

## The Woodlands stifles Kingwood



Saturday, October 22, 2011 10:28 pm  
By Mike Taylor

HUMBLE – The Woodlands’ defense shut down Kingwood’s potent rushing attack in a 28-0 victory on Friday night at Turner Stadium. In dominating a unit that entered the week averaging 278 yards on the ground per game, second-best behind College Park in District 14-5A, the Highlanders clinched a playoff berth for the 17th consecutive season. “We were in complete control of the game from start to finish,” The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. “Just the way that the defense was playing and the success we were having offensively, I never felt like the game was out of our control.”

The Highlanders (7-1, 3-1) made easy work of their first two offensive drives — six plays for 61 yards and a touchdown and 10 plays for 48 yards and a score — while the defense allowed the Mustangs only 3 yards on six plays. “We have moved the ball pretty well this year,” Kingwood coach Dougald McDougald said. “They did a good job. They whipped us up front. They were more physical than us. That’s one of the things we have to do as an offense to be able to control the football; we have to be more physical than the opponent at the line of scrimmage. “They really didn’t do anything scheme-wise different than we’ve seen. They just did a great job. They played well.”

Trailing 14-0 midway through the second quarter, the Mustangs elected to go for it on fourth and 3 from the Highlander 24. But Mark Hall was stopped one-half hard shy and The Woodlands took over. Kingwood (5-3, 3-1), which picked up only five first downs all night, never threatened to score again.

Cooper Woodyard ran for 3 yards, and quarterback Lance Miles hit Jayme Taylor for 7 more. A holding penalty pushed the Highlanders back 10 yards, but Miles connected with Houston Brown for 9 yards. It was the senior’s 10th completion in his first 11 attempts. Taylor and Woodyard then ran for 7 yards apiece and Cameron Klapesky reeled in a 12-yard reception. Three plays later, Brown turned a short pass into a 37-yard touchdown and 20-0 lead when he sped into the middle of the field and ran through two arm tackles. Marshall Bainton, who boomed four kickoffs for touchbacks, including one from the 35-yard line after The Woodlands was called offside, converted his third extra point.

Trailing 21-0 midway through the third quarter and looking for some kind of spark, the Mustangs moved from their own 5-yard line to the 39 behind three Kade Harrington carries for 31 yards. Two plays later, however, Tyce Johnson sacked Harrington — the district’s leading rusher — for a 4-yard loss before Garrett Hope blew up a reverse 8 yards behind the line of scrimmage.

Kingwood punted, and The Woodlands engineered a 12-play, 70-yard drive that chewed 4 minutes, 59 seconds off the game clock. All of the Highlanders’ playmakers chipped in with Miles completing each of his three passes for 29 yards. He finished 19 of 24 for 217 yards and two touchdowns.

Woodyard ran twice for 14 yards, Ryan Trauffer ran four times for 19 yards and Taylor lined up at quarterback twice for 12 yards on a pair of draw plays, the latter a 3-yard score to all but clinch the game.

The Mustangs finished with 116 yards on 39 carries, and Harrington had only 74 on 17. "I was real pleased with the way we played defensively," Schmid said. "You get to play against an offense like Kingwood one time a year, so you don't have a whole lot of shots to prepare for it. I thought that the kids on the defensive side of the ball and the coaches did a great job of preparing for what they were going to see tonight."

Kingwood also only ran 41 offensive plays to the Highlanders' 63, and had only 22:54 of possession to The Woodlands' 25:06. "It's assignments, the kids have to be disciplined," Schmid said, noting his team had an extra day to prepare for the Mustangs. "We felt defensively we needed that extra day, and I think it paid off. Those guys did a great job."

The Woodlands hosts College Park (6-2, 3-1) at Woodforest Bank Stadium on Friday before visiting Conroe (1-7, 1-3) on Nov. 4, the last Friday of the regular season. "College Park is a good football team," Schmid said. "They do good things on offense and they play great defense. They're figuring out how to win, so it ought to be a great game next Friday night."

The Mustangs close the season with a trip to Lufkin on Friday and then host Oak Ridge on Nov. 5. "We have to learn from this," McDougald said. "We have to bounce back. That's how men grow, and that's how football teams grow. "Up to this week, I thought that we had been improving. We didn't play as well and The Woodlands has a lot to do with that, obviously. We need to get back on track and just play better — get better every week." The Woodlands defense forced Kingwood into a pair of three and outs on its first two possessions while the offense put together two impressive drives.