

## College Park edges The Woodlands for first-ever district crown

By Justin Maskulinski, Staff writer  
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SHENANDOAH — College Park got the last punch in a back-and-forth War of the Woods on Friday at Woodforest Bank Stadium. The Cavaliers beat their rival The Woodlands 35-31 and earned the outright District 13-6A title. It was College Park’s second-ever win over The Woodlands and their first since 2007. It’s also the program’s first district title.

“It’s a great feeling,” coach Lonnie Madison said. “We feel like we’ve been trying to find a different way to win the game each week. We’ve had new guys step up every week and found just enough ways to come out on top this week and be district champions.”

College Park (8-1, 5-0) will go into the postseason as the Division I top seed in 13-6A, while the Highlanders (5-3, 4-1) will be the second seed in Div. I.

“Coach Madison and his guys do a great job and they had great emotion, played really well and did some really good things,” The Woodlands coach Jim Rapp said. “We did a whole lot of things to hurt ourselves — interceptions, fumbles, not tackling, not covering a pass. (College Park) did a great job and I’m not taking anything away from them, they were awesome and played really well all year. We did too many things to hurt ourselves.”

With 2:03 to play, Dylon DeAngelo punched in the game’s final score, a 14-yard run. One play earlier, the Cavaliers drew a pass interference call on a deep ball on fourth down.

On the ensuing drive from The Woodlands, the Highlanders managed to get to the College Park 43-yard line. Sacks by Dylan Hazen on third down and Perry Irchirl on fourth down sealed the win.

“We went to a package and rushed Dylan off the edge,” Madison said. “He can generate pressure all by himself. He came up big in that last series. Pretty special group.”

After a defensive start with turnovers on both sides, each team scored on its third drive of the night. For The Woodlands, it was a quick strike as a three-play drive ended with Teddy Knox high-pointing a pass from Connor Dechiro and sprinting down the field for a 93-yard touchdown.

For College Park, it was a methodical 10-play, 77-yard drive that ended with Alex Brigman’s 2-yard plunge early in the second quarter.

Harrison Helton’s interception set up the Cavaliers’ next score. Holden Rook’s 45-yard touchdown reception from Hank Hudson finished the drive and put College Park ahead 14-7.

Hudson completed 15 of 23 passes for 323 yards and three touchdowns. Cody Mladenka caught five for 87 yards, Brigman caught four for 98 yards and Rook caught three for 89 yards.

“Hank started a couple of games for last year and played last year,” Madison said. “Him and Ty (Buckmon) have been our two guys and some weeks it’s a different guy. Hank has really stepped up starting with that last drive against Conroe. He had a monster night.”

The Woodlands evened things up late in the half with a 9-play, 88-yard drive that was capped by an 8-yard Mabrey Mettauer keeper.

Mettauer was a key part of the Highlanders’ red zone offense and rushed for 64 yards on 11 carries. Dechiro threw two interceptions early but finished 19 of 25 for 398 yards with two touchdowns as well.

“It’s a good thing to be able to have two different kind of looks,” Rapp said. “Both of those packages that we have offensively are things that help give us an advantage. It’s good to have.”

In the first half, College Park forced three turnovers — Helton’s interception, a Joseph Golden interception and a fumble recovery by Zachary Harris.

The Woodlands forced a pair of turnovers, both fumbles recovered by Bradley Warren. The first was inside the 10-yard line and likely prevented a score, the second ended the first half.

Much like the first half, both offenses stalled before finding success in the second half. College Park struck first late in the third quarter. A short punt gave the Cavs excellent field position, and a double pass from Hudson to Conner Dunphy to Brigman got College Park to the 5-yard line. On third down, Hudson connected with Mladenka on a fade.

The Woodlands responded on its next drive as Dechiro hit Ben Ferguson with a quick pass, then the junior finished the 44-yard touchdown. Ferguson caught six passes for 124 yards. Knox also had five catches for 129 yards. Jack Calhoun caught four for 79 yards.

The Highlanders broke the 21-21 tie about two minutes into the final frame with Mettaufer's second rushing score of the night, this one a rumbling 25-yard effort. About a minute and a half later, Hudson connected with Michael Perry on a 59-yard pass to even the score at 28.

With 3:56 to play, a 26-yard field goal by Trey Harrison put The Woodlands up 31-28. Before the kick, the Highlanders had driven down to the 2-yard line. Back-to-back penalties followed and the Cavs forced the kick.

The next drive began with a 49-yard pass from Hudson to Mladenka. It ended with DeAngelo's game-winning touchdown.

Both teams are off next week before the bi-district round of the postseason.

"We've got to learn from this," Rapp said. "Yes, this stings and it isn't good, isn't fun to watch the other team celebrate a district championship. The measure of a championship football team is what you do when things don't go your way. Things didn't go our way tonight. What are we going to do? We'll learn something from it, get better next week and be ready for our first-round opponent."

## More Information

COLLEGE PARK 35, THE WOODLANDS 31

The Woodlands 7 7 7 10—31

College Park 0 14 7 14—35

### SCORING SUMMARY

First quarter

TW—Teddy Knox 93 pass from Connor Dechiro (Trey Harrison kick), 4:23.

Second quarter

CP—Alex Brigman 2 run (Sebastian Parra kick), 10:33.

CP—Holden Rook 45 pass from Hank Hudson (Parra kick), 8:06.

TW—Mabrey Mettauer 8 run (Harrison kick), 1:12.

Third quarter

CP—Cody Mladenka 5 pass from Hudson (Parra kick), 3:34.

TW—Ben Ferguson 44 pass from Dechiro (Harrison kick), 1:03.

Fourth quarter

TW—Mettauer 25 run (Harrison kick), 9:57.

CP—Michael Perry 59 pass from Hudson (Parra kick), 8:23.

TW—Harrison 26 field goal, 3:56.

CP—Dylon DeAngelo 14 run (Parra kick), 2:03.