

Skyline hangs on against TWHS



Sunday, September 2, 2012

By **Matt Stephens**

FRISCO — The Woodlands hung with Skyline at FC Dallas Stadium Saturday night until the final minutes, but the Knights' high-powered offense and more than 450 total yards proved too much as the Highlanders fell 42-28 in their opening game.

A rematch of last year's 35-31 loss in the 5A quarterfinals, The Woodlands had several new faces on the roster, including sophomore RB Patrick Carr and senior QB Blaine Gillespie who seemed up to the task of playing in their first varsity game. Carr ran 18 times for 88 yards while Gillespie over 130 yards through the air and another 62 on the ground, accounting for all four of the Highlanders touchdowns.

"I thought those kids played well and I think they're going to be a lot better later in the season," Coach Mark Schmid said. The Raiders' RaShaad Samples was the star of the Knights offense, posting 11 catches for 168 yards and four touchdowns, including nine receptions for 138 yards and three touchdowns in the first half. The first two of the evening put the Raiders up 14-0 early in the second quarter.

After a slow first quarter in which The Woodlands punted twice in two possessions and barely gained more than 10 yards offensively, the Highlanders caught a break. Skyline's long snapper snapped it into the end zone and the punter was tackled at the seven-yard line to give The Woodlands their first scoring opportunity.

But the Highlanders needed some trickery to capitalize, as Gillespie threw his first touchdown of the season to Jayme Taylor on a fake field goal on 4th and goal. After a couple of personal fouls derailed the Raiders' following possession, the Highlanders put together their first significant drive of the evening, driving 61 yards on eight plays and tying the game on a two-yard run by Gillespie.

Skyline gave The Woodlands their second excellent scoring opportunity of the half by fumbling the following kickoff return and Gillespie scored his third touchdown of the night, a 26-yard strike to Houston Brown to take a 21-14. Woods scored his third touchdown on a 53-yard catch to tie the game at 21 before halftime.

The Woodlands came out strong at halftime, driving 59 yards to take their only lead of the game at 28-21, but Skyline's offense proved too much as QB Devante Kincade scored on runs of 59 and nine yards to put Skyline up 42-28. The Woodlands had a chance to drive to tie the game late, but an interception by Gillespie and Kincade's final score sealed the deal.

Despite the loss, Schmid believes the team showed heart and sticking with a talented Skyline squad. "If I can get that out of them every week, we're going to be a pretty good football team," he said.

Dallas Skyline rallies past The Woodlands

Saturday, September 1, 2012

FRISCO - Ra'Shaad Samples was trying to take it easy, as easy as one can on a football field.

Tell that to The Woodlands Highlanders.

In his first action since breaking his left fibula in March, Samples caught four touchdown passes from Devante Kincade, as Dallas Skyline rallied to win the North Texas Football Classic at Frisco's FC Dallas Stadium.

Samples finished with 11 catches for 169 yards, while Kincade rushed for two fourth-quarter scores, as the Raiders came back from a 28-21 fourth-quarter deficit to score three times in the final period.

For the Highlanders, Patrick Carr rushed for 94 yards on 19 carries and quarterback Blaine Gillespie ran for 55 yards and scored two touchdowns as The Woodlands led 28-21 going into the fourth quarter.

Gillespie was 17-for-29 passing for 168 yards and one touchdown and two interceptions. Houston Brown had seven catches for 75 yards and one touchdown. The Woodlands totaled 316 yards.

The game was similar to last year's 5A Division I regional final, where Skyline overcame a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat The Woodlands 35-31.

This year, Skyline took the second-half lead when Kincade broke a 59-yard touchdown run with seven minutes remaining. He added another score on the following drive, four plays after an interception by Will Barrow.

"Sometimes we come out slow," Kincade said. "Once we go to the locker room and figure out what we did wrong, we come out and fix it and put it together."

Reginald Samples held Ra'Shaad, his son, out of contact drills during fall practice, hoping to gain as much recovery time as he could without additional stress on the fracture.

Ra'Shaad - who has verbally committed to Oklahoma State - led the Raiders as the Highlanders struggled to find a coverage to slow him down.

Samples' last catch tied the game at 28-28 with 10:54 remaining, as Kincade found him in the end zone between two defenders.

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