

Pioneers power past Foard, 27-14

Written by Mike Kelly

Friday, 16 October 2009 19:08

The Watauga High football team controlled the line of scrimmage Friday night and defeated Fred T. Foard 27-14 in the final homecoming game at Jack Groce Stadium.

The WHS (5-3 overall; 3-1 and in third place in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference) offensive line set the stage on the first possession of the game. The Pioneers, who won the toss and elected to receive, marched methodically 76 yards in 13 plays, and grabbed a 7-0 lead with 5:38 to go in the opening stanza.

Baker Stanley tallied on a one-yard run, and the drive took 6:22 off the clock. The Tigers (3-6; 1-3 NW3A/4A) tied it up at 7-7 on a 72-yard catch-and-run from Byron Fullenwider to Jameel Owens with 5:04 to go before halftime. But WHS came right back on its next possession as Robbie Sherrill scampered 52-yards for a 14-7 lead at the break.

After the Tigers tied it up on Fullenwider's second touchdown pass of the night---a seven-yard toss to Orville Arel----with 7:16 to go in the third quarter, Trey Kavanaugh returned the ensuing kick-off 94-yards for the eventual winning-score and a 21-14 lead. A fumble-recovery by Alex Fox at the Tigers 38-yard-line handed WHS a 13-point cushion as the Pioneers punched it in on Devan Corum's nine-yard run with 34 seconds to go in the third period.

The Tigers turned it over four times. The Pioneers ran for 233 yards and amassed 355 yards offensively. Corum racked up 226 yards (114 rushing; 102 passing) and scored a touchdown. Defensively, WHS held Fred T. Foard to 236 yards, but most of that came in the final quarter, and they smothered Foard's biggest threat, senior running back Quintin Owens to 18 yards on 17 carries. Owens, who cracked the 1,000-yard rushing barrier against St. Stephens last Friday night, has more than 2,400 rushing yards in his career.

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Jordan Pineda (hip flexor) had 11 stops and two sacks. He also had six-tackles-for-loss. Robbie Sherrill (with one quarterback sack) and Jake Gilliam each had ten tackles. Logan Smith (bad ankle and a sprained shoulder) finished with 42 yards on six carries.

The Pioneers are the No.3 seed overall and the No.2 seed among the Class 4A schools in the NW3A/4A Conference. They travel to Alexander Central for a big showdown for the No.1 seed in the 4A division next Friday night. Our coverage begins at 6:30 pm on Oldies 100.7 FM.

In other games:

NW3A/4A:

Alexander Central 14, St. Stephens 7

Hibriten 42, South Caldwell 13

Hickory 20, Freedom 9

Other games:

Ashe County 21, Alleghany 0

Polk County 46, Avery 20

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