

Pioneers enjoy deserved bye week

Written by Mike Kelly

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The Watauga High football team, which suffered a disappointing loss against A.C.Reynolds last Friday night at Jack Groce Stadium, enjoys the week off this Friday night.

The Pioneers (3-2) put together a winning non-conference schedule, and WHS coach Tim Pruitt hopes WHS can continue its quest when conference play begins next Friday night against South Caldwell in the newly formed Northwestern 3A/4A Conference.

"We had our chances (last Friday) against A.C. Reynolds, but we just didn't finish," he said. "But it is encouraging to see us like we did against a quality program like Reynolds and give ourselves a chance to win."

The only blemish in that loss were the injuries to fellow seniors Logan Smith and Travis Oliver. Smith, who is second on the team in rushing with 254 yards and six touchdowns and second on the team with 33 tackles and 7.5 tackles for loss, suffered a sprained shoulder. Oliver, who is second on the team with 16 receptions for 392 yards and four touchdowns, has a seperated shoulder.

But Pruitt feels both Smith and Oliver will be available next Friday night against South Caldwell.

"I would say both of them are probable for this game," he said. "With the bye week, they should be all right to go next week."

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South Caldwell, after a 3-0 start has dropped two in a row, including a 42-13 decision against East Burke last week. This will be the 33rd meeting between the schools. South Caldwell leads the series with 18 wins and 14 losses.

The Spartans, who begin NW3A/4A play Friday at home against St. Stephens (2-3), beat WHS 13-0 in a pouring rain last season in Boone. That win broke a two-game losing streak against the Pioneers. Our coverage October 2 on Oldies 100.7 FM begins at 6:30 pm.