

## Chambers released from hospital

Written by Mike Kelly

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Watauga High running back Kyle Chambers, who was injured late in Friday's game against Hibriten (a 45-0 loss at Jack Groce Stadium) has been released from the hospital.

Chambers was injured with 3:39 left in the game when he caught a swing pass from quarterback Ethan Greene and was thrown for a three-yard loss. Chambers was down on the Jack Groce turf for nearly 20 minutes before he was taken by ambulance to Watauga Medical Center with a possible neck injury.

"Thank God, Kyle is fine," said WHS coach Tim Pruitt. "Our training staff did an excellent job. They took the proper precautionary measures and sent him to the hospital. Kyle couldn't keep his eyes open and he was feeling pain in the back of the neck. Those were major reasons why he was taken to the hospital."

The injury was determined to be a concussion. But Chambers will definitely not play Friday night against Fred T. Foard, and he could be on the shelf for possibly two weeks.

"Kyle was smiling and in very good spirits when he left the hospital," Pruitt said. "When he went down with the injury, he got hit, knocked the tackler backwards and then they collided. But it wasn't helmet-to-helmet, it was more helmet-to-chest. He just jammed his neck.

"But our people (the training staff) took the right steps concerning Kyle's safety. That's the first time I've ever had a player taken off the field like that in my 18 years as an assistant or head coach."

But Chambers isn't the only Pioneers' (2-5 overall, 0-2 in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference, and mired in a three-game losing streak) player that was injured Friday night. Linebacker Clint Trivette was injured and suffered a concussion just before halftime, and Jake Gilliam suffered a concussion as well. Both those players will not play next week at Newton-Foard.

Baker Stanley sat out Friday night's game with a grade-two concussion. And his status is up in the air right now.

"Baker has been battling dizzy spells," Pruitt said. "He felt fine and practiced with us last Wednesday, but then he started having dizzy spells again. He definitely won't play next Friday night, and he could be out possibly another week as well.

"We had ten linebackers on the team, and with the injuries, now we're down to four. It's been tough, but we just have to stay positive and battle through it."

Our coverage from Newton with Fred T. Foard begins at 6:30 pm next Friday night on Oldies 100.7 FM.