

THE COURIER

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TW run hits Stony Point in 38-24 loss



The Woodlands' Daniel Lasco goes on a 52-yard touchdown run early in the first quarter of Saturday's playoff game against Round Rock Stony Point at Woodforest Bank Stadium in Shenandoah.

By David Arno

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SHENANDOAH – The Woodlands' perfect season came to an end at the hands of Round Rock Stony Point for the second consecutive season in a 38-24 Region II-5A area playoff loss at Woodforest Bank Stadium Saturday night.

The Tigers ended the Highlanders' season last year in the second round of the playoffs with a 21-7 win in Round Rock.

"It's frustrating (to lose to Stony Point again). I would have liked to reciprocate from last year, but they're a good football team," The Woodlands head coach Mark Schmid said. "They've played great defense all year. We're fortunate to score 24 on them. I thought if we could score 21 on them, that we'd have a good shot to win it. I didn't expect them to have the success offensively that they had."

The No. 1 HSGridiron.com area-ranked Highlanders started out the scoring early when running back Daniel Lasco took off for 52 yards after it looked like he was stopped for no gain.

After a three-and-out for the Tigers, the Highlanders scored quickly again on their next drive when Trent Eckel found Jonathan Wilcher over the middle. Wilcher raced 59 yards for the score.

While struggling to get things going on offense, the Tigers still had their opportunities. After a time-consuming seven-minute drive down to The Woodlands 29, the Tigers had a turnover-on-downs when they couldn't convert a fourth down.

The Tigers and Highlanders both scored on short field goals in the first half, 24 and 28, respectively, with The Woodlands' field goal coming as the half expired, giving them a 17-3 lead.

The Tigers' offense came alive in the second half, scoring on all but one of their drives in the half.

After a quick two touchdowns to open the half, the Tigers were down by one point. A four-yard Lasco run gave the Highlanders a little more breathing room, but only for a short time.

A 73-yard Barrera pass to Gerald Shillow and an ensuing two-point conversion tied the game at 24.

Two more touchdowns off Barrera runs, of 20 and 44 yards, put the Tigers up for good and gave them the final margin.

"We have a phenomenal group of kids, and they've done some amazing things on the football field this year," Schmid said. "A lot of things that people didn't expect, they did. They played as a team, had great chemistry, and they all supported each other. You just hate to go out with a loss."

Highlanders come up less than perfect Tigers erase 2-TD deficit with second-half surge

By JASON MCDANIEL For the Chronicle
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ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH FOR THE CHRONICLE

Late in the fourth quarter on fourth and 14, Stony Point's Jordan Wade sack The Woodlands' Trent Eckel.

The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid hoped facing Round Rock Stony Point at Woodforest Stadium — where the Highlanders had lost only once — in their Region II-5A, Division I rematch would turn the tide in his team's favor.

And it did — for about a half.

After trailing by two touchdowns at the break, the Tigers used big plays to score TDs on their first five possessions of the second half en route to a 38-24 victory on Saturday.

Stony Point beat The Woodlands 21-7 last season in Round Rock en route to the state semifinals.

“It’s frustrating,” Schmid said. “I would like to have reciprocated from last year, but they’re a good football team, and I knew that coming in.”

The Woodlands ends its season at 11-1. Stony Point moves on to face Tyler Lee, a 23-17 winner over Garland, in the regional semifinals at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Waco ISD Stadium.

Early on, it looked like the big plays were back for the Highlanders, who settled for five field-goal attempts against Klein Forest last week.

Daniel Lasco broke a 52-yard touchdown run, and Trent Eckel hit Jonathan Wilcher for a 56-yard scoring pass on the Highlanders’ first two drives, helping them to a 17-3 halftime lead.

But the second half belonged to Stony Point, which managed just 95 yards in the first two quarters.

The Tigers scored on a 58-yard run by Sam Kelley and a 73-yard pass from Gus Barrera to Gerard Shillow to tie the score at 24 late in the third quarter.

Barrera gave his team its first lead with a 20-yard scoring run, and on the Tigers’ next drive, he put the game away with a 44-yard touchdown run for a 38-24 edge with 7:12 left in the game.

Barrera had four carries for 80 yards and three scores after the break. He finished with 102 yards on nine carries.

“They had a lot of momentum in the first half,” Barrera said. “We made a few mistakes. But we made our adjustments at halftime and came out with a lot more energy. We put the pedal to the metal and kept going.”