

New Caney opens with shutout win

By Jay Langley

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HOUSTON – New Caney head coach Russell Roberts and his Eagles are trying to make a name for themselves after moving back to 5A.

The Eagles took a step in the right direction with a 10-0 win over Spring Woods Thursday night at Tully Stadium.

“A lot of people remember the last time we were in 5A and all the losing,” Roberts said. “Tonight we took a step in the right direction to put that to bed.”

Earlier on it looked like the Eagles were not quite ready for the stiff competition that 5A can bring. In the first quarter alone Spring Woods running back Joel Wright gained 91 yards while the Eagles could only muster one yard of total offense. But thanks to a handful of Spring Woods penalties and a Tiger fumble inside the New Caney 5-yard line, the Eagles’ defense managed to keep the game scoreless.

“Our defense was the key tonight,” Roberts said. “Without them making some big plays we don’t win this game.”

In the second quarter the Eagles got on the board with an eight-play, 60-yard drive capped by an 11-yard quarterback keeper from quarterback Christian Perez. The drive was kept alive by two passes from Perez to tight end Austin Echols which moved the chains on a pair of third downs.

Perez got the start for Buddy Rios who was on the bench due to what Roberts called “breaking a rule.”

While the quarterback finished with just 33 passing yards and 32 rushing yards, Russell was happy with the way Perez led the team.

“Perez is not a quarterback,” Roberts said. “He’s an athlete. He performed the way he was supposed to tonight. Athletes win ball games.”

In the second half the teams traded punts for much of the third quarter. The Eagles managed to hold Wright to just 27 yards on the ground over the final two quarters.



New Caney’s Zac Barfield brings down a Spring Woods ball carrier while Jake Stewart closes in Thursday night at Tully Stadium.

“I have to give all the credit in the world to my defensive coordinator (Todd Wright),” Russell said. “He knows how to hide our weaknesses and build up our strengths.”

The Tigers looked to tie the score with 4:30 to play in the third when Joel Wright fumbled inside the Eagles 20-yard line.

“This game was not pretty at times,” Russell said. “It was good enough tonight, but it won’t be good enough next week.”

With a 7-0 lead heading into the final quarter the Eagles used the rushing combo of Chad Jackson and Joey Sullivan to keep the clock running and secure the lead. Spring Woods had the ball for just 2:10 in the fourth.

“We thought we could throw tonight and I’m not sure we couldn’t have,” Roberts said. “But given the situation we were in we just decided we were going to let that clock run and go and get the win.”

The Eagles put the game out of reach in the fourth with a 15-play drive that lasted 5:07. Kicker Matt Davis connected on a 31-yard field goal to cap the drive and put the Eagles up 10-0 with just over a minute to play.

Spring Woods actually finished with 37 more yards of total offense than the Eagles. But the only number Roberts said he cares about is 1-0.

“We looked hard to have something finally good happen,” Roberts said. “You don’t know how hard we looked. Tonight something good finally happened to this team.”