

Pioneers roll over Avery, 35-12

Written by Mike Kelly

Friday, 04 September 2009 18:40

A bad start doesn't necessarily mean a bad finish. Take Friday night's match-up between Watauga High and Avery at MacDonald Stadium in Newland.

The Pioneers fumbled the ball away at their 14-yard-line on their first play from scrimmage, made a defensive stop, and cruised from there as they blasted Avery 35-12 in the 42nd meeting between the schools.

The big blow occurred on WHS second possession. Facing a third and 14 from the 16, Devan Corum hooked up with his favorite target, Travis Oliver, on an 84-yard bomb for a 7-0 lead with 8:12 to go in the opening stanza, and the rout was one. Corum, who burned Avery a year ago, finished with 309 yards of total offense, 278 through the air on 12 of 17 passing, and 31 yards on the ground.

He also threw two touchdown passes (the one to Oliver and a five-yard toss to Jordan Pineda in the second quarter), ran for a score (on a four-yard run) and he also ran in a two-point conversion. It was an impressive showing for the WHS senior, who hopes to be playing college football next season.

"It was a pretty good game, but my line did most of the work," Corum said. "They gave me a lot of protection. And everyone just did their jobs. It was a total team effort."

The Pioneers, who have won four in row against Avery (1-2) and lead the all-time series with 30 wins, 11 losses and a tie, piled up 464 yards of offense---their best production offensively since a second-round playoff win against Central Cabarrus in 2007. The Pioneers piled up more than 530 yards (a school record) in that win. They also had 191 yards on the ground Friday night. Logan Smith scored on a pair of one-yard runs.

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WHS wraps up the road trip at West Stokes in King, NC next Friday night. Our air time will come your way at 6:30 pm on Oldies 100.7 FM.

In other games:

South Caldwell 23, Draughn 7

Hibriten 70-, West Caldwell 6

Newton-Conover 33, Hickory 6

Fred T. Foard 31, West Lincoln 3

St. Stephens 51, Bunker Hill 7.

Mount Airy 52, Ashe County 7