

TW tops Conroe for second straight unbeaten regular season



Highlander players celebrate their 61-20 win over Conroe on Friday night at Woodforest Bank Stadium.

By Howard Roden

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SHENANDOAH — A team that has struggled throughout the season, the Conroe High Tigers made a valiant showing against The Woodlands Friday. But the state-ranked Highlanders simply had too many weapons at their disposal. With the multi-talented Daniel Lasco running for four touchdowns and quarterback Joseph Schneider throwing for 237 yards, The Woodlands celebrated its homecoming by a 61-20 margin at Woodforest Stadium.

Rated fourth in The Associated Press Class 5A poll, TWHS enters the Division I playoff bracket at 10-0 and as the undisputed champions of District 14-5A. "Going undefeated during the regular season was a goal for these kids," TWHS coach Mark Schmid said. "Now we have new business to take care of."

The Highlanders will face Klein Oak in the bi-district round, with the date, site and time undecided. Schmid said the two teams will likely flip on a home versus home basis. In winning their 33rd meeting with the Tigers (1-9, 1-5), the Highlanders now lead the series 21-11-1. The 61 points is the most TWHS has scored against Conroe High, surpassing the 56 points scored in last year's meeting.

"It's hard to predict what's going to happen," Schmid said. "This is a rivalry game and you never know how it's going to turn out. We didn't want them to look at Conroe High's record and think it was going to be an easy time," he said.

The Woodlands amassed 646 total yards on offense and struck a balance between the rush (304) and the pass (342). Lasco, who finished with 188 yards on the ground, tallied touchdowns on runs of 5, 1, 50 and 7 yards.

Schneider, meanwhile, was nine of 14, a performance that included a 30-yard scoring toss to Matt Lee and a 39-yarder to Max Ward midway through the third quarter that boosted the Highlanders' lead to 58-20. "I thought we played well on offense almost all night long," Schmid said. "They were in a rhythm."

Conroe High almost matched the Highlanders stride-for-stride in the second quarter. Travon Henderson gave Tiger faithful hope with touchdown runs of 1 and 77 yards on consecutive series. Charrod Henry electrified the crowd with his diving touchdown catch of 35 yards from quarterback Matt Denman with 1:14 before halftime. The Tigers trailed only 35-20 when their point-after attempt was blocked into the arms of Chad Johnson.

The Highlander defensive back ran the football back to the end zone for two points. After the ensuing kickoff, TWHS needed only three plays to score again, this time on Schneider's seven-yard keeper off right tackle. "We gave up the big plays," CHS coach Roger Holtkamp said. "Our kids showed some heart and our seniors did a good job. The Woodlands made it difficult to keep pace."