

Skyline slips past The Woodlands in overtime 33-30



Posted: Saturday, August 31, 2013

By **Jon Poorman**

GEORGETOWN — The Woodlands football team had its chances at victory on Saturday night against Dallas Skyline. But in the end, a few mistakes ultimately led to the Highlanders' demise.

The Highlanders fell to the Raiders 33-30 in overtime after failing to connect on a 28-yard field goal near the end of regulation and allowing Skyline to stay alive with a facemask penalty on a third-and-13 in the extra period.

“Anytime you play a great opponent, it’s going to come down to just a few little things,” The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. “The field goal was big, the facemask was big, but we got a facemask in overtime — they gave us a first down — and they missed a field goal, too. Those things happen. It’s football.”

Although they came away with the victory, the Raiders looked shaky right out of the gates, as the opening kickoff — a poorly executed onside attempt — wound up in the hands of The Woodlands’ Sterling Scott, who took it 54 yards to the house.

On the ensuing possession, Skyline answered The Woodlands when Sederian Copeland found Carlos Strickland deep down the middle of the field for a 37-yard touchdown pass. However, a botched extra-point attempt kept the Highlanders in the lead, 7-6.

Things began to head downhill for Skyline after that, as The Woodlands put together a nice drive on their first offensive possession — one that was capped off with a 7-yard touchdown pass from Dylan Larsen to Robert LeGoubin, giving the Highlanders a 14-6 advantage.

“Dylan is a really headsy player,” Schmid said. “That’s his strength — decision-making. He made some good decisions tonight and made some good reads and put the ball where it needed to be to give us some big plays.”

On the ensuing kickoff, the two Skyline deep men collided at the 1-yard line, forcing the Raiders to start their drive in a precarious situation. After Skyline was forced to punt from its own end zone, the Highlanders took advantage of great field position and Patrick Carr punched in an 11-yard run for the commanding 21-6 edge.

But Skyline refused to go down quietly, and in the second quarter, Daleon Ward stumbled in from three yards out to make the score 21-13. Ryan Spaulding kicked a 44-yard field goal to cap the first-half scoring, and The Woodlands walked into the locker room with a 24-13 lead.

The Woodlands got on the board first in the third quarter with a 30-yard field goal from Spaulding, but the Raiders responded with a touchdown. Copeland connected with Strickland on a 5-yard score to make it 27-20, Highlanders.

Later in the quarter, Copeland found Emmanuel Harris in the middle of the endzone for a 4-yard touchdown, knotting the contest at 27.

Skyline looked like it was about to take control after Copeland broke off a 72-yard run down to the Highlanders' 16-yard line. But The Woodlands' defense held and Wilson Rivera missed a 41-yard field goal attempt that would have given his team the lead.

After the Highlanders took over, Carr broke off back-to-back 14-yard carries and Larsen connected with Tyler Patrick on a 37-yard gain. With 49 seconds remaining in regulation, Spaulding set up for what looked like would be the winning field goal. But the kick missed and the teams headed for overtime.

Spaulding connected on a 25-yard field goal to give the Highlanders a 30-27 lead, but when Skyline took their shot, a facemask penalty kept them alive and Ward took in the game-winning, 2-yard touchdown run.

"I did like the fight that we showed tonight," Schmid said. "It was a game where momentum changed a number of times, and our kids responded well to the adversity. We took advantage of some situations, and I was pleased with the way our younger players responded to a game like this with an opponent like this. I was really pleased with the leadership our seniors showed tonight."



The Woodlands fails to hold late lead in OT loss to Skyline

By Sean Shapiro | August 31, 2013

GEORGETOWN - Despite losing its starting quarterback late in the fourth quarter, Dallas Skyline rallied for a 33-30 overtime victory over The Woodlands on Saturday at Birkelbach Stadium.

Deciding to play defense first, the Raiders held the Highlanders to a field goal and scored the game-winning touchdown on a 2-yard run by sophomore Daleon Ward. It was Ward's second scoring run of the night, filling in for the injured Derrick Dixon.

The game-winning drive was extended by a face mask penalty against The Woodlands on third-and-13 from the 28-yard line.

"It's going to come down to just a few little things," The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "Those things happen, that's football. I sure would have liked to have won this for the kids and the effort they put out."

While Skyline left Georgetown with a win, the team lost starting quarterback Sederian Copeland late in the fourth quarter.

Copeland was injured at the end of a 72-yard run and was motionless after the play.

He was taken off the field on a stretcher.

Skyline coach Reginald Samples said Copeland went numb after the hit, and he "would see what happens" for next week.

Three hours earlier, The Woodlands opened the scoring on the game's first play.

Sterling Scott returned the opening kickoff 54 yards for a touchdown, taking advantage of miscommunication by Skyline's kick coverage. Wilson Rivera sent the kick high into the air like a pooch kick, but the coverage unit ran down field like it was a traditional kickoff and Scott scampered down the left sideline untouched.

Even though Skyline responded to the initial touchdown, The Woodlands built a 21-6 lead in the first quarter.

A pair of interceptions helped Skyline erase the early 15-point deficit.

C.J. McGee intercepted a pass with 5:23 left in the second quarter, eventually setting up a 3-yard touchdown run by Daleon Ward.

After Copeland's second touchdown strike of the night pulled Skyline within a touchdown, Antonio Greer sparked his team with a 35-yard interception return to The Woodlands 20-yard line. Seven plays after the interception, Copeland found Emmanuel Harris for the game-tying touchdown pass.

"We made every bonehead mistake in the first quarter, but what you saw in the second through fourth quarter was Skyline football," Samples said. "They didn't quit, they fought back and I'm proud of them."