

THE COURIER

OF MONTGOMERY  COUNTY

Highlanders blitz Monterrey Prepa Tec



The Woodlands' Matt Lee celebrates a 29-yard touchdown in the first quarter during Thursday night's game against Mexico's Monterrey Prepa Tec at Woodforest Bank Stadium in Shenandoah.



The Woodlands' Ryan Trauffler makes a 49-yard touchdown run as Mexico's Monterrey Prepa Tec's Salas Maldonado Itan pursues during Thursday night's game at Woodforest Bank Stadium.



The Woodlands' Daniel Lasco gains yards on the play as Mexico's Monterrey Prepa Tech's Salas Madonado Itan looks on during Thursday night's game at Woodforest Stadium in Shenandoah.

By David Arno

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THE WOODLANDS — For all of the talk about Monterrey Prepa Tec catching up to the Texas teams that the Mexican squad has been facing over the last couple of years, it wasn't evident in Thursday night's matchup against The Woodlands at Woodforest Bank Stadium. The Highlanders took control early, and cruised to a 44-7 victory.

From the Borregos' first series, it was clear that it'd be a long night for the 11-time Mexican national champions. After bringing the ball out of the end zone on the opening kickoff to only the 10-yard line, Prepa Tec was lucky to keep The Woodlands from opening the game with an early two points when a sack by Garrett Hope on third down dropped Elizondo Melchor at the one-yard line.

The Woodlands (1-0) went on to score on its next two possessions — touchdown passes of 43 and 29 yards from Joseph Schneider to Blake Webb and Matt Lee, respectively — in the first quarter.

The second quarter saw the Highlanders extend their lead by 13 points on two Ben Pruitt field goals and another Schneider touchdown pass, this time to Jackson LaPlant for 34 yards.

With a 27-0 lead to open the second half, it seemed as though The Woodlands was doing everything it could to help the Borregos get back in the game — the Highlanders gave Prepa Tec the ball on their first two possessions off of lost fumbles, the first coming on a fumbled kickoff return and the next in Prepa Tec territory.

The Borregos were unable to turn the turnovers into points, however, and then The Woodlands increased its lead with another touchdown pass from Schneider to Lee, this time 13 yards.

With the game basically over, Prepa Tec managed to get on the board after a 49-yard pass put the Borregos one yard from the end zone. They scored when Carranza Luis Alberto plowed in for six points.

The Highlanders added insurance scores on a 45-yard Pruitt field goal and when Ryan Trauffler broke free and raced down the sideline 45 yards for the final margin.

For all the domination, the Highlanders survived a scare in the first quarter when star running back Daniel Lasco went down after only his second run of the game.

Lasco limped off the field and stood on the sidelines with crutches for the remainder of the game, but The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said that it only appears to be a mild sprain and that Lasco should be ready to go next week when The Woodlands plays Fort Bend Hightower at Woodforest Bank Stadium.

Schmid said that despite the easy victory, he liked what he saw out of his team Thursday night.

"It's like I told the guys, you work so hard to get to this first game, and the reward was a victory. We got what we wanted even though it wasn't perfect. We didn't expect it to be perfect, though, with it being the first game," he said. "We saw some good things on both sides of the ball. Ben Pruitt was outstanding on his kickoffs and field goals, and that's a major bright spot tonight. Joseph Schneider threw the ball really well when he played in the first half and some of the second half. The defense ran to the ball all night — played great defense." "All in all, it was a good night for us."



Highlanders roll to win Lasco injures ankle; Schneider impresses at QB

By TODD HVEEM
For the Chronicle

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SHENANDOAH — For the past few years, Monterrey Tech, Mexico, has had quite a bit of success against Class 2A and 3A football teams from Texas. Last year, the Borregos played Class 5A power Allen in a very respectable game before falling 35-21. But on Thursday night, the Mexican football champions simply were no match for The Woodlands at Woodforest Stadium.

Joseph Schneider passed for 253 yards and four touchdowns to lead the area's second-ranked Highlanders to an easy 44-7 victory over the overmatched Borregos.

All-state running back Daniel Lasco, who has verbally committed to the University of California, played in only two series. Lasco, who rushed for more than 1,500 yards as a junior, ended the night with two carries for 10 yards. He also caught a simple swing pass and turned it into a 28-yard gain with a pair of dazzling fakes, but he left the game in the first quarter with an injury to his right ankle. "It happened on the second play," Lasco said. "I got rolled up on. It is nothing serious. I just have to give it a week's rest or so and I should be fine."

The Woodlands had a 38-yard touchdown pass called back for illegal motion on its second offensive play of game. It didn't matter. Schneider turned around and hit Blake Webb with a picture-perfect 43-yard strike on the next play and the rout was on.

The 6-2, 205-pound Schneider, who should be highly recruited before the season is over if recent history is any guide, had some big shoes to fill entering the season as the Highlanders' last two quarterbacks (Andy McCloud and Trent Eckel) both earned college scholarships. Schneider answered the bell by completing 14-of-20 passes for 226 yards and three touchdowns — in the first half. He finished the game completing 17-of-25 passes. "I was pretty nervous at first," Schneider said. "But it turned out to be an amazing game."

The Woodlands' defense, meanwhile, held Monterrey to 36 total yards in the first two quarters and 101 yards for the game.

About the only thing that went right for the Borregos in the first half was that The Woodlands' Nick Huckins blocked a punt at the Monterrey 10 and Joey Blough ran the ball in for an apparent touchdown. But the referee ruled that Huckins got all leg instead of blocking the ball and called roughing the punter, much to the dismay of the Highlanders' coaches.

The Highlanders had two straight fumbles to open the third quarter, but The Woodlands' defense — led by linebacker Garrett Hope — continued to stifle the Barregos' rushing attack.

On their third series, Schneider tossed his fourth-and-final touchdown when he found Matt Lee with a 13-yard scoring strike. Lee caught two passes on the night for 42 yards and two scores.

Monterrey Tech avoided the shutout when Alberto Luis Carranza scored on a 2-yard run on the first play of the fourth quarter.

"Their team is so good," Carranza said. "Their players, coaches, everybody is just very good."

Ben Pruitt, who is a Division I prospect, added field goals of 26, 19 and 45 yards and sophomore Ryan Trauffer added a 45-yard touchdown with 1:46 to play for the Highlanders, who will host Hightower at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 3. Monterrey Tech will also play Highland Park and Round Rock Stony Point this season.