

THE COURIER

OF MONTGOMERY  COUNTY

The Woodlands hangs on to win opener over Langham Creek



Rob Tate, Staff Writer

Aug. 27, 2021

SHENANDOAH — The Woodlands and Langham Creek waited an hour to start after a lightning delay began the football season at Woodforest Bank Stadium Thursday night.

The only flashes afterwards were the numbers changing frequently on the newly-arranged scoreboard at the facility.

The Woodlands held on in a non-district slugfest, 48-42, in a game that ended after 11 p.m.

Highlander senior running back JoBarre Reed sprinted in the game winning score — hurdling defenders — en route to a 41-yard touchdown with 2:01 left to play. The extra point fell short, leaving it a six-point game.

Evan Dubin then stopped a driving Langham Creek with an interception in the end zone with just 11 seconds left to secure the win for The Woodlands (1-0).

It was big for senior wide receiver Ben Ferguson, who muffed a punt earlier in the quarter to set up Langham Creek (0-1) in Highlander territory and a game tying drive.

“He saved me,” Ferguson said. “I muffed that punt and they tied it up. He saved me and I love my teammates for that. When I was down on the sideline, they had my back. They really did and I’m just grateful for them”

The win snapped a four-year losing streak in Week 1 for the Highlanders.

“It was awesome coming back with a new team and get that first win,” Ferguson said. “We hadn’t done that in four years in the home opener. It was good - it wasn’t pretty - but it was a nice win to build off of.”

It was the first meeting between the schools in 22 years.

“They took some bad situations and made them good,” The Woodlands assistant coach Mike Fredrickson, who spoke on behalf of head coach Jim Rapp who missed the game due to protocol, said. “We were able to turn that around. I give all my credit to Langham Creek. They played extremely well. They brought it to us and more power to them. I hope they have a fantastic season.”

The Woodlands led 7-0 after the first quarter before the teams exchanged six touchdowns in the second quarter for a 28-21 Highlanders lead at halftime.

“First game of the year and I think everybody is just trying to find their way,” Fredrickson said. “All the sudden we kind of clicked into our game situation and both teams played hard.”

The Woodlands sophomore quarterback Mabrey Mettauier made the start and had three touchdown passes in the first half — including two to Ferguson.

Ferguson had scoring receptions of 11 yards in the first quarter and 21 right before halftime.

In between, Mettauier hit fellow sophomore Patrick Rabel for a wide-open 30-yard score in the second quarter.

The Woodlands also played senior Justin Sheldon at quarterback in the first half and he scored on a 5-yard run in the second quarter.

Langham Creek got a 1-yard touchdown run by senior quarterback Tanner Murray at the 11:15 mark of the second quarter.

The Lobos then went ahead just under a minute later on a turnover by The Woodlands. Shelton passed backwards to his right and Langham Creek senior defensive back Xavier Gonzales scooped it up and ran straight to the end zone.

With the game tied 14-all, Murray then hooked up with electric five-star recruit Jaquaize Pettaway, a junior, with a 74-yard strike to briefly put the Lobos up 21-14.

Prior to halftime, Caden Miller had a key interception for The Woodlands on a 4th and long by Langham Creek with less than two minutes left in the first half. The INT setup the Ferguson touchdown before the break.

“They’re a good fast team and we expected it to be a dog fight,” Ferguson said.

Right out of halftime, Langham Creek running back Jayden Landry capped a drive where he ran three times with a 2-yard score.

Off a fumble recovery on the ensuing drive by Cade Hanks, Landry capped another drive with an 8-yard reception on a screenplay from Murray.

With 2:58 left in the third quarter, the game was tied up again as The Woodlands senior JoBarre Reed ran in a 5-yard touchdown.

Mettauer put the Highlanders back ahead with 10:43 left in the fourth quarter with a 5-yard score to cap a 12-play drive.

The Woodlands had a chance to pad the lead, but lost a fumble. But the Lobos punted on the ensuing drive and that’s when Ferguson misplayed it for a turnover.

Of the miscue, Landry scored from two yards out to tie the game at 42-all with 3:09 left to play.

Reed finished with 109 yards rushing. Mettauer was 20 for 27 for 207 yards and rushed for 36. Ferguson had a team-best 78 yards receiving while Camden Cash had 67 yards.

John Podowski had 1.5 sacks while Bradley Warren had one sack and David Ifeanyi had an assist on a sack.

“I think we still have a lot of work to do offensively and defensively,” Fredrickson said. “But I’m pleased with what they did this evening. Offensively performing like they did and scoring when they needed to was fantastic. Credit to the players.”

Murray was 16 for 26 for 277 yards. Pettaway had a game-high 155 receiving yards. Landry totaled 128 yards on the ground and 86 through the air.

It was the first regular season game played at Woodforest this season, which is undergoing renovations in the north end zone with a new teacher training center for Conroe ISD. The scoreboard was moved to the south end zone flat against the existing natatorium.

The Woodlands travels to Houston Lamar, 7 p.m. next Friday at Delmar Stadium. Langham Creek hosts Jersey Village in a non-district game, 7 p.m. at Cy-Fair FCU Stadium.



The Woodlands Highlanders Take the Win Over Langham Creek

By: Julio Varguez | Published 08/27/2021



The Woodlands, TX -- After what seemed like the longest post season, football is finally back. The season opened up with a bit of a lightning delay which pushed the game back only creating more tension in the stadium. Each team was ready to enter the field, pacing in front of the locker rooms. And the lines, full of eager parents and students, were just growing longer and longer as kick-off came closer.

As the lighting delay finished each team entered the field and ran through their practice drills cutting them short so they can start the game. The Woodlands High School won the toss and decided to receive. They quickly showed their dominance with an opening drive to the end-zone making it 7-0.

As the game progressed Langham Creek also showed that they were ready to play by answering the Woodlands and going score for score.

“It wasn’t clean. As a whole we didn’t play great. A lot of things to clean up but it was our first game and we can build off that.” said Evan Dubin when asked about the game.

The Woodlands had their weaknesses but also showed that they are a dominate force, creating many huge plays and moving the ball up and down the field.

“At the end we really came together as brothers even when it wasn’t clicking on the field,” said Evan about his teammates and continued, “We really just picked each other up and if we continue to do that we will be in good shape.”

The Woodlands Highlanders are set to play Lamar in their next preseason match. They will face Willis in the district opener on October 7th.

Evan was asked who they are most looking forward to and with a big smile on his face said, “We want the big games like Bridgeland and Katy and College Park.”