

## Vikings Release 2011 Football Schedule

Written by Mike Kelly

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The Avery High football team has released its football schedule for the 2011 campaign.

The Vikings, who are coming off their most successful season in six years (they were 11-3 in 2005), will kick-off the season at home with Mitchell on August 19. The Vikings also turned in their most successful playoff run since 2005 as they reached the Class 1A western quarterfinals.

The Vikings (10-4), who open the season at home against Mitchell on August 19, lost to the Mountaineers 47-22 in the western quarters. Head coach Darrell Brewer returns for his ninth season. He's 57-45 during his tenure. Quarterback Alex Villanueva, a two-year varsity starter for the Vikings, returns for his senior season. And despite an injury-prone season (he broke his collarbone in late September and re-aggravated the injury in the state playoffs), he still managed to put up big numbers.

Villanueva completed 102 of 191 passes (nearly 54%) threw for 1,716 and 19 touchdowns. Unfortunately, he will lose his favorite receiver, Andy Gonzalez, to graduation. Gonzalez, who was an NCPreps.com pre-season all-state selection, caught 51 passes for 868 yards and 12 touchdowns last fall. And in the last two years, that pair has combined for 90 receptions for 1,614 yards and 26 scores.

Another huge loss concerns running back Colton Blackburn, who rambled for 1,113 and 10 touchdowns. Blackburn resurrected a dismal running game last season. And the Vikings must also find a way to replace a very strong senior class that backboned their 10-win season last year.

Avery opens the season with Western Highlands Conference foe Mitchell in a non-conference affair. It's game one of a home-and-home series between the schools. The conference game occurs in the regular-season finale in Bakersville on Friday, October 28. Watauga invades MacDonald Stadium on September 2. The Vikings defeated WHS 28-14 at Jack Groce Stadium last season. That snapped a four-game slide against the Pioneers. WHS leads the all-time series 30-12-1.

The WHC 1A/2A Conference opener will be at home against Black Mountain Owen on September 16. The Vikings host Polk County for Homecoming on October 7; Senior Night will be on October 21 against Mountain Heritage.

## AVERY 2011 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

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AUGUST 19 MITCHELL  
AUGUST 26 @ WEST WILKES  
SEPTEMBER 2 WATAUGA  
SEPTEMBER 16 OWEN\*  
SEPTEMBER 23 @ THOMAS JEFFERSON\*  
SEPTEMBER 30 @ HENDERSONVILLE\*  
OCTOBER 7 POLK COUNTY\* (HOMECOMING)  
OCTOBER 14 @ MADISON\*  
OCTOBER 21 MOUNTAIN HERITAGE\* (SENIOR NIGHT)  
OCTOBER 28 @ MITCHELL\*