

## **UPDATED: Vikings Out Last Thomas Jefferson**

Written by Mike Kelly

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Playing defense has become a challenge for the Avery High football team.

The Vikings, who coughed up 56 points in a loss to Black Mountain Owen last week, outscored Thomas Jefferson 52-34 Friday night in a Western Highlands Conference game in Mooresboro, NC. The Vikings have given up 220 points (an average of 37 points-per-game) through their first six games. Friday night, the team combined for nearly 1,200 yards of offense.

The Vikings (4-2 overall; 1-1 WHC) had 601 yards; the Gryphons (0-6; 0-2) had 581.

Quarterback Alex Villanueva turned in another stellar effort to pace the Vikings. The senior was 13-23 for 323 yards and two touchdown passes. He also ran for a pair of touchdowns.

Running back Luke Childress had six carries for 114 yards and a touchdown, including a 75-yard run; wide receiver Hunter Sheilds caught six passes for 178 yards and a touchdown, including a 55-yard reception. A 22-point second quarter broke the game open for the Vikings as they opened a 28-14 halftime lead.

The Vikings travel to Hendersonville next Friday night.

## **MCDOWELL SNAPS 31-GAME SLIDE**

The McDowell High football team ended four years of frustration Friday night.

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The Titans (1-5) snapped the state's longest losing streak at 31 games by knocking off North Buncombe 14-0 in a Mountain Athletic 3A/4A Conference game Friday night in Marion. It was McDowell's first official win since a 14-7 victory against Freedom on Oct. 3, 2008. The Titans defeated North Buncombe on the field in 2009, but the win was later nullified because McDowell used an ineligible player. It was also McDowell's first shutout since the 2008 season opener against Enka.

Ironically, the long losing streak started against WHS, when the Pioneers defeated McDowell 30-29 in overtime at Titan Stadium on October 10, 2008. Quarterback Devin Corum (Wingate University) hooked up with Baine Martin on the game-winning touchdown pass in overtime.