

The Woodlands vs Oak Ridge: A Lower Scoring Affair

The game the other Thursday featured The Woodlands playing away against an Oak Ridge team that has looked ineffective in recent weeks. It was a low-scoring contest, mainly highlighting rushing from both teams, and it could have been closer if Oak Ridge had capitalized on some of the Highlanders' mistakes. The Woodlands only scored 21 points on offense, marking one of their lowest scoring games of the season.

QB Jack Daulton was the standout for the Highlanders, scoring 3 touchdowns - 2 rushing and 1 passing. Daulton's first TD came on a deep pass to WR Carter Cass, putting The Woodlands ahead early. His first rushing touchdown was a 70+ yard run, demonstrating how dangerous he can be if not contained. His second TD followed another deep reception from Cass, who fought through multiple tackles to reach the end zone just short of the goal line. The other score was a fumble recovery by DB Caycen Bartolazzi, who returned it 20 yards for a touchdown. Bartolazzi once again played a key leadership role on defense, ending the game with a high number of tackles along with his defensive touchdown.

After halftime, The Woodlands was unable to score again, failing to reach the end zone on any of their subsequent drives. This was quite a night for the Highlanders; although their first-half dominance didn't affect the final result, it could be problematic if they play like that again in the playoffs.

For Oak Ridge, the game was full of missed opportunities. QB Drayton Urbay was the only offensive player making significant plays, leading three red-zone drives, almost scoring on a long run that was stopped just short of the goal line. However, Oak Ridge failed to score from those drives, with a field goal attempt blocked on the opening drive and inability to convert on 4th down in the other two. If they had managed to reach the end zone on those drives, this game might have been much closer.

Oak Ridge's bright spot was on special teams, scoring on a 50-yard punt return by Jayden Barnes. They also blocked a punt on another drive, creating good field position that their offense couldn't capitalize on. Defensively, they performed well, forcing more punts than they would have liked and putting pressure on The Woodlands.

Overall, Oak Ridge's performance wasn't their best, which explains their final record. They dominated time of possession but struggled to capitalize on big plays, with Urbay seeming to be their only effective threat all night. Hopefully, they can regroup in the offseason and come back stronger next year. Overall, the game was quick and somewhat boring except for a few big plays. Both offenses heavily ran the ball, leading to long drives that chewed up most of the clock. The game lasted just under two hours, one of the shortest I've watched this year. The Highlanders are in a good position to be a top seed in the 6A "big school" bracket, and they have a strong chance at a deep run if their offense can continue to perform and their defense maintains its form.