.

The Tigers' defense made a statement from the beginning, limiting the Highlanders to minus-18 yards of offense in the first quarter and forcing three turnovers. Stony Point also sacked The Woodlands quarterback Andy McCloud twice.

"Our defense came out fired up," Dozier said. "It was real big because shutting them out gave us a lot of momentum, and it carried over for us."

The Woodlands offense improved as the first half went on and drove inside the Stony Point 30-yard-line twice. But on both drives, the Tigers stonewalled the Highlanders, forcing The Woodlands into a punt and a missed field-goal attempt.

While its defense played an incredible opening 24 minutes, Stony Point struggled on offense throughout the first half.

Each of the Tigers' first four drives wound up in Highlander territory, but Stony Point scored only once.

Stony Point went up 7-0 with 6:22 to go in the first quarter on a 3-yard touchdown reception by sophomore Stephen Williams.

On the first play after a fumble recovery by the Tigers' defense, Williams nabbed a pass from quarterback Nyk McKissic and, while falling out of bounds, was able to extend the ball to the pylon.

"The first thing that came to my mind was to catch the ball," Williams said. "I knew I was in."

Stony Point had other shots to score early in the game but had two failed fourth-down conversions, as well as a missed field-goal attempt. The Tigers' offense did, however, provide a spark at the end of the first half when Martin went 39 yards on a draw play to give Stony Point a 14-0 lead with 52 seconds remaining.

Martin led Stony Point with 170 rushing yards and two touchdowns. He also had a 33-yard run on a third-and-11 conversion attempt in the fourth quarter, and his 1-yard run on fourth-and-one sealed the victory with fewer than two minutes to play.

The Woodlands scored its only touchdown in the third quarter when senior Ryan Eastman scored on a fourth-and-goal attempt from the 1-yard line. The score was set up after the Highlanders recovered a muffed punt in Stony Point territory.

Eastman's touchdown was the only blemish to an otherwise productive night for Stony Point. The Tigers forced four turnovers and held The Woodlands to eight first downs.

"Defense, all year long they've stepped up and made big plays," McKissic said. "When you have guys like (that), they really keep things going and keep you in the game."