

Pioneers fall 34-14

Written by Mike Kelly
Saturday, 28 August 2010 09:30

The Watauga High football team self-destructed in the first half and dropped a 34-14 decision on Friday night against one of the winningest programs in the state of North Carolina.

The Shelby Golden Lions, who lead the state with 688 wins in their storied history, broke the game open with 21 unanswered points in the second half. The Golden Lions did it with a powerful running game led by Bryan Moss and R.J. Ussery.

Those two combined for 235 yards and four touchdowns as Shelby (1-0) built a commanding 28-0 lead at the break.

"We gave up some big plays against this team last year," said WHS coach Tim Pruitt. "But they came in waves tonight. We didn't do a good job of containing their speed. We've got to do a better job defending against the spread."

But the Pioneers (1-1) showed some life in the second half. A 47-yard kick-off return by Trey Kavanaugh to start the third quarter ignited a seven-play, 71-yard drive that broke up the shut out. Caleb Watson closed out the drive as he scored on a three-yard run.

Shelby aided the drive by committing three penalties on the drive.

"Our guys showed a lot of fight," Pruitt said. "They came out and drove the field, scoring on our first possession of the first half."

Penalties and a 99-yard drive by the Golden Lions in the first half led to Watauga's downfall. With the game scoreless and the Golden Lions taking over inside their one-yard-line on their second possession of the game, they marched 99 yards in six plays. Moss closed out the drive as he rambled in from 51 yards away, giving Shelby a 7-0 lead.

The Pioneers also hurt themselves by committing 84-yards in penalties in the first half. As a matter of fact, the Pioneers had just five more yards of offense (89) in the first half than penalty yards.

For the night, the teams were flagged a combined 26 times.

"We lost our composure," said Pruitt. "And you can't do that against a program that's been playing this game for 100 years with the tradition they have. We also did a poor job of tackling. We just have to regroup and get ready for next week."

The Pioneers return home next Friday night to play Avery. Our coverage begins at 6:30 pm.

Other games:

Avery 48, West Wilkes 8
Statesville 42, Hickory 24
Hibriten 29, Wilkes Central 0
South Caldwell 33, West Caldwell 7
Alexander Central 28, West Iredell 10

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Maiden 58, Fred T. Foard 14
Bandys 26, St. Stephens 12