

The Woodlands defeats Oak Ridge 52-0



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SHENANDOAH - The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid saw everything he wanted Friday night.

The offense was efficient and the defense was dominating. It added up to a 52-0 win against Oak Ridge at Woodforest Bank Stadium.

It was what the Highlanders (6-1, 2-1) needed after lost last week to District 14-5A leading Lufkin.

"It was important for us to hold onto the football, be patient offensively and play great defense," Schmid said. "We had great defense all night. As (the offense) gained more confidence it started to gel.

"We had contributions in all phases of the game and it was important to get back on a winning note after a tough week at Lufkin."

The Highlanders quickly scored through the air and on the ground, got two defensive touchdowns and kicker Marshall Bainton bounced back from two misses to hit a field goal in the big win.

Senior quarterback Lance Miles led the offense – which was missing senior receiver Blake Webb – to three quick scores and finished the night 16 of 22 for 216 yards.

"Lance threw the ball where it needed to be," Schmid said. "We spread the ball around. The quarterback's job is to find where that ball needs to go."

The Woodlands scored quickly to open the game, going 66 yards in five plays. Miles hit Jayme Taylor for a 36-yard gain to set up Randy Cooper's 4-yard score just 90 seconds into the game.

They used just 12 seconds on a two-play drive to push the lead to 21-0 before halftime.

A penalty after a short Oak Ridge punt set up The Woodlands at the War Eagle 35 with 50 seconds left in the half. Mile completed a quick pass to Christian Jauregui before hitting Cameron Klapesky for a 21-yard score with 38 seconds left.

Mile's other touchdown pass was a 40-yarder to Houston Brown in the third quarter – the first play after a punt set up The Woodlands in Oak Ridge territory.

Brown finished with five catches for 71 yards as seven different Highlanders had receptions.

The second-team offense added two scores in the fourth guarter.

Ryan Trauffler's 85-yard run - on his first carry of the night - set up Ben Kronshage's 2-yard score.

Garrett Harvey set the final score with a 19-yard run to cap The Woodland's lengthiest touchdown drive of the night at 1 minute, 37 seconds.

The Woodlands defense allowed 30 rushing yards and just nine first downs in the win. Robbie Goldschmidt and Thomas Adams each returned interceptions for touchdowns as Oak Ridge (1-7, 0-4) struggled.

Goldschmidt, who also recovered a first-quarter fumble, sniffed out a screen pass in the second quarter and returned the Michael Handy pass 50 yards for a 14-0 lead.

Adams stepped in front of Handy's pass early in the third quarter and returned it up the visiting sidelines for a 30-yard score for a 28-0 advantage.

Handy was hobbled by an injury suffered during last week's loss to Atascocita and only rushed for 6 yards Friday.

"He didn't have his best game, there's no doubt," Oak Ridge coach Bob Barrett said. "He's a big part of our running game. I hope he'll bounce back and be ready to go next week."

Oak Ridge finished with 220 yards of offense but only got in the red zone once. The defense stopped two Highlander drives in the first half that ended in missed field goals but the Oak Ridge offense couldn't carry the momentum.

"We never got in a rhythm all night long offensively," Barrett said. "We missed a lot of great opportunities and you just can't do that when you play good teams."