

The Woodlands runs by Strake Jesuit

By **Mike Taylor** | Saturday, September 10, 2011

SHENANDOAH — The Woodlands beat up on Strake Jesuit 40-10 on Friday night behind a stingy defense and a strong running attack at Woodforest Bank Stadium.

The Highlanders scored twice in each of the first and second quarters and led 40-0 late in the fourth quarter before the Crusaders mustered any offense.

Speedy wideout Blake Webb scored on runs of 57 and 5 yards, and quarterback Cooper Woodyard finished with 58 yards and two touchdowns on only three carries. Running back Randy Cooper added 75 yards and a touchdown on six carries and quarterback Lance Miles and running back Ryan Trauffler combined for 67 yards on 15 carries.

Miles also opened the scoring with a 17-yard touchdown pass to Chris Warren after Charlie Warren picked off a Strake Jesuit pass early in the first quarter.

The Highlanders finished with 287 yards on 37 carries.

"We always want to establish the run, that's just the way that we are," The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "We want to get the run game going because it helps the passing game. We feel like we're fairly deep at running back.

"The running game is important to us. I think if we can run the football, we have a chance to be pretty good."

On Friday night, it was the defense that was pretty good.

Strake Jesuit had 67 total yards and only four first downs at halftime while The Woodlands had rolled up 243 yards, including 135 on 22 carries, and 13 first downs. The Crusaders didn't cross midfield until more than three minutes had elapsed in the third quarter.

Garrett Hope and Josh Hermesen recorded sacks, and the Highlanders stopped Strake Jesuit on two fourth down attempts and forced seven punts.

"The defense stepped it up big time last week (in a 21-14 win at Hightower), and they continued to play well this week," Schmid said. "And that's very exciting to see because going into the season I felt that the defense was going to be a really good unit for us and we played that way the last two weeks."

The Highlanders (3-0), who have now won 24 regular season games in a row, host Tyler Lee next week.

Miles was intercepted by Robert Martin on the Highlanders' first possession, but Charlie Warren picked off a Tyler Schiro pass two plays later. Two plays later, Miles hit an open Chris Warren in the corner of the end zone for a 7-0 lead.

The Highlanders scored in two plays on their next drive when Webb took a handoff and raced around the left side for 57 yards. He did the same from 5 yards out at the 7:35 mark of the fourth quarter to give The Woodlands its 40-0 lead.

Strake Jesuit (1-2) was forced to punt on its next two possessions after Webb's first score, and then the Highlanders embarked on a 10-play, 80-yard drive. Trauffler ran five times for 33 yards and Miles had three carries for 33 yards plus a completion to Webb for 13 yards.

Woodyard capped the drive with a 1-yard run on a quarterback draw, which with Marshall Bainton's point after gave the Highlanders a 21-0 lead on the first play of the second quarter.

Randy Cooper finished off another 80-yard drive, this one of 12 plays, with an 8-yard run 2:53 before halftime.

In the third quarter, Cooper ran for 12 yards on a draw, Woodyard connected with Chris Warren for 12 more and the senior quarterback, who alternated every two possessions with Miles, juked two defenders on a draw play before flashing breakaway speed on the way to a 68-yard touchdown.

The Crusaders' Austin Hahn scored on an 8-yard run with 4:42 remaining, and Nick Langemeier booted a 42-yard field goal with 54 seconds left.

Jordan Underwood ran for 86 yards on 17 carries, and Schiro completed 9 of 18 passes for 128 yards with the interception. Langemeier caught five passes for 93 yards.

"Well, they're obviously very good," Strake Jesuit coach Ron Counter said. "We're just struggling a little bit offensively right now. We struggled last week. We didn't turn the ball over as much tonight as we did last week (in a 51-14 loss at Dallas Jesuit).

"We just have to get better offensively. We left our defense on the field way too much in the first half. At halftime, I think we had 24 snaps and I think they had 39 or 40. We have to do a better job giving that defense a little bit of a break."