

# The Woodlands wins big over Monterrey Prepa Tec



By Tom Glave  
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**SHENANDOAH** – Big plays got The Woodlands rolling to another big win against Monterrey Prepa Tec.

The Highlanders blocked a punt and recovered a fumble early and scored twice on special teams to fuel a wild 56-32 win against the Borregos Salvajes to open the season at Woodforest Bank Stadium on Thursday. “Early in the game the turnovers and the blocked punt were big,” The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. “The offense kind of sputtered and kind of showed some of our inexperience. We got some breaks with turnovers and that kind of gave us a spark.”

Monterrey Prepa gave the Highlanders (1-0) two short fields to give The Woodlands an early lead. Kyle Kulka blocked a punt deep in Monterrey Prepa territory and the Highlanders scored two plays later on Randy Cooper’s 3-yard run. Borregos quarterback Melchor Emanuel Elizondo fumbled a snap on the next series and Patrick McCloud recovered at the Borregos’ 7. Two plays later senior quarterback Cooper Woodyard hit Chris Warren for a short score and 14-0 lead.

The Woodlands – which beat the Mexican national champs 44-7 last year – blew open the game in the third quarter with two more big plays on special teams. Monterrey Prepa cut the lead to 42-19 with a field goal following Lance Miles’ third interception of the game but Ryan Trauffer returned the ensuing kickoff for a score. Trauffer seemed stopped on the Highlanders sideline but broke a tackle at the 30 and got freed with a block on the way to a 92-yard score.

Later in the period Jorie Taylor blocked at Borregos’ punt and Mike Ciaramitaro scooped the loose ball and scored from 5 yards out for a 49-19 lead. “With a young team, and inexperienced team, (those plays) give them a little oomph to get over the edge,” Schmid said. “That’s what it did. The short fields were great for us.”

The Woodlands and Monterrey Prepa traded scores heading into halftime and the Borregos added two last scores with long scoring plays. Miles broke free on a keeper and got a downfield block from Blake Webb for a 59-yard score in the second quarter and Woodyard hit Christian Jauregui for a 17-yard score and set up Trauffer’s 25-yard run with three long passes to Warren and Webb.

Woodyard finished the game 8 of 11 for 116 yards. Cooper led the Highlanders’ rushing attack with 52 yards on nine carries. Eduardo Marcos took a pass 56 yards and Luis Alberto Carranza scored on a 47-yard run to get the Borregos within 35-16 at halftime. After Webb’s short touchdown pass pushed The Woodlands’ lead to 56-19, Diego Fernando Margain and Eugenio Martell scored on long passing plays to set the final scorelong passing plays to set the final score.



# Highlanders beat Monterrey Tech 56-32 in season opener

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THE WOODLANDS, Texas -- The Woodlands came into the 2011 season opener with just as many questions as their opponent from Mexico. But the Highlanders were able to figure out their problems before figuring out Monterrey Tech.

The Highlanders moved the football and capitalized on some special teams mistakes to beat the Borregos 56-32 Thursday night at Woodforest Stadium. A strong running attack and a couple of blocked punts helped The Woodlands to score 28 points in the second quarter despite growing pains from its two quarterbacks, Lance Miles and Cooper Woodyard.

"The offense sputtered and we showed some of our inexperience early on," Highlander head coach Mark Schmid said. "We got some breaks early with some turnovers and the blocked punts. And that kind of gave us a spark. From that point on, our offense began to gel and come together. And that was really, really good to see."

The Highlanders took a 14-0 lead in the first quarter after a blocked punt set up a 3-yard touchdown run by Randy Cooper, then after a Borrego fumbled snap, Woodyard found Chris Warren for a 4-yard touchdown pass.

After Monterrey Tech got on the board with a 35-yard field goal, quarterback Lance Miles took off for a 59-yard touchdown run to extend the lead to 18. The Borregos responded with a 56-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Melchor Elizondo to Eduardo Marcos to make it 21-10.

Woodyard then led The Woodlands (1-0) on two scoring drives, throwing a touchdown pass to Christian Jauregui from 17 yards out and going 3-for-4 for 52 yards, setting up a 25-yard scoring run by Ryan Trauffer. But Monterrey Tech was able to throw on the Highlander defense and scored twice before the half ended, trailing 35-16.

After a Borrego field goal, the special teams stood tall for a couple of good plays. Trauffer returned a kickoff 92 yards for a touchdown, then another blocked punt was returned for a touchdown by junior defensive back Mike Ciaramitaro to make the score 49-19. The Woodlands ended their scoring with a 2-yard touchdown pass to wideout Blake Webb from third-string quarterback Ben Kronshage.

Despite the offensive showing, The Woodlands gave up a couple of big passing plays in the game that allowed Monterrey Tech to stay in contention. But the Highlander coaches will chalk that up to a mostly inexperienced secondary learning to play together.

"Defensively, we're young in the secondary and sometimes it showed," Schmid said. "But like I told these guys, to come away with a win is a good thing. We got a lot of stuff to improve upon, but that's the same message we had last week. We were pretty good, but we have to improve."

Meanwhile, the two quarterbacks had some rough moments, but played well for the most part. Miles was 4-of-9 passing and had that 57-yard touchdown run, but threw three interceptions in the game. Woodyard was more consistent, going 8-of-12 for

124 yards and two touchdowns, and Kronshage was 6-of-7 for 43 yards and a touchdown.

“Both of them have very little experience and I thought both of them showed some signs tonight of doing some really good things,” Schmid said. “Even our third-string quarterback Ben Kronshage showed some positive things.”

Now with the first-game jitters out of the way, The Woodlands will now prepare for a dangerous Hightower team that battled the Highlanders to double overtime in their last meeting. Schmid knows that to beat the Hurricanes, his defense must come up with an answer to holding quarterback and Texas A&M commit Braylon Addison in check.

“Braylon is a special player and he’s someone who we’re going to have to deal with defensively,” he said.