

## WHS JV Team Wins Seventh Straight

Written by Staff Reports

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The Watauga High junior varsity football team has found a way to remain unbeaten this season. They have won in lopsided fashion, and they've also won their share of nail biter as well. And

Thursday's game was a nail biter to say the least. The Pioneers (7-0 overall; 3-0 Northwestern 3A/4A Conference) rallied to beat Alexander Central 29-23 at Jack Groce Stadium. Nathan Ford capped off an four-play, 52-yard drive in the third quarter as he scored the go-ahead touchdown on a nine-yard run. That play wiped out a 23-21 halftime deficit.

Quarterback Aaron Dobbins had another strong outing as the WHS freshman amassed 245 yards of total offense. He was 16-25 for 146 yards with a touchdown pass and an interception. He also ran for 99 yards and a TD. The teams combined for 702 yards of total offense. The Pioneers had 353 yards, including 207 on the ground. Alexander Central had 349 yards, 285 on the ground.

The biggest play of the game occurred in the fourth quarter. Facing a fourth-down situation at their 48-yard line, the Pioneers were forced to punt. Dobbins was in punt formation, when the ball was snapped over his head; Dobbins ran it down and fired a pass upfield into a group of Watauga players. Anthony Deiters caught the ball and scored on the play. Unfortunately, the play was wiped out by a penalty (WHS was flagged for a block in the back), but the Pioneers maintained possession. And on fourth-and-two, Dobbins picked up a first down and the Pioneers ran out the clock from there.

Devante Clark led the Cougars with 144 yards rushing on 17 carries; quarterback Landon Hammer completed just one pass, but it was a 64-yard touchdown strike to Jeremy Brown with 23 seconds left in the first quarter that tied the game 14-14 at the time. Justin Greer of the Pioneers caught eight passes for 76 yards and a TD; Austin Northern caught four passes for 48 yards.; Deiters ran for 47 yards on five carries.; Zach Williams ran for 45 yards on 12 carries. Kevin Alanis and Hammer paced the Alexander Central running game. Alanis ran for 99 yards on just six carries for the Cougars, including a 69-yard run. Hammer added 72 yards rushing on 12 carries. WHS travels to South Caldwell next week.