

# New Caney tops The Woodlands for first time

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**NEW CANEY** — The Eagles picked the right time to make history. Ranked No. 16 in the Greater Houston rankings, New Caney beat No. 13 The Woodlands, 14-7, Friday night at Randall Reed Stadium, marking the program's first win in 11 tries against the Highlanders.

"We came out here and said we were going to make a statement," Eagles running back Kedrick Reescano said after rushing for 119 yards and scoring a two-point conversion, following the go-ahead score. "That's what we came out here to do. Every single week, we're going to keep grinding."

New Caney (4-0, 2-0 District 13-6A) grinded all right, overcoming a fourth quarter deficit with a pair of touchdowns to hand The Woodlands (2-2, 1-1) its first district loss in two years.

Eric Sanchez caught a 35-yard touchdown from Nehemiah Broussard with 1:29 to go to give New Caney its first lead. Reescano scored on a six-yard screen from Broussard after a pair of penalties on the point-after attempt, and the Eagles recovered a pooch kick on the ensuing kickoff to seal it.

"That's what won us the game is our effort and our resiliency and our toughness," New Caney coach Travis Reeve said. "This was a 48-minute fight, it wasn't over until the end, and our kids hung in there and made the plays when we needed to."

Reescano scored on a 1-yard touchdown run with 9:42 left, but the point-after kick failed, pulling New Caney within 7-6. That capped a 14-play, 78-yard drive spanning 7:58, which spilled over from the third quarter.

Broussard passed for 169 yards and the game-winning score on 15 of 24 completions. He ran for 60 yards on seven carries. "It doesn't surprise me," Reescano said of his quarterback. "I'm glad to have him on our team. I'm glad he became an Eagle."

Maybe more appropriate on this night, it was the Eagles' defense that came of age, setting the tone in the second half with two quick stops, and holding The Woodlands quarterback Mabrey Mettauer to 73 yards passing - only 16 after halftime.

"We weren't able to get anything consistently going throughout the first or the second half," Highlanders coach Jim Rapp said. "They were able to sustain drives, running the football, and that wears out a defense. Those guys played their tails off. We've got a lot of things we have to work on offensively. We talked about how are we going to respond. We'll respond. We're a good football team — better than what we showed tonight.

"New Caney's a hell of a football team. We knew they were going to be a tough opponent, and we got to see how tough they are tonight."

Jason Williams' 2-yard touchdown run with 4:59 in the first quarter capped a 98-yard, eight-play drive on The Woodlands' opening possession to spot The Highlanders a 7-0 lead. Arkez Gomez busted free for 48 yards on The Woodlands' first play from scrimmage to move the ball to midfield after Broussard pinned the Highlanders against their end zone with a 36-yard punt to the 2.

New Caney rushed for 179 yards, while holding The Woodlands to 87 on the ground. "It's a sweet win, but it's a sweet win because it puts us 2-0 in the district race," Reeve said. "To beat a team like The Woodlands with all the tradition they have and how well coached they are, is a special win, no doubt. We're certainly not going to take it for granted."

Both quarterbacks passed for 57 yards in the first half. Gomez rushed for 60 yards on five carries in the half, while Reescano had 53 yards on 11 carries. Broussard had 44 yards on five carries.

The Eagles' had 154 yards in total offense in the first half, while The Highlanders had 138. The Woodlands will take its .500 record into next Friday's home game against Conroe.

"I told the guys, 'All of your goals are still out there. The season's not over. You lost a district ballgame. It's not over,'" Rapp said. "The season's not over. Just how we respond is going to tell us a whole lot about our football team."

New Caney will try to keep the train rolling at Oak Ridge Thursday. "We can't get caught up in the hype," said Reescano, who's given his verbal commitment to Michigan State. "That's the key to it all. The way not to lose or the way to keep going is to not listen to any of the hype."

That might be hard to avoid right now. These Eagles are trending upward.