

Conroe Courier - Sports

TWHS rips Cy-Fair

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HOUSTON – The Woodlands opened the 2009 season with a 42-6 victory over Cy-Fair at Pridgeon Stadium Saturday night.

Both teams opened the first quarter unable to find any rhythm on offense with two early missed field goals by junior Ben Pruitt, but the Highlander defense picked up the slack, with an early forced fumble and interception of Bobcat senior quarterback Blake Reese by senior Perry Cooper. Senior defensive back Ryan Clapsaddle made it back-to-back interceptions for Reese, when he added another interception off a deep pass.

Towards the end of the quarter however, heralded junior Daniel Lasco helped The Woodlands find their running game, with a 23-yard gain on a direct snap that set up their first touchdown and another direct snap that that Lasco took eight yards untouched to the end zone at the 3:07 mark. The Highlanders added another touchdown with 12 seconds left in the quarter when Lasco broke through for a 17-yard run, building a 14-0 lead by the end of the quarter.

The Bobcats were able to get on the scoreboard with 9:43 left in the half when a 10-yard pass interference call put Cy-Fair on the three-yard line and senior running back Tevin Champagne took the ball over the line on the next play.

The Highlanders added to their lead at 5:43 when senior quarterback Trent Eckel hit senior wide receiver Randy Knust for a 25-yard touchdown pass for the margin that The Woodlands would take into the locker room – 21-6.

The Woodlands opened the second half with a long kickoff return by senior Michael Skauffel. After a long 44-yard pass to Knust, senior wide receiver Peter Falivene took an end-around nine yards for another six points, less than a minute into the half.

Another stalled drive by the Bobcats led to a 39 yard punt return for Highlander senior Brett Fulton, when Cy-Fair sophomore punter Chris Hudson saved a touchdown with a strong tackle. In the ensuing drive, junior quarterback Joseph Schneider found Knust for a 16-yard touchdown at the 8:28 mark. Schneider threw another long pass, when he found sophomore Blake Webb for a 46-yard touchdown with 1:27 left in the quarter.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter, the Bobcats threatened with a long drive, before Reese threw an interception in the end zone to The Woodlands senior defensive back Josh Diaz. Facing an insurmountable deficit for the Bobcats, both teams were content to end the game with a heavy dose of running to take the clock down to 0 and give the Highlanders the victory to open the season.

For the Bobcats, Reese finished the game 9 for 20 for 77 yards, one interception and no touchdowns. Leading the rushing attack was sophomore running back John Jacob with 51 yards, and Champagne with a touchdown. Senior tight end Patrick Kilday led the receivers with 30 yards.

For The Woodlands, Eckel ended the night having completed 14 of his 18 pass attempts for 185 yards, one touchdown, and one interception. Schneider finished the game 5 for 7 for 82 yards, one touchdown, and no interceptions. Leading a Highlanders rushing attack with 180 yards, Lasco ended the night with 78 yards and two touchdowns, all in the first half. Knust led all of the wide receivers with 130 yards.