



Highlander defense rules the day against Atascocita

Posted: Saturday, October 3, 2015

By **Jim Mashek**

HUMBLE — The Woodlands scored 21 points before Atascocita found the end zone, and the Highlanders gained the upper hand in the District 16-6A race on Saturday night at Turner Stadium.

In resounding fashion.

The Woodlands labored through an uneven second half but still dominated Atascocita, winning 38-14 to improve to 5-1 overall and 2-0 in District 16-6A play. The Eagles, meanwhile, fell to 5-1 and 1-1 respectively.

"It's a big road win against a really good road team," The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "Atascocita is going to win some more football games."

The Eagles certainly weren't going to win this one.

Highlanders quarterback Eric Schmid fired a 16-yard touchdown pass to Reed Barber, a quick slant to the end zone, to put The Woodlands in front 7-0 with 5:57 left in the first quarter. Lucas Vieth added the first of five extra points.

Atascocita struggled with the kicking game, and after a dismal 18-yard punt left the Highlanders at the Eagles' 34-yard line, Mark Schmid reached into his playbook and inserted backup quarterback Craig Heiser into the game as a wide receiver.

The Highlanders ran a double reverse pass in which Heiser lofted the ball across to Eric Schmid on the right sideline, and Heiser's pass was on the money for a 34-yard touchdown strike with 4:26 left in the first half.

"That's one of those plays, has to be the right time, the right situation," Mark Schmid said.

It was certainly the right situation for Heiser, who battled Eric Schmid for the Highlanders' starting job in August. Heiser said he entered the game in a nonchalant way, in an effort not to tip off the play to the Atascocita defense.

"I caught the ball, chucked it, and got hit pretty good," Heiser said with a grin.

The Atascocita crowd seemed stunned, but the Highlanders were just getting started.

Eric Schmid hit TWHS teammate Hunter Moore on the left sideline and Moore traversed the width of the field to score on a 41-yard reception with 1:21 left in the first quarter.

By then, Atascocita quarterback Daveon Boyd had become acquainted with TWHS defensive end Michael Purcell and his friends. Purcell, a rangy junior, turned in a terrific game, keeping Boyd on the run throughout the first half.

"We knew they were a good passing team," Purcell said. "The whole week, we drilled on getting the outside passing rush, keeping (Boyd) in the pocket. Every man did his job."

Boyd threw for 315 yards on 25 of 46 attempts with two touchdowns. He connected with Coye Fairman for 174 yards and 10 catches.

Purcell sacked Boyd on a fourth-and-2 play from The Woodlands 12 yard line in the second quarter, but the Eagles got on the scoreboard when Bell fired an 11-yard touchdown pass to Alerick Soulaire with 3:07 left in the first half.

Schmid finished with 175 yards and three touchdowns on 11 of 22 passing, including three interceptions. His favorite target was Moore, who had 95 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Vieth added a 36-yard field goal before halftime to push the Highlanders' lead to 24-7.

In the third quarter, Atascocita's defense came to life. The Eagles' Brandon Knight intercepted three passes by Eric Schmid, who at times forced the ball into coverage.

But shortly after the Eagles cut the deficit to 24-14 on Boyd's 65-yard TD pass to Coye Fairman, the Highlanders responded.

Moore got behind his Atascocita defender and caught a pass from Eric Schmid for a 53-yard touchdown pass with 9:10 left in the game, and Carlos Ramos added a 5-yard scoring run before it was over.

Ramos had 77 yards on the night to go with his touchdown.

Mark Schmid said the first half was one of the Highlanders' best of the season, and they limited Conroe to 88 yards total offense in the final week of September, crushing the Tigers 48-0 at Woodforest Bank Stadium.

"It seemed like everything we clicking on offense," Schmid said. "Defensively, we made big plays when we had to. Defensively, (Atascocita) loaded the box in the second half, and made some good adjustments. It was a good win for our team."

The Woodlands 38, Atascocita 14

TWHS 21 3 0 14 -- 38

Atascocita 0 7 7 0 -- 14

First quarter

The Woodlands, Reed Barber 16 pass from Eric Schmid (Lucas Vieth kick), 5:57

The Woodlands, Schmid 34 pass from Craig Heiser (Vieth kick), 4:26

The Woodlands, Hunter Moore 41 pass from Schmid (Vieth kick), 1:21

Second quarter

Atascocita, Alerick Soulaire 11 pass from Daveon Boyd (David Heaton kick), 3:07

The Woodlands, Vieth 35 FG, :32

Third quarter

Atascocita, Coye Fairman 65 pass from Boyd (Heaton kick), 1:12

Fourth quarter

The Woodlands, Hunter Moore 53 pass from Schmid (Vieth kick), 9:10

The Woodlands, Carlos Ramos 5 run (Vieth kick), 4:41

Team stats

first downs, TWHS 17, Atascocita 10.
rushes-yards, TWHS 34-132, Atascocita 24-73
passing yards TWHS 200, Atascocita 311
passing TWHS 11-24-3, Atascocita 24-45-0
fumbles TWHS 0-0, Atascocita 2-0
Punts, TWHS 4-30, Atascocita 3-21
Penalties, TWHS 5-32, Atascocita 7-53

Individual stats

rushing -- TWHS: Carlos Ramos 10-89, Jordan Talford 6-15, Eric Schmid 13-24.
Atascocita, Kameron Jones, 16-67, Daveon Boyd 5-11.

passing -- TWHS: Eric Schmid 10-23-3, 166 yards; Daveon Boyd 24-45-0, 311 yards.

receiving -- TWHS: Mason Wuensch 2-29, Hunter Moore 3-98, Reed Barber 3-24, Brandon Stockerl 3-31. Atascocita: Coye Fairman 10-171, A.J. Smith 6-30, Dawud Shorts 4-63, Niyi Campbell 4-10.



The Woodlands stuns Atascocita, remains undefeated in district

Published 10/03/2015 | By WOL Staff

ATASCOCITA, Texas -- It was a perfect evening for some 16-6A football. The Woodlands Highlanders (2-0, 5-1) visited Atascocita (1-1, 5-1), who up until tonight's game were undefeated so far this season.

The Atascocita Eagles started the game with the ball first, but the Highlander defense that has stifled teams all year was ready. They held Atascocita to a punt and then on their first offensive possession scored on a 17-yard pass from Eric Schmid to Reed Barber. Shortly after, Craig Heiser, on the reverse, threw back to Schmid for a 36-yard touchdown. In the blink of an eye, it was 14-0.

Schmid then threw to Hunter Moore for 42 yards and it was 21-0 with 1:21 left in the first quarter. The Highlander defense was successful at holding Atascocita for almost the entire first half, but the Eagles scored on a pass from Daveon Boyd to Alerick Soularie with 3:07 left before the half. The Highlanders answered with a 36 yard field goal by Lucas Vieth, and it was 24-7 at half.

Atascocita made some defensive adjustments during halftime and came out strong with two interceptions in the third quarter. However, they couldn't capitalize on them. Atascocita would tack on another 7 points with 1:12 left in the 3rd on a pass from Boyd to Coye Fairman, who then ran for 65 yards to make it 24-14. The Eagles were hoping for a momentum shift with the score, but the Highlander defense held true to their fantastic reputation and Atascocita wouldn't see the end zone or an opportunity for a field goal for the rest of the game.

The offense wasn't finished, either. Schmid through a 53-yard touchdown to Moore. Later, Carlos Ramos would break free and run 32 yards to the Atascocita 7 yard line and finished the drive with a 5 yard touchdown run.

With this win over a difficult district opponent, The Woodlands is now 2-0 in district and faces College Park, who is 0-1 in district so far, next week, Oct. 9, at Woodforest Bank Stadium at 7 p.m. This game will be broadcast on demand on Woodlands Online.

The Woodlands dominates Atascocita to remain undefeated in district

By Richard Dean
Published Saturday, October 3, 2015



The Woodlands' defense has been stout all season. On Saturday, the Highlanders' offense was rolling. Especially in the first quarter.

Using a bit of trickery on offense to go with a physical defense, the Highlanders used a fast start and late finish to beat previously unbeaten Atascocita 38-14 at Turner Stadium.

"Everything was clicking on offense, and on defense we were doing things to keep them out of the end zone," The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid said. "We made big stops when we had to."

"Atascocita wasn't 5-0 with no reason. They are a talented football team. They're going to win some more ballgames. We feel fortunate to beat them in their backyard."

The Eagles, which got three interceptions from Brandon Knight, entered the District 16-6A game averaging 53.6 points. Moving the ball against the Highlanders' defense was difficult at times, especially against junior lineman Michael Purcell.

"We knew they were a good passing team, so the whole week we drilled pass rushing, rushing the outside, containing the quarterback, we knew he was fast," Purcell said. "They're a good team. I respect them. We just did our job better."

Eagles quarterback Daveon Boyd passed for 315 yards in a losing effort with Coye Fairman his favorite receiver.

The Woodlands (5-1, 2-0) led 24-7 at halftime, and two touchdowns in the fourth quarter broke the game open after Atascocita got within 24-14 following a 64-yard scoring pass to Fairman, who had 10 receptions for 174 yards.

Eric Schmid engineered the offense, which accumulated for 355 yards and scored a touchdown on its first three possessions. The Eagles punted on their first three possessions. For the game, Schmid threw three touchdown passes, two to Hunter Moore of 41 and 53 yards.

"That put us in the driver's seat for district champions," Moore said. "Beating them means a lot for us."

Schmid caught a 34-yard scoring pass on The Woodlands' second possession. Schmid handed the ball off to receiver Brandon Stockerl on a reverse, who then pitched the ball back to Craig Heiser, who found a wide-open Schmid at the 15-yard line. Schmid ran the remaining distance untouched for the score on the pass from Heiser. Lucas Vieth made the first of his five extra points for a 14-0 lead. Vieth made a 37-yard field goal with 32 seconds before halftime.

"It's one of those where it's got to be at the right time and the right situation," Coach Schmid said.

"I felt after we scored and held them, and they had a short punt, that was the time to do it."

The Woodlands' only loss has been to state-ranked Katy 14-7.

Carlos Ramos rushed for 77 yards on 11 carries for The Woodlands.

Atascocita (5-1, 1-1) made it a 21-7 game with 3:07 remaining in the first half on an 11-yard scoring pass from Boyd to Alerick Soularie.

Atascocita, which had 369 offensive yards, got a strong game from defensive lineman Avante Broussard and linebacker Niles Tuihalangie. Zach La Canfora intercepted a pass in the end zone for The Woodlands on a fourth-and-goal from the 6-yard line, preserving a 24-7 lead with eight minutes remaining in the third quarter.

"We came out hard, we made big plays," Purcell said. "Each man did his job. That's what we're supposed to do."