

Wolverines Finish Season On Winning Note

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It was a fitting way for the Watauga Middle School football team to end its season Wednesday afternoon. The Wolverine (4-4) snapped their three-game losing streak with a 34-22 win over East McDowell in Marion. Watauga trailed 14-0 in

the first quarter, but strong special teams play, led by punter Case Taylor and Evan Suggs, ignited the comeback.

Taylor's punt in the second quarter pinned East McDowell inside its five-yard-line, and Suggs finally got the Wolverines on the board as he registered a safety on the very next play. The onslaught continued as Corey West returned the free kick for a touchdown, making it 14-9. "We got off the schlide," said Watauga coach Steve Breitenstein. "It didn't look good early, but our kicking game really helped us tonight. We pinned them deep and we came up with the safety. That play just got us going."

Joey Watson had a pair of TD runs; Suggs scored on a 55-yard scamper; Taylor had two two-point conversion runs; Justin Hollar caught two two-point conversion passes from West. Defensive lineman Zach Hamilton intercepted a pass setting up a Watauga TD; Austin McConnell, Shamaris Evans and August Sauls each had a fumble recovery.

"We had a good group of kids," Breitenstein said. "They all worked hard, and it was a fun season. And we've got some players on this team that should make a contribution at the next level."