



## Cy-Fair shuts out The Woodlands in season opener

By Jason McDaniel | August 29, 2014

Jacorey Aleem waited a long time to score another touchdown - just two months shy of two full years.

Cy-Fair's standout running back tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his knee in the first quarter of last season's opener, then spent the next 12 months working his way back to finishing form. He found it again Friday night.

Aleem scored the game's only touchdown on a 6-yard run in the second quarter, helping the Bobcats grind out a 9-0 shutout against The Woodlands in the opener for both teams at the Berry Center.

"It felt amazing," said Aleem, whose last TD came against Cypress Falls on Nov. 3, 2012. "The crowd went crazy and it just felt good running in the end zone for the first time after my injury."

The win was big for Cy-Fair (1-0), which is coming off a trip to the Class 5A Division I regional finals. The last time it faced The Woodlands (0-1) was in its 0-10 season in 2009, when it fell 42-6. The Highlanders whipped Cy-Fair in the 2008 opener, too, taking that one a lopsided 42-0.

"I was nervous all week, having flashbacks," Cy-Fair coach Ed Pustejovsky said.

"But this is a different football team for us. Of course, it's a different football team for them, too. But I'm just proud of the way our kids came out and responded in a pretty big ballgame early on." And this time, the shutout went to the Bobcats. "It was a tremendous effort," Pustejovsky said.

"Any time you can throw a shutout, it's great. It's hard to do nowadays, there is no doubt about it, but the kids did a great job. Coach (Robbie) Legg, our coordinator, and the defensive coaches did a tremendous job preparing them."

### Highlanders struggle

Except for Antoine Winfield's drive-stopping pick in the end zone, the first half was a lost cause for The Woodlands.

The Highlanders amassed nearly as many penalty yards (50) as total yards (55), punted on four of six possessions and turned it over on downs late in the first half. New quarterback Matt Bonaguidi completed only 2 of 12 passes and threw an interception to Brandon Richmond on their second series.

"We struggled offensively," The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "We made a bunch of mental mistakes early, in the first half, with procedures that don't give you good second plays to come back with.

"Defensively, we played really well. We held them to nine points and got off the field many times where they were threatening us."

The second half wasn't any better for the Highlanders, who never threatened. They punted twice more and lost a fumble, then turned it over on downs again late in the fourth quarter. RB Patrick Carr managed only 69 yards on 18 carries, and Bonaguidi finished 5-of-17 for 29 yards. The Woodlands had only 104 yards and six first downs on the night.

"First start, and (Bonaguidi) was probably a little uncomfortable," Schmid said. "But I'll say this: Cy-Fair's got a great defense, and that's a tough way to start the season - against a defense like that."

### **Time to improve**

The bright spot for the Highlanders was the play of sophomore Christopher Stewart, who blocked an extra point and a field goal.

But Cy-Fair kicker Braden Mann drilled a 41-yard field goal early third for the 9-0 score. The Bobcats finished with 273 total yards, with Aleem going for 64 yards on 24 rushes. QB Clayton Kopecky completed 12 of 18 passes for 165 yards.

"It's always good to get a win, so we'll just get better in practice this next week," Aleem said. "We've got a bye week, so we have time to get better for the next opponent."



## Cy-Fair blanks The Woodlands in opener

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By [Adam Coleman](#)

CYPRESS — There are probably dozens of six-yard touchdown runs throughout the state on opening night.

Jacorey Aleem's is one he'll likely never forget.

That touchdown run — the first for the Cy-Fair senior tailback since essentially missing all of 2013 with an ACL tear — is the reward after a long year of rehab.

It also was the lone touchdown in Cy-Fair's 9-0 win over The Woodlands to open the season Friday at the Berry Center.

The Highlanders were shut out for the first time since a 31-0 loss to North Shore in 2006.

The Bobcats' defense punctuated this win, but Aleem's score is the feel-good story.

He overcame what was a slow start to score his first touchdown since Nov. 3, 2012. Aleem tore his ACL against Katy Taylor in the 2013 opener for Cy-Fair.

"It felt amazing, man," Aleem said, finishing with 24 carries for 64 yards. "The crowd went crazy. It just felt good running into the end zone for the first time after my injury."

It was a slow start for both teams.

Both Cy-Fair and The Woodlands had less than desirable starts offensively.

The teams went scoreless in the first quarter and by mid-second quarter had only combined for 110 yards of total offense.

Both teams' defenses had something to do with that, however. Cy-Fair lost a fumble in the first quarter, but the Bobcats' Brandon Richmond responded with an interception.

The Woodlands' Antoine Winfield halted Cy-Fair's first trip to the red zone to open the second quarter with an interception.

The Woodlands' star running back, Patrick Carr, never truly got going Friday, gaining 69 yards on 18 carries.

The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said his young offensive line in front of Carr is still gelling.

"Once they learn and get comfortable playing together, they're going to be a really good unit," he said.

"But they got thrown into the fire tonight against a great defensive front."

Cy-Fair turned it around.

The Bobcats eventually found a spark on offense near the end of the first half. The drive that ended with Aleem's touchdown run went for eight plays and 65 yards — the best of the game at that point.

The extra point was blocked, but the Cy-Fair defense continued to shut down the Highlanders.

The Woodlands finished the game with 104 total yards of offense and just six first downs. Cy-Fair head coach Ed Pustejovsky said shutting out a team like the Highlanders is no easy feat.

"It's a tremendous effort," he said. "Any time you can throw a shut out, it's hard to do now-a-days. There is no doubt about it."

A 41-yard field goal from Braden Mann in the beginning of the fourth was crucial in a game like this. Brock Wright had a big night for the Bobcats. The sophomore tight end Brock Wright had a few impressive catches Friday night for Cy-Fair. He caught two for 59 yards, looking like a go-to target for his quarterback Clayton Kopecky.

Kopecky overcame a slow start as well, finishing 12 of 18 for 165 yards with an interception.

Cy-Fair is off next week, but opens District 17-6A play in Week 3 against rival Cy Creek.

The Woodlands is at Dekaney next week.



## Cy-Fair's defense too much for Highlanders

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CYPRESS, Texas – The Woodlands Highlanders probably figured it would take some time to find the right offensive continuity after all-district quarterback Chris Andristos decided not to play football his senior year.

The 6-foot-3, 230-pound Andristos is projected to be a first-round draft pick in the 2015 Major League Baseball amateur draft. He didn't want to risk injury by playing football, a game that undoubtedly could have earned him a college scholarship.

But the Highlanders, and head coach Mark Schmid, probably didn't realize just how much Andristos meant to the team until about 9:15 p.m. Friday night – when they sauntered out of the Berry Center with a tough 9-0 non-district loss against the Houston area's No. 6 ranked Cy-Fair Bobcats.

The Highlanders, who were ranked No. 8 in the area coming into the game, amassed nearly as many penalty yards (50) as total yards (55) in the first half. They punted on four of six possessions and turned it over on downs late in the half.

New Highlander quarterback Matt Bonaguidi completed only 2 of 12 passes and threw an interception to Cy-Fair's Brandon Richmond on The Woodlands' second series. He finished the night hitting only 5-of-17 passes for 29 yards.

The Woodlands' preseason first-team all-Greater Houston running back Patrick Carr was held to only 69 yards on 18 carries. His longest run was 13 yards.

"We struggled offensively," Schmid told the media after the game. "We made a bunch of mental mistakes early, in the first half, with procedures that don't give you good second plays to come back with.

"Defensively, we played really well. We held them to nine points and got off the field many times where they were threatening us."

In the second half, the Highlanders, who never made it inside Cy-Fair's 20, punted twice, lost a fumble, then turned it over on downs again late in the fourth quarter when they were trying to mount one last drive.

The Woodlands' Antoine Winfield tried to single-handedly keep the Highlanders in the game by intercepting a Cy-Fair pass at his own goal line in the first half, and returning a punt and kickoff 40 yards to give the offense decent field position.

But the Highlanders' usually vaunted passing game never took flight and Cy-Fair simply teed off on the speedy Carr.

Cy-Fair's scoring came when Jacorey Aleem, who missed all but one game last year due to a knee injury, found the end zone on a 6-yard run to give the Bobcats a 6-0 lead with only 1:09 left in the first half. The Woodlands had dodged two other first-half bullets when Christopher Stewart blocked an extra point and a field goal.

Braden Mann's 41-yard field goal with 11:56 left in the contest gave Cy-Fair (1-0) the nine-point win.

The Woodlands (0-1), which beat Cy-Fair 42-0 in 2008 and 42-6 in 2009, finished the game with only 104 yards and six first downs.

"I was nervous all week, having flashbacks," Cy-Fair head coach Ed Pustejovsky told media members after the game. "But this is a different football team for us.

"Of course, it's a different football team for them, too. But I'm just proud of the way our kids came out and responded in a pretty big ballgame early on. Any time you can throw a shutout, it's great. It's hard to do nowadays, there is no doubt about it, but the kids did a great job."

How did Schmid feel?

"First start, and (Bonaguidi) was probably a little uncomfortable," Schmid said. "But I'll say this: Cy-Fair's got a great defense, and that's a tough way to start the season – against a defense like that."

The Bobcats, who advanced to the Region III-5A finals a year ago, finished with 273 total yards, with Aleem going for 64 yards on 24 carries. Cy-Fair signal caller Clayton Kopecky completed 12 of 18 passes for 165 yards.