

Villanueva, Vikings Outlast Mountain Heritage

Written by Mike Kelly
Saturday, 22 October 2011 09:36

Offensive was the name of the game in Newland Friday night as the Avery High football team nailed down its second consecutive win by knocking off Mountain Heritage 49-39 at MacDonald Stadium.

Quarterback Alex Villanueva ran for 112 yards

and three touchdowns, and he threw for 216 yards and a pair of scores as the Vikings (6-4 overall; 3-3 in the Western Highlands 1A/2A Conference) pulled into a tie with Hendersonville for the No.2 seed among the 1A schools in league play. But the Bearcats own the tie-breaker because they beat Avery earlier this year (48-28 on September 30).

The Vikings, who trailed 32-28 with 5:44 remaining in the third quarter, rallied behind Villanueva's arm to take the lead for good. A pair of scoring strikes to Dustin Clark---one from 18 yards and the other from 48---gave the Vikings a 42-32 lead with 9:35 left in the game. Villanueva put the game to rest on a five-yard scoring run with 5:53 left, which gave the Vikings a 17-point advantage.

The teams combined for nearly 900 yards of offense. Hunter Sheilds caught four passes for 77 yards; Clark had two catches, both for touchdowns, and 66 yards in receiving. Sam Howell paced the Cougars with 154 rushing yards and two touchdowns; Austin Rice ran for 112 yards and two scores.

The Vikings wrap up the regular season at Mitchell next Friday night, October 28. The Mountaineers defeated Avery 48-6 way back on August 19 in a non-conference game to start the season.

WESTERN HIGHLANDS 1A/2A CONFERENCE

MITCHELL	5-1; 9-1
HENDERSONVILLE	5-1; 8-2
POLK COUNTY	5-1; 8-2
OWEN	3-3; 3-7
AVERY	3-3; 6-4
MOUNTAIN HERITAGE	2-4; 4-5

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MADISON 1-5; 4-5
THOMAS JEFFERSON 0-6; 0-10

FRIDAY GAMES

AVERY 49, MOUNTAIN HERITAGE 39

MITCHELL 48, MADISON 17

HENDERSONVILLE 56, THOMAS JEFFERSON 17

POLK COUNTY 20. OWEN 17

HUSKIES NAIL DOWN PLAYOFF SPOT

The Ashe County Huskies nailed down a playoff spot Friday night as they defeated Forbush 16-11 in East Bend.

The Huskies (5-5 overall; 4-3 Mountain Valley 1A/2A Conference) have won three in a row. Sam Gammons hooked up with Matt Sexton on a pair of touchdown passes to spark the offense. Sexton also had an interception late in the game to settle the issue for Ashe County. The Huskies wrap up the regular season at home next Friday night, October 28 against East Wilkes. A win there, and the Huskies will produce their first winning season since 2008.

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MOUNTAIN VALLEY 1A/2A CONFERENCE

STARMOUNT	7-0; 9-0
WILKES CENTRAL	7-0; 9-0
WEST WILKES	5-2; 6-3
ASHE COUNTY	4-3; 5-5
FORBUSH	3-4; 3-6
EAST WILKES	3-4; 3-6
ALLEGHANY	2-5; 2-8
ELKIN	1-6; 1-8
NORTH WILKES	0-8; 1-9

FRIDAY 'S GAMES

ASHE COUNTY 16, FORBUSH 11
STARMOUNT 57, ALLEGHANY 18
WILKES CENTRAL 43, ELKIN 19
WEST WILKES 48, NORTH WILKES 22
EAST WILKES - BYE WEEK