

UPDATED: Red Tornadoes blow away WHS, 42-0

Written by Mike Kelly

Saturday, 30 October 2010 00:35

The Watauga High football team slipped, stumbled and fell Friday night at Frank Barger Stadium in Hickory.

The Hickory Red Tornadoes, who have been an up-and-down team for the better part of the year, put it all together in their match-up with the Pioneers. The end result, Hickory blasted WHS 42-0 in a Northwestern 3A/4A Conference game. The win also moves Hickory into a second-place tie with South Caldwell. The Spartans lost to Alexander Central 19-14.

It's the second time in as many weeks that the Pioneers have been shut-out, and the third time this season. Making matters worse, the Pioneers (3-7 overall, 1-4 NW3A/4A) continued to struggle on offense, gaining just 98 yards on the night, including 14 yards on 22 plays in the first half.

"The big plays really hurt us," said WHS coach Tim Pruitt. "They made some big plays, but it wasn't anything we didn't prepare for. We also made some big mistakes."

In turn, the Red Tornadoes (4-6; 3-2), who had nearly 397 yards, including 235 on the ground,, scored on their first two possessions and took a 14-0 first-quarter lead.

T,J, Wimbush scored on a two-yard run on Hickory's first possession for a 7-0 lead, and 94 seconds later, a turnover gave Hickory the ball at Watauga's 19-yard line. Quarterback Kyle Johnson ran it in from 14-yards out two plays later.

Johnson hooked up with Michael Payne on a 23-yard pass scoring pass and with Jake Meade on a 33-yard strike giving Hickory a commanding 28-0 lead at the intermission and put the contest out of reach. Johnson was 9-13 for 162 yards,

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“We did some good things tonight,” Pruitt said. “But we weren’t consistent enough. They were also pretty physical on defense, especially in their secondary. One missed block, or one missed assignment really hurt us. It just reared its ugly head.”

Sophomore Jordan Lockhart led the ground game for the Red Tornadoes with 134 yard on 13 carries and a touchdown. His four-yard run in the fourth quarter capped off a 15-play, 95-yard drive that gave Hickory a 35-0 advantage.

Cameron Stinson’s interception at his own five-yard line set up the long drive that took nearly 6 ½ minutes off the clock. The Pioneers turned it over three times.

The loss also leaves WHS one win shy of being playoff-eligible. A win against St. Stephens next Friday night at Jack Groce Stadium would cure that ill, and it would make WHS at least a bubble team for post-season play. WHS hasn't missed the playoffs since 2005.

“ I was proud of how the guys hung in there,” Pruitt said. “Losing Trey Kavanaugh (he had his appendix removed Sunday night) hurts, but we had some people like Brian Bolster step up. There’s no quit in this group.

“Like I told them after the game, there’s only eight teams that finish the season on a winning note, and those are the state champions. And we have a chance to finish our season on a winning note next Friday night against St. Stpehens. If it gets us in the playoffs fine, if not, at least we finished up on a positive note.”

The Indians (1-10; 0-5) had the week off. Our coverage of that game begins at 6:30 pm next Friday night on Oldies 100.7 FM.

NOTES:

Hickory leads the all-time series with WHS 13-2.....Kyle Chambers missed his second

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consecutive game with a head injury.....Kavanaugh, who had emergency surgery last Sunday night to have his appendix removed, is out four weeks.....Will Morgan (stomach flu) and Jordan Pineda (bruised knee) both played on Friday night.....Next Friday night's game with St. Stephens will be Senior Night at Jack Groce Stadium.....The Pioneers haven't scored since the third quarter of the Fred T. Foard game on October 15. The scoreless streak is now up to nine quarters....The teams combined for 20 penalties for 220 yards. WHS had nine penalties for 95 yards; the Red Tornadoes were flagged 11 times for 125 yards.

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HICKORY 14 14 0 14 – 42

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FIRST DOWNS: WHS 9, HICKORY 19

RUSHING YARDS: WHS 53, HICKORY 235

PASSING YARDS: WHS 45, HICKORY 162

TOTAL OFFENSE: WHS 98, HICKORY 3097

WHS:

RUSHING: STANLEY 13-32, GREENE 12-23

PASSING: GREENE 6-19-2 45

RECEIVING: BOLSTER 3-27

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HICKORY:

RUSHING: LOCKHARD 13-134, REID 11-51

PASSING: JOHNSON 9-13-162

RECEIVING: DAVENPORT 2-47, PAYNE 2-39

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IN OTHER GAMES:

ALEXANDER CENTRAL 19, SOUTH CALDWELL 14

HIBRITEN 35, FRED T. FOARD 3

FORBUSH 27, ASHE COUNTY 14

MOUTAIN HERITAGE 42, AVERY 34

SOUTH IREDELL 32, NEWTON-CONOVER 28

WEST CALDWELL 34, DRAIGHN 33

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MAIDEN 41, BUNKER HILL 13