

Greene, Pioneers smash Tigers

Written by Mike Kelly

Saturday, 16 October 2010 09:32

Ethan Greene and the Watauga High football team took out their frustrations against Fred T. Foard on Friday night.

Greene, who turned in a career night, threw for 217 yards and four touchdowns as the Pioneers rolled over Fred T. Foard 35-6 in a Northwestern 3A/4A Conference game in Newton. The win snaps a three-game losing streak and give WHS (3-5 overall; 1-2 in the NW3A/4A) its first conference win of the year.

"Our defense was outstanding from start to finish," said WHS coach Tim Pruitt. "We controlled the issue all night long and shut down the running lanes. Offensively, we took what they gave us, and we also jumped on some things that were made available to us."

The Pioneers held Tre Robinson, Foard's (0-9; 0-4) biggest weapon, to 65 yards on 16 carries. He also cracked the 1,000-yard barrier in the second quarter. But team-wise, the Tigers only ran for 53 yards. But it was Greene, who grabbed center-stage on Friday night.

He hooked up with Mo Gore on a pair of touchdown passes to ignite the offense. His 14-yard toss to Gore late in the first quarter gave WHS a 6-0 lead and put the Pioneers up to stay; his 72-yard toss to Gore with 4:07 left in the third quarter put the game away as WHS built a commanding 28-0 lead.

"It was just blown coverage on that 72-yard pass play," Pruitt said. "We were going to run a swing screen to Mo on that side, but they didn't have a cornerback in the area. I saw that and yelled to Greene, 'go-go', and it resulted in a big play for us."

The Pioneers had 237 yards of offense, but only 20 yards on the ground. Baker Stanley, a question mark health-wise for the better part of last week, was Watauga's leading ball carrier with 27 yards on four carries. His 16-yard run early in the second quarter gave WHS a 14-0 lead.

The short scoring drive was set up by a muffed punt attempt by the Tigers. Punter Sterling Cline fumbled the snap and the Pioneers pounced on it at the 16-yard-line, setting up Stanley's score.

In all, the Tigers turned it over four times. Trey Kavanaugh and Cody McKinney each had an interception. Gore finished with two catches for 86 yards and a pair of scores. Seth Sloan was on the receiving end of a 62-yard scoring pass from Greene in the second quarter, and Matt Scott made a diving grab in the end zone in the fourth quarter on a 20-yard toss to close out the scoring for WHS.

"Ethan really grew up a lot tonight," Pruitt said. "And our pass protection was pretty good for the most part, but we still had some breakdowns. But overall, I'm pleased it was a good team effort and a huge win for us with Alexander Central coming to town next week."

The Pioneers return home to celebrate Homecoming against Alexander Central next Friday night. The Cougars blasted St. Stephens 55-25 in Taylorsville Friday night. That win coupled with Hibriten defeating South Caldwell 44-7 moves Alexander Central into sole possession of

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second place in the NW3A/4A Conference. The Cougars (3-0 NW3A/4A) trail Hibriten (4-0 in league play) by one-half game for that No.1 seed.

Our coverage begins at 6:30 pm on Oldies 100.7 FM.

NOTES: The Pioneers are 2-0 lifetime against the Tigers.....The Tigers have lost 10 consecutive games dating back to 2009. They're last win came against South Caldwell on October 23 of last year.....Cody McKinney had a huge night on defense with ten tackles, one for loss and an interception.....Friday's win marked the first time WHS had won a game in Catawba County since 1982.,,,,Kyle Chambers, Clint Trivette and Caleb Watson all sat out Friday's game with injuries.....The Pioneers called up three players from the jayvee level for Friday's game: Luke Watson, Nick Williams and Tripp Taylor. But none of those players appeared in Friday's game against the Tigers.....Running back Tre Robinson of the Tigers only took one snap in the second half and left the game for medical reasons, according to Fred T. Foard coach Ryan Gettys.

	1	2	3	4	T
WHS	6	15	14	0	- 35
FTF	0	0	0	6	- 6

First Downs: WHS 11, FTF 8
Total Yards: WHS 237, FTF 179
Rushing Yards: WHS 20, FTF 53
Passing Yards: WHS 217, FTF 126

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Rushing: WHS- Stanley 4-27 TD, Sherrill 4-20
FTF- Robinson 16-65

Passing: WHS- Greene 8-12-0-4TD 217
FTF - Gettys 6-16-2-1TD 126

Receiving: WHS- Gore 2-86-2TD, Sloan 1-62, TD, Scott 1-20, TD
FTF- Hollar 2-73, TD