

## Red Tornadoes Forfeit Nine Games

Written by Staff Reports

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The North Carolina High School Athletic Association has announced that the Hickory High football team will forfeit nine games, which includes all eight of its win and a season-opening tie against Statesville, for inadvertently using an ineligible player this past season. That means,

the Red Tornadoes, who were 8-4-1 last year, are now officially 0-13 overall. And Hickory, which was 4-2 and finished in a second-place tie with Watauga in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference, falls to 0-6 in league play and in last place. The Pioneers beat the Red Tornadoes 6-0 at Barger Stadium on September 23.

The Red Tornadoes lost to Lawndale Burns in the second-round of the Class 3A state playoffs last fall.

Under state association rules, the fine for using an ineligible player is \$500. Rick Strunk, associate commissioner for communications for the NCHSAA, said the fine is usually cut in half if a school does self-report an eligibility rule violation. This is only the second time that Hickory has forfeited a football game. The Red Tornadoes forfeited two games against East Burke and Statesville in 1998.

Hickory head coach and Athletics Director John Worley, who will officially retire on February 29, closes out his nine-year career with a 64-48 record. He was 72-39-1 prior to the forfeits.