

Pineda To Join WFU This Fall

Written by Mike Kelly
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How quickly things can change, and sometimes, it's for a good cause.

In this case, it's without question, the greatest thing that's ever happened to Jordan Pineda. The Watauga High senior will begin taking classes at Wake Forest University in July, and he will join the Demon Deacons football team in August.

What happened? Just call it being in the right place at the right time, according to WHS football coach Tim Pruitt.

"You never know what happens in the spring," he said. "Some guys come back, if they have that extra year, but some drop off. Some guys that were on the depth chart may have felt that they weren't going to get to play, so they decided to give up that last year. That opened up a scholarship for Jordan."

Pineda, who will bypass the East-West Senior All-Star Game in Greensboro July 20, was signed as a grey-shirt by Wake Forest back in February. Had Pineda remained a grey-shirt, he would have attended a community college this fall to take core classes before enrolling at Wake Forest in January of 2012.

"It's bittersweet," Pruitt said. "It's sad that he won't be playing in the East-West game, but in the long run this is a great opportunity for Jordan. Hopefully, this will give him a chance to play next year at Wake. You never know what's going to happen with depth at the college level.

"And if he doesn't get on the field this year, they'll red-shirt him. That will give him a chance to get stronger, learn their system and give him a chance to play down the line."

And Pineda, an all-conference defensive end for the Pioneers the last three years, is being looked at as an outside linebacker. And Pruitt feels his former player has the tools to play that position.

"He'll be a standup guy in the 3-4 scheme," Pruitt said. "And they like to bring one of those outside guys a lot (to rush the quarterback). And I can see Jordan being one of those guys they bring on a regular basis. It'll be a challenge, but Jordan like's challenges and I think he'll play very well for Wake."

Pineda had 90 tackles, 16.5 tackles-for-loss, six quarterback sacks, four forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries despite a nagging hip injury last fall.