

Pioneers Blast Warriors, 31-14

Written by Mike Kelly

Saturday, 10 September 2011 10:02

The Watuaga High football team bounced back from last week's disappointing loss at Avery, by crushing West Caldwell Friday night.

And the Pioneers (2-2) didn't waste any time taking control as they defeated the Warriors 31-14 in a non-conference game at Thuss Stadium in Gamewell, NC. WHS scored on its first possession of the game. Kyle Chambers, who has given the Pioneers a legitimate threat at running back, scored on a one-yard run to cap off a five-play, 60-yard drive that took 1:27 off the clock.

"I really wanted us to get the ball first," said WHS coach Tim Pruitt. "They won the toss, but the referee deferred and gave us the ball. And our guys took care of the rest. I thought we had a good week of practice, especially on Wednesday. It was the best day of practice this year. That's the day we try to put everything together. Overall, it was a good effort."

WHS broke the game open with a pair of scores in the second quarter. Ethan Greene scored on a five-yard run with 5:32 left in the second quarter for a 14-0 lead. That play capped off a seven-play, 60-yard drive; and following a Nick Williams interception, Greene hooked up with Clint Trivette on a 12-yard scoring toss with 38 seconds left in the first half for a 21-point advantage at the intermission.

"Our running game was good tonight, our defense played well, and our specials teams did a good job," Pruitt said. "We still have some things to work on, especially in our running game, but I was pleased with the effort. The kids did a good job executing well, and we're ready for (Northwestern 3A/4A) conference season starting next week."

Chambers, who has been on a tear the last three weeks, finished with 161 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Chambers has 464 yards and eight touchdowns during that stretch. His seven-yard run with 3:45 left in the third quarter gave WHS a commanding 28-0 lead.

"I thought Kyle did a great job taking control," Pruitt said. "He kept running after contact. We have stressed to our guys to keep moving after contact. He broke some tackles and picked up some additional yardage on his carries."

Ean Lisk blocked a punt in the third quarter that set up an Alex Parson's 37-yard field goal. The Pioneers were in complete control until the fourth quarter, when the Warriors (0-4) finally scored a pair of consolation touchdowns to make the score respectable.

"I was really impressed with No.37 (Aaron Rowe)," Pruitt said. "He's a tough man to bring down. And he's their second-string guy, which means their top guy (Ryan Corpening, who broke his ankle on the second play of the season against Ashe County) had to be great. They have some great athletes here. But they had problems against the trap last week against Hibriten. And we did a good job running the trap tonight against them. It was a good win, and I thought our guys played well, and establishing the run allowed us to take control of the game."

Rowe finished with a game-high 174 yards and a touchdown. And the Warriors out-gained the Pioneers with 271 yards, including 246 on the ground. But the Warriors turned it over three times.

"It was a big win with conference coming up next week," Pruitt said. "And I feel our conference is wide open this season. There's a lot of ifs, ands and buts at the top of our league right now, but we got it started next week with Fred T. Foard at home."

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And the Tigers (1-3), who dropped a 34-26 decision to Bunker Hill Friday night, are led by former Pioneer Jason Phelps, who's in his first season as head coach.

"I know Jason very well," Pruitt said. "We worked together at Starmount. He's a good football man, and a guy I really respect. I look forward to competing against him next week."

Greene completed four passes on the night, three of those to Trivette, for 33 yards. WHS had 178 yards on the ground. Cody McKinney paced WHS on defense with a team-high 13 tackles, including a tackle-for-loss. McKinney has 23 stops since coming back from injury last week. Alex Fox had nine stops; Taylor Shuford and Williams each had eight tackles; Williams and Jeffrey Shook each had an interception.

The Pioneers finish their three-game road trip with a 2-1 record, and they also claimed their third consecutive win against the Warriors in this series. But West Caldwell still leads the all-time series 21-8. WHS returns home to play Fred T. Foard Friday night, September 16, at Jack Groce Stadium in their NW3A/4A opener. Our coverage begins at 6:30 p.m. on Oldies 100.7 FM.

SCORING:

	1	2	3	4	T
WATAUGA	7	14	10	0	- 31
WEST CALDWELL	0	0	0	14	- 14

1ST QTR:

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10:33 - WHS: CHAMBERS 1 YD RUN (PARSON'S KICK) 5-60, 1:27 7-0

2ND QTR:

5:32 - WHS: GREENE 5 YD RUN (PARSON'S KICK) 7-60, 3:17 14-0

0:38 - WHS: GREENE 12 YD PASS TO TRIVETTE (PARSON'S KICK) 7-58, 2:15 21-0

3RD QTR:

3:45 - WHS: CHAMBERS 7 YD RUN (PARSON'S KICK) 2-33, 0:14 28-0

0:51 - WHS: PARSONS 37 YD FIELD GOAL 4--2, 1:11 31-0

4TH QTR:

7:25 - WCHS: ROWE 9 YD RUN (BARNETTE KICK) 12-76, 5:20 31-7

1:31 - WCHS: TYLER DULA 6 YD RUN (BARNETTE KICK) 7-69, 2:15 31-14

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STATISTICS:

TOTAL YARDS: WHS 211, WCHS 271

RUSH YARDS: WHS 178, WCHS 246

PASSING YARDS: WHS 33, WCHS 25

TURNOVERS: WHS - 0, WCHS - 3

PENALTIES: WHS 5-25, WCHS 11-67

POSSESSION TIME: WHS 19:20, WCHS 28:40

THIRD DOWN CONVERSIONS: WHS 4-8, WCHS 1-8

FOURTH DOWN CONVERSIONS: WHS 0-0, WCHS 2-4

WHS:

RUSHING: CHAMBERS 15-161-1TD

PASSING: GREENE 4-9-33-1TD

RECEIVING: TRIVETTE 3-33-1TD

WCHS:

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RUSHING: ROWE 29-174-1TD, TYLER DULA 14-70-1TD

PASSING: WEST 4-6-2-2INT-25

RECEIVING: ROWE 3-17

FRIDAY NIGHT'S SCORES:

AVERY 28, McDOWELL 21

WATAUGA 31, WEST CALDWELL 14

ASHE COUNTY 28, ELKIN 6

SOUTH CALDWELL 38, EAST BURKE 0

HIBRITEN 20, PATTON 14

KINGS MOUNTAIN 23, ALEXANDER CENTRAL 22

MAIDEN 36, ST. STEPHENS 10,

HICKORY 41, NORTH GASTON 21

BUNKER HILL 34, FRED T. FOARD 26

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