



HIGHLANDERS DOMINATE PANTHERS IN 52-0 SHUTOUT

The Woodlands jumped on Caney Creek early, scoring 21 points in the 1st quarter on the way to a 52-0 victory. The Highlanders outgained the Panthers in the contest 362 yards to 35 yards. The win puts the Highlanders at 2-1 in district play going into their bye week.

Lincoln Halsey got the Highlanders on the board first. After starting the game with a defensive stop, The Woodlands marched 44 yards in 6 plays for a touchdown. The drive was capped by Halsey's 14-yd burst to make the score 7-0. Halsey would finish with 61 yards on 8 carries.

It didn't take long for the Highlanders to add to their lead. After a quick 3-and-out by the Panthers, Caycen Bartolazzi took the punt return 64 yards to the end zone – making the score 14-0.

Following the return touchdown, the Highlander defense forced another 3-and-out. Josh Hampton partially blocked the punt attempt setting up the offense with a short field at the 24-yard line. This time, The Woodlands would only need 4 plays to reach the end zone. Jason Haskins rushed 12 yards for a touchdown to increase the Highlander lead to 21-0 at the end of the 1st quarter.

TWHS would get one more score before halftime. A long, time-consuming, 13-play drive was completed with a 4-yard touchdown plunge for Haskins. Haskins would finish the game with 46 yards on 10 carries and 2 touchdowns. The Highlanders only had 4 possessions in the 1st half but scored on all 4 and took a 28-0 lead into halftime.

The Highlanders opened the 2nd half with another long drive deep into Panther territory but came away empty after missing a field goal. After a short punt by the Panthers, The Woodland needed just 1 play to return to the end zone. Quarterback Kaden Copelin found Beckett Barefoot on a play-action pass that covered 27 yards for the touchdown. Copelin, getting his first varsity start, went 13-15 for 175 yards passing with the one TD.

The Woodlands defense quickly got the ball back to the offense with a Sean McEvoy fumble recovery. This time, Copelin would take the ball into the end zone by himself. The 9-yard touchdown run gave the Highlanders a 42-0 lead going into the 4th quarter.

The Highlanders put together another long scoring drive that included a 10-yard 4th down conversion run by Daniel Villanueva Boone. Kicker Luke Crudginton hit a 35-yard field goal to make the score 45-0.

The offense would reach the end zone one more time. Sophomore running back Valentino Carbia took his first varsity carry 33 yards for a touchdown, making the final score 52-0. Carbia finished the night with 47 yards on 3 carries.

Receiving leaders for the Highlanders included Bryson Bourn (2-50), Dhillon Harris (3-40), and Colton Weddel (2-35).

The Highlander defense recorded their second shutout of the season. Jy'Ree Jefferson led the team in tackles with 9, including a sack, a tackle-for-loss, and 2 hurries. Luke Podowski was next with 6 tackles along with a sack.

Other defensive standouts included Nate Beagle (5 tackles, 1 TFL), Magnus Herndon (5 tackles, 3 sacks, 1 caused fumble, 2 hurries), and Matthias Molito (5 tackles).

The Woodlands completed the 1st half of the regular season with a 4-1 record (2-1 in district). After the bye week, the Highlanders will travel to Cleveland before hosting College Park in the annual War in the Woods battle.