Written by Daniel Clark
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Watauga varsity football will host six home games at the new Jack Groce Stadium this fall, including three Northwestern 4A/3A games as a part of the Pioneer's 2010 football schedule announced Thursday by head coach Tim Pruitt. The Pioneer's season opener August 20th against archrival Ashe County will be the Inaugural game at the new Jack Groce Stadium. The brand new stadium located on the on the campus of the brand new Watauga High School will feature a new FieldTurf playing surface. Tabbed as the Banjo Bowl by WHS play-by-play voice Mike Kelly, the Watauga vs. Ashe rivalry has quietly built itself into one of the most anticipated match ups of the year.

After hosting the first game of the season, the Pioneers hit the

road to face 2A state power Shelby on August 27th. The Golden Lion's have beaten the Pioneers each of the last three seasons. Following the short one-week road swing, WHS returns to Boone for back-to-back home games with Avery (September 3rd) and

West Stokes (September 10th).

The Pioneers go for their fifth straight win in the annual Battle for the Bucket game against the Vikings. September 17th the Pioneer's will travel to Asheville to face defending 4A state champion AC Reynolds. The Rockets knocked off Watauga 19-12 in close battle in Boone last season. WHS open date will be September 24th before Watauga opens Northwestern 4A/3A play at South Caldwell on October 1st.

The Pioneers will celebrate Homecoming October 8th against 3A power Hibriten.
After homecoming, the Pioneers hit the meat of the Northwestern Conference schedule with games at Fred T. Foard (October 15th), at home against Alexander Central (October 22nd) and at Hickory (October 29th). Watauga celebrates senior night November 5th vs. Saint Stephens.

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Watauga Pioneers' 2010 Schedule

Aug. 20	Ashe County
Aug. 27	at Shelby
Sept. 3	Avery
Sept. 10	West Stokes
Sept. 17	at AC Reynolds
Sept. 24	Open

Oct. 1	at South Caldwell
Oct. 8	Hibriten (HC)
Oct. 15	at Fred T. Foard
Oct. 22	Alexander Central
Oct. 29	at Hickory
Nov. 5	Saint Stephens (SN)