

# The Woodlands uses strong run defense to beat Fort Bend Hightower



The Woodlands' Josh Hermsen tackles Hightower quarterback Bralon Addison during the first half at Ken Hall Stadium on Friday night. (photo by Patric Schneider)

## The Woodlands 21, Hightower 14

By COREY ROEPKEN

Posted on September 2, 2011

MISSOURI CITY — The defense of The Woodlands was big in all the right spots and did something only one Fort Bend team did all of last season. The Highlanders contained Hightower quarterback Bralon Addison.

The Woodlands had a great plan for the elusive Texas A&M commit and got all the stops it needed en route to a 21-14 victory at Fort Bend ISD's Ken Hall Stadium Friday night.

Addison had some success in the passing game but gained only 36 yards on 14 rush attempts. The biggest stop came on the final play of the first half, when Addison tried to dive through a crowd and was ruled down short of the goal line.

Quarterback Lance Miles had given the Highlanders a 14-7 lead by that time. He passed to Christian Jauregui for a 21-yard touchdown on the game's first possession and scored one of his own on a 10-yard run early in the second quarter.

Miles passed to Blake Webb for another touchdown with 4 minutes, 45 seconds left in the third quarter to give the Highlanders a 21-7 lead.

Hightower drove inside the red zone three times the rest of the game. The Woodlands held the Hurricanes without points twice.

The Hurricanes did score in the first minute of the fourth quarter to get within seven points. Hightower had possession only one more time.

Miles was 10 of 15 passing for 90 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 38 yards and one more touchdown. Ryan Trauffer rushed for 54 yards.

Addison was 17 of 35 passing for 181 yards and one touchdown. Hightower running back Josh Wilhite rushed 19 times for 97 yards and one touchdown and gained 45 more yards on three receptions.

The Woodlands held the Hightower running game in check throughout the game. Hightower's Ryan Nelson caught seven passes for 77 yards and one touchdown.

# Woodlands contains Addison, slips past Hightower



By JASON McDANIEL, For the Chronicle  
Updated 11:36 p.m., Friday, September 2, 2011

With a chance to tie the score just before halftime, Hightower quarterback [Bralon Addison](#) dove inside on second and goal from the 1.

That's exactly what The Woodlands wanted him to do.

After seeing way too much of the electric Addison and his play-making ability last year, when the Hurricanes scored 39 points against them, the Highlanders' defense made containing him a priority.

They harassed and hurried him all night, persistently corralling and funneling the Texas A&M commit inside and preventing the game-changing plays he's known for - including on that pivotal down.

The Highlanders, brimming with confidence after the big goalline stand, went on to a 21-14 win Friday at Hall Stadium.

"We definitely wanted to contain (Addison)," senior [Garrett Hope](#) said.

"Last year we had a couple guys go inside the tackles, and we wanted me and our other defensive end, [Mitchell Myers](#), playing outside of him, keeping containment on him, forcing him back inside to [Robbie Goldschmidt](#), and it worked out well."

Addison finished with 36 yards on 15 rushes. He completed 18-of-36 passes for 181 yards and one touchdown in the fourth. Hightower finished with just 91 yards on 37 rushes (2.5 yards per carry).

"(The defensive line) did a great job getting the forward push and, for most of the night, containing the run, and we played a lot of guys in there to keep them fresh," The Woodlands coach [Mark Schmid](#) said.

The Highlanders (2-0) rotated seven or eight guys on the line all night, with several defensive linemen stepping up with key plays, including [Patrick McCloud](#), [Will Davidson](#), [Josh Hermesen](#) and Mitchell.

They combined for two sacks of the elusive Addison.

Tied 7-7 after both teams scored on their opening possessions, the game changed when a high snap sailed over the head of Hightower punter [Jose Cruz](#), who recovered the ball but could not get it off.

After a mad scramble, the Highlanders picked it up at the Hightower 10-yard line, and one play later quarterback [Lance Miles](#) ran it in for a 14-7 lead.

"Whenever you're able to capitalize on a turnover that's big, and that fuels the team and makes the defense feel like their efforts were worth it," Schmid said.

Miles added to the Highlanders' lead in the third, finding [Blake Webb](#) in the end zone for a quick-strike, 10-yard TD and 21-7 edge. He completed 10 of 15 passes for 69 yards and two touchdowns.

Addison led a scoring drive to answer, with his 11-yard TD pass to [Ryan Nelson](#) cutting the deficit to 21-14 with 10:48 left in the game, but too many missed opportunities prevented a comeback.

The Hurricanes didn't score after either of their interceptions, and a field goal attempt in the third bounced off the left upright, helping send the Hurricanes to 0-2.

"It's not what we expected, it's not what we really want, but that won't stop us," [Joshua Wilhite](#) said. "We still have another 14 more weeks until the state championship, and these two games won't affect us."



## Hightower's Addison can't break free in loss to The Woodlands

Posted: Friday, September 2, 2011

By COREY ROEPKEN

The Hightower High School football team has lost its first two games for the second time in school history, but its head coach and starting running back are not worried.

The Hurricanes' latest setback is a 21-14 loss to The Woodlands Friday night at Hall Stadium.

The visiting Highlanders had an answer for elusive Hightower quarterback Bralon Addison. They kept the Texas A&M commit from getting loose and made several stops in key situations.

That's a different story from the one Addison wrote in the opening loss to Aldine Eisenhower. He accounted for 300 yards and led the Hurricanes to five touchdowns. In last season's game against The Woodlands - an overtime loss - Addison led Hightower to 39 points.

The silver lining in Friday's loss is that the Hightower defense that played poorly against Eisenhower did well against The Woodlands.

"We're going to be a good football team," coach Barry Abercrombie said. "Our defense has made tremendous strides. Our offense has to get a little more consistent. By the time it's all said and done I really believe we can be a very good football team. We're just not yet."

The Woodlands scored a touchdown on its first possession and never trailed. Hightower also scored on its first drive thanks to running back Josh Wilhite's 11-yard run. The Highlanders pulled ahead for good with another touchdown early in the second quarter.

They got that one after Hightower lost 19 yards on a punt attempt. The punter did not handle the snap, and The Woodlands recovered on the Hightower 10-yard line.

Hightower's best chance to tie came on the final drive of the first half. Wilhite gained seven yards on a first-and-goal play from the 8-yard line. Hightower called timeout with five seconds remaining and called for Addison to keep it. Addison dove into a crowd at the goal line but was ruled to be down before he crossed.

The Woodlands led, 14-7, at halftime.

The Highlanders scored the winning points on a touchdown with five minutes left in the third quarter. Hightower drove inside the red zone three times after that but scored only once. The Hurricanes missed a field goal on the drive after The Woodlands' final touchdown.

They finally scored again on Addison's 11-yard pass to Ryan Nelson with 11 minutes to go in the fourth quarter.

Hightower had first-and-10 on The Woodlands' 18-yard line on its final drive but never got closer than that.

Addison was 17-of-35 passing for 181 yards, but The Woodlands stopped him from gaining any momentum in the running game. He carried 14 times for 36 yards. That includes two sacks. Addison gained more than nine yards only once.

Wilhite finished with 19 carries for 97 yards, but he was tackled for a loss five times. He gained one or two yards five other times.

"They just played hard," Abercrombie said. "They had a good scheme for us. They're a well coached football team with good players. We didn't finish drives like we should. We didn't throw and catch like we should."

The best part of the Hightower passing game was Nelson. He caught seven passes for 77 yards. Donald Weathersby caught four passes for 42 yards, and Wilhite caught three passes for 45 yards.

The goal at Hightower for years has been to win a state title. Despite the poor record, Wilhite said the Hurricanes' sights still are set on Texas' biggest prize.

"(Being 0-2) is not what we expected. It's not what we want," he said. "We still have another 14 weeks until the state championship. These two games won't affect us."