

The Woodlands defense dismantles Conroe on way to 48-0 victory



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By Jim Mashek

THE WOODLANDS — Zachary Loane, Antoine Winfield and Grant Milton are three defenders who are getting it done for The Woodlands, a terrific defensive team that knows how to dismantle an opponent

The Conroe Tigers, meanwhile, needed all the help they could get when they squared off with The Woodlands in a District 16-6A opener on Friday night at Woodforest Bank Stadium.

The Highlanders' vaunted defense did it again, limiting Conroe to 88 yards total offense while rolling to a 48-0 victory before a packed homecoming crowd.

Milton had two interceptions for the Highlanders, and teammate Zak Iglesias had a pick six for The Woodlands, intercepting a Colby Kizzie pass and returning it 23 yards for a first-quarter touchdown.

"We just wanted to bring it, early," Milton said. "We knew (Conroe) wanted to establish the run, and we were able to close the hole and get to the ball pretty well."

Pretty well might be an understatement. The Woodlands improved to 4-1 overall and 1-0 in District 16-6A, while the Tigers fell to 3-2 and 0-1 respectively.

Some Conroe players and coaches wore exasperated expressions when it finally ended. Third-year Conroe coach Robert Walker said his team will get back to work with Oak Ridge (3-1) next on the docket, and this time, the Tigers will be playing on their home field.

"We had a hard time getting a rhythm (offensively)," Walker said, "and their defense is good. Give them credit."

One of the Highlanders' strengths is their depth. Junior quarterback Eric Schmid played just one series in the second half. Senior backup Craig Heiser threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to sophomore receiver Kesean Carter with 5:59 left in the third quarter.

And senior quarterback Harry Woodberry directed the TWHS offense in the final few minutes of the game. Junior running back Jordan Tolford led the Highlanders ground game with 11 carries for 61 yards and two touchdowns, and Eric Schmid completed 8 of 12 passes for 79 yards,

Schmid's 16-yard touchdown pass to Hunter Moore in the corner of the end zone put the Highlanders in front 24-0 in the final minute of the first half, and Lucas Vieth kicked a 27-yard field goal before intermission.

The Woodlands coach Mark Schmid was pleased with his team's execution and the fact that most of his players got in the game before the night was out.

Junior defensive tackle Zach Loane said the Highlanders' defense came into the game with a mission: Stop Conroe cold and move on to next week's road game with a powerful Atascocita squad.

"We kind of just told ourselves to play hard, and not react too much to what was going on after the whistle," Loane said.

"We told each other not to talk to (Conroe's players) ... just let the scoreboard do the talking."

When it was over, the scoreboard certainly did.



Highlanders shut out Conroe in district opener

The Woodlands scores 48 points in their Homecoming game, shuts out Conroe

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SHENANDOAH, Texas — After shutting out La Porte last week, the Highlanders came back at their homecoming game and did it again 48-0 against Conroe. The stands were filled with homecoming mums, alumni, and fans ready to cheer the Highlanders to victory.

Starting off the game strong with a touchdown by quarterback Eric Schmid in the first quarter, the defense picked up the game and held the Tigers off for the rest of the night, and the Highlanders never seemed to lose their momentum.

"Defensively we continued to play well creating turnovers and making short periods for their offense," Head Coach Mark Schmid said. "That's what experience does for you out there."

In the second quarter, Zak Yglecias intercepted the ball for a touchdown, taking the game to 17-0. Later in the second quarter, the Highlanders would intercept the ball again and offense would then take care of business and score with a minute until the half. Conroe responded with their own interception with two seconds left in the half.

The Conroe Tigers boasted a quick team, and to keep them from scoring after their first shutout against La Porte was a big deal for The Woodlands.

"It's a tremendous confidence booster for us," Schmid said. "Defensively we've played really well all season long. We got our second shutout. We shut out La Porte last week, and we had a shutout this week, so it says a lot about the way our defense is playing."

The Highlanders would go on to score three more touchdowns in the third quarter and tack on a field goal to put away the win.