

## Tighter And Tighter....

Written by Mike Kelly

Tuesday, 15 October 2013 08:28

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That best describes the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference race in boy's soccer. Three teams, Freedom High, Fred T. Foard and Watauga, are seperated by just one game for first place in the NW3A/4A with

three matches left on the regular-season schedule.

The Pioneers kept their title hopes alive by knocking off South Caldwell 6-1 at Jack Groce Stadium. Justin Hall and Logan Raichle paced the Pioneers offensively. Hall scored three goals and picked up an assist; Raichle had a goal and three assists in Monday night's win.

WHS (15-2-1 overall; 8-2-1 NW3A/4A Conference) jumped out to an early 2-0 lead. Raichle scored six minutes into the first half on a feed from Canyon Mueller for a 1-0 lead. The Pioneers quicked doubled their lead just six-minutes later on a goal by Tucker Chasteen on a feed from Raichle.

The Spartans narrowed the gap by scoring at the 14-minute mark, but the Pioneers answered quickly. They erupted for three goals in the next 18 minutes to take a commanding 5-1 lead into the locker room at halftime. Hall had two of those goals; Raichle picked up two assists during that outburst. Nick Kellner's tally at the 15-minute mark of the first half ignited the onslaught and restored WHS' two-goal advantage at the time.

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Freedom (9-1-1 in league play and in first place) maintained its lead in the conference standings by knocking off Patton 1-0 Monday night; Fred T. Foard (9-2 in league play and in second place) kept pace by knocking off St. Stephens, 2-1.

The Pioneers entertain St. Stephens at Jack Groce Stadium Wednesday night. WHS won the junior varsity game, 6-0. David King led the way by scoring three goals.

"I'm real happy for David," WHS coach Woody McKay said. "He's battled some injuries this season. So it was nice to see him come back and score three times tonight. He had a wonderful game."

Zach Valet, Jett Dhing and Kobe Araica scored the other WHS goals.