

Pioneers Cruise By Panthers

Written by Mike Kelly

Thursday, 03 October 2013 08:26

There's no place like home. At least that was the storyline in the Wizard of Oz. But upon further review, it seems that phrase holds true even in soccer.

Well, the Watuaga High boy's soccer team made its return to Jack Groce Stadium with a convincing win against Hibriten Wednesday night. The Pioneers (13-1-1 overall; 6-1-1 Northwestern 3A/4A Conference) blasted the Panthers, 7-0. The Pioneers broke the game early with five goals in the first 20-minutes of the match.

"I think playing at home really gave us a boost tonight," said WHS coach Woody McKay. "We've been on the road (three of the last four games) the last few games. But the guys were comfortable tonight, and they came out and executed. The final score is a little misleading. Hibriten was hurting a bit. They were battling some injuries and their best player was out. We took advantage of that. We were all business tonight."

Tucker Chasteen and Logan Raichle paced WHS with three goals and an assist apiece. Cam Linnville had four assists; goalkeeper Jake Chasteen, who has made a verbal commitment to attend Appalachian State University to play soccer next fall, got to play in the field and picked up a goal.

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"This is a close group," said Jake Chasteen. "We've been playing together since elementary school, so we know each other pretty well. We were struggling to score goals lately. We've had our chances, but we just couldn't finish. We got a lot of talent on this team that can score."

The win also keeps WHS in a first-place tie with Freedom. The Patriots defeated South Caldwell, 5-1. Fred T. Foard kept pace by defeating Patton, 1-0. The Tigers are just one-half game out of first place. But St. Stephens dropped its second consecutive game.

Ben Hartman scored the game-winner in the final ten minutes of regulation time. The Pioneers take on Patton at home next Monday.

WHS won the junior varsity game, 2-0. Andrew Crumpler and David King scored for the Pioneers.

NOTES: The Pioneers are also ranked sixth this week in the North Carolina Soccer Coaches Association Class 4A State Poll. Charlotte-Providence is No.1; Asheville-Roberson is No.5.

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NORTHWESTERN 3A-4A

(Conference matches only)

Freedom 6-1-1

Watauga 6-1-1

Fred T. Foard 6-2-0

St. Stephens 4-3-1

Patton 3-4-1

Hickory 3-3-2

S. Caldwell 1-7-0

Hibriten 0-8-0

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Wednesday's results

Fred T. Foard 1, Patton 0

Freedom 5, S. Caldwell 1

Hickory 2, St. Stephens 1

Watauga 7, Hibriten 0