The Newton-Conover High football team (9-3) marched its way into a second-round Class 2AA playoff game by knocking off Ashe County 49-0 Friday night in Newton. Newton-Conover hosts Bandys (8-4) next Friday in the second round. The

Trojans knocked off East Burke, 34-7, in Catawba.
Quarterback Kevin Cline threw two touchdowns for the Red Devils and ran for another; Nick Baker rushed for 128 yards on the ground and another Red Devil score. The Newton-Conover offense combined for 330 yards on the ground, including 75 by Matt Coulter, 29 from Marquis Pope, Cline's 59 and Baker's 128.
Ashe County (4-8) was missing its best players, leading rusher Jonathan Cox, who suffered an ankle injury at practice on Wednesday. Cox, a junior, led Ashe County with 1,378 yards and 10 touchdowns entering Friday's playoff game. Cox's absence was felt by the Huskies, who managed just 41 total yards of offense in the first half and 128 for the game.

**Vikings Drop Playoff Opener**

The Lake Norman Charter High football team (10-1) errupted for 21-first quarter points and defeated Avery 48-0 Friday night in the opening round of the North Carolina High School Association Class 1AA state playoffs. The Vikings (3-9), who finished the season losing eight of their last night games, were held to 112 yards.
Luke Childress was Avery's only bright spot as he ran for 81 yards on 30 carries. Lake Norman Charter had six different ball carries and ran for 213 yards. LNC piled up 397 yards. Quarterback Michael Dorsain was 7-7 168 yards and two touchdown passes.