

Pioneers Have Four All-Conference Selections

Written by Mike Kelly

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The Watauga High football team had four players named to the Northwestern 3A/4A All-Conference team on Friday.

Jacob Gilliam, Mo Gore, Trey Kavanaugh and Jordan Pineda were the all-conference selections. Gore was also named the Special Teams Player of the Year. Alexander Central, which won the conference championship, had 12 all-conference choices. Hibriten, which lost to West Rowan in the Western finals, had ten selections. West Rowan defeated Hibriten 20-14 in the Class 3A Western Championship game.

Kaylen Pearson of Hibriten was named the Offensive Player of the Year, Stephen Burns of Alexander Central was the Defensive Player of the Year, and Butch Carter of South Caldwell was the Coach of the Year.

Gore led the Pioneers in receiving and scoring, he also averaged 33 yard a punt. Ten of his punts were downed inside the 20, and he had two punts of more than 50 yards, including a school-record 71 yarder. He also had 396 all-purpose yards.

Kavanaugh led the Pioneers in kick-off and punt return yardage and was second on the team in receiving; Jacob Gilliam had 67 tackles, 13.5 tackles-for-loss and two quarterback sacks. He also forced three fumbles; and Pineda led the Pioneers with 90 tackles, 16.5 tackles-for-loss, six quarterback sacks, he forced four fumbles and recovered three.

NW3A/4A All Conference Team:

Hibriten: Azell Harshaw
Marcus Barnes
Michael Isbell
Kaylen Pearson
Ethan Anderson
Tripp Patterson
Jonathan Greene
Aaron Frye
Jacolby Stanley
Will Hinman

Alexander: Kyle Kinnaird
Zach Bumgarner
Logan Thomas
Jacob Winkler
Stephen Burns
Dustin Anderson
Josh Mecimore
Nathan Birkedal
Jesus Morales
Taylor Pennell
Zach Latham
Caleb Price

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South: Devin Potter

Wyll Baker

David Church

Kevin Jones

Brandon Ervin

Cory Bolick

Ethan Clark

Austin Sigler

Hickory: Michael Payne

Deangelo Mouzon

Ryan Tyree

Kyree Connor

Jaesean Abernathy

Kyle Johnson

Tobias Wimbush

Watauga: Jacob Gilliam

Mo Gore

Trey Kavanaugh

Jordan Pineda

St. Stephens: Dale Huffman

Franklin Jefferies

Tanner Miller

Dyson Littlejohn

Jeff Ellis

Fred T. Foard: Tanner Fleming

Cole Schanilec

Tre Robinson

Offensive Player of the Year:

Kaylen Pearson

Hibriten

Defensive Player of the Year:

Stephen Burns

Alexander Central

Special Teams Player of the Year:

Mo Gore Watauga

Coach of the Year:

Butch Carter

South Caldwell