

## Pioneers fall to Ragsdale

Written by Mike Kelly

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The Watauga High football team saw its season come to an end Saturday night in Jamestown, NC in the opening round of the Class 4A state playoffs.

The Tigers (12-0), who came in with a stingy defense that had allowed the mere total of 67 points all year, lived up to its pre-game hype by blanking WHS 31-0 at Miller Stadium. The Pioneers (6-6) were held to 108 yards offensively. The Pioneers were also 0-12 on third-down conversions.

Quarterback Devan Corum, playing his final game for the Pioneers, was their biggest threat. The senior ran for 61 yards and completed four passes for 33 yards in the loss.

But the WHS defense held its own against the Tigers, especially in the first half. They actually forced Ragsdale to punt on its first possession; and they had to settle on Kasey Redfern's 29-yard field goal on their second possession for a 3-0 lead with 7:02 left in the opening stanza. The Tigers expanded on their lead in the second quarter.

Quarterback Luke Heavner scored on a one-yard run before he hooked up on a seven-yard scoring toss to Desean Anderson with 42 seconds left in the first half for a 17-0 halftime lead. The Tigers finally put the game on ice in third quarter.

Heavner threw his second touchdown pass of the night---this one, a 23-yard strike to Deshawn Shouse capping off a nine-play, 58-yard drive with 4:23 left in the period for a 24-0 advantage. And Darius McQueen returned an interception 41 yards for a score 63 seconds later to close out the scoring.

Heavner finished with 144 yards through the air. Running back Donovan Smith ran for 95 yards on 21 carries; and Anderson caught seven passes for 61 yards. Tyquan Roberts, who stands in at 6-6, caught five balls for 51 yards. The Tigers, who will play Sun Valley at home

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Friday night in a second-round game, had 295 yards offensively.

Defensive end Jordan Pineda paced WHS on defense with 12 tackles; Logan Smith, playing his final game as a Pioneer, had ten stops; sophomore Alex Fox had nine tackles; junior Matt Scott had eight.