

Vikings Ranked Seventh in AP Poll

Written by Mike Kelly

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The Avery Vikings, off to their best start since 2005, are ranked seventh in the state in this week's Associated Press Class 1A Poll.

It's been a special season so far for the Vikings. Avery (4-0) ended four-years of frustration by defeating its biggest rival, Watauga, on September 3 at Jack Groce Stadium (it was also Avery's first win in Boone since 2004), and the Vikings have nearly equaled their entire win total for all of last year, when they were 5-7.

The Vikings are led by their explosive tandem---quarterback Alex Villanueva and wide receiver Andy Gonzalez, who was a pre-season Class 1A All-State selection by NCPreps.com. Villanueva is 56-102 for 949 yards and ten touchdowns; Gonzalez has caught 17 passes for 330 yards and five touchdowns.

The Vikings have scored 155 points in their first four games for an average of 39 points-per-game, The Vikings open Western Highland Conference play Friday at Black Mountain Owen.

AP high school football poll for N.C.

Class 4-A

1. Matthews Butler (16) (4-0) 169 1
2. Mallard Creek (1) (4-0) 148 2
3. Fayetteville Britt (5-0) 122 3
4. Richmond County (4-1) 97 5
5. Durham Hillside (5-0) 87 9
6. Wake Forest-Rolesville (5-0) 86 6
7. Asheville Reynolds (3-1) 75 7
8. Harnett Central (5-0) 59 8
9. Winston-Salem Mt. Tabor (4-1) 29 10
10. Greensboro Dudley (4-1) 26 4

Others receiving votes: New Bern 9, Lumberton 8, Scotland County 7, West Forsyth 6, Greensboro Smith 3, West Charlotte 2, Indian Trail Porter Ridge 1, Jamestown Ragsdale 1.

Class 3-A

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1. West Rowan (14) (5-0) 158 1
2. Fayetteville Byrd (1) (5-0) 130 2
3. Charlotte Catholic (1) (5-0) 112 3
4. Shelby Crest (3-0) 99 5
5. Marvin Ridge (5-0) 92 4
6. Lenoir Hibriten (4-1) 73 7
7. Eastern Alamance (4-0) 69 6
8. Lawndale Burns (3-1) 54 9
9. Northern Guilford (3-1) 49 8
10. Asheville (2-1) 22 10

Others receiving votes: South Brunswick 7, Southern Nash 5, Northeast Guilford 3, China Grove Carson 3, Charlotte Country Day 2, Waynesville Tuscola 1, Morganton Patton 1.

Class 2-A

1. Reidsville (14) (5-0) 164 1
2. SouthWest Edgecombe (3) (5-0) 149 2
3. Tarboro (5-0) 130 3
4. Lincolnnton (5-0) 116 4
5. Kinston (5-0) 80 5
6. Polk County (5-0) 66 6
7. Thomasville (5-0) 63 10
8. Boonville Starmount (5-0) 53 7
9. Newton-Conover (4-0) 40 8
10. East Bladen (4-0) 28

Others receiving votes: Winston-Salem Carver 15, Shelby 8, East Duplin 7, South Iredell 5, Carrboro 4, Roanoke Rapids 4, Charlotte Berry Tech 1, Canton Pisgah 1, North Johnston 1.

Class 1-A

1. Wallace-Rose Hill (16) (4-0) 160 1
2. Pender County (3-0) 119 3
3. Albemarle (3-1) 115 4
4. Plymouth (4-0) 108 5
5. Southwest Onslow (4-1) 91 2
6. Hendersonville (4-0) 86 7
7. Avery County (4-0) 83 6
8. Hobbton (4-0) 31 9
9. Mt. Airy (2-2) 30 8
10. Kernersville McGuinness (4-0) 22 10

Others receiving votes: Williamston Riverside 14, West Montgomery 8, Warsaw Kenan 7, Murphy 3, East Surry 3.