Written by Mike Kelly
Tuesday, 01 June 2010 15:29

Rising senior Jordan Pineda of Watauga High has been invited to an Elite Combine and a possible opportunity to play in the Shrine Bowl in December.

Pindea is among 12 defensive lineman invited to Saturday's camp, which will be held at Monroe High School in Monroe, NC beginning at 4:45 pm. John Lowery of Forest Hills High School will coach the North Carolina All-Stars, and the game will be played Saturday, December 18, in Spartanburg, SC at Gibbs Stadium on the campus of Wofford College.

"It's a great opportunity for Jordan and for our program," said WHS coach Tim Pruitt. "This combine will give the coaching staff an chance to get a closer look at the talent they have available. They will probably select about six defensive linemen, and I'm very confident in Jordan's abilities."

The Pioneers had two players selected for post-season all-star games in 2007-08. Eric Breitenstein, who owns every possible WHS record there is on the grid-iron and is currently a red-shirt sophomore at Wofford College, was selected to play in the Shrine Bowl in Decmeber of 2007 in Spartanburg, SC. Fellow senior at the time, Casey Augustine, now a junior at Wingate University (Division II and a member of the South Atlantic Conference) played in the East-West Senior All-Star game in Greensboro in July of 2008.

"And those guys deserved it," Pruitt said. "We've been blessed with some very good football players in our program, and it's nice when they receive the exposure they deserve.

"Hopefully, Jordan will make the (North Carolina) Shrine Bowl roster. Then that might open the door for another of our seniors to play in the East-West game next summer. We have some guys that are capable."

Pineda played both offense and defense for the Pioneers last fall. He caught eight passes for 74 yards and a touchdown offensively; defensively, he had 64 tackles, 21 tackles-for-loss and 11 quarterback sacks and 14 quarterback hurries. He also recovered two fumbles.

He was an All-Northwestern 3A/4A Conference performer last fall. This past spring, Pineda, who posted a pair of second-place finishes at the Class 4A Western Regional in both the shot put and the discus events, finished sixth in the shot put (49-10.75) and fourth in the discus (147-02) at the state track meet.

The final Shrine Bowl rosters will be announced in October. The Pioneers will begin fall practice August 1; the season opener is set for August 20 at the new Jack Groce Stadium against Ashe County.