**NGHS uses 2nd half comeback to advance in State playoffs**

By: Kenyon Gregory

The Northern Guilford High School football team (11-1) defeated Marvin Ridge High School (5-7) last Friday night in the 2nd round of the 4A State Playoffs.

The Nighthawks needed two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to complete a second-half comeback.

In the first quarter, Marvin Ridge got off to a hot start led by Running Back Zach Lee who had two touchdowns of 67 and 32 yards to put the Mavericks up 14-0 at the end of the first quarter.

The Nighthawks' defense kept them in the game by grabbing three interceptions in the first quarter.

Another rushing touchdown by Wide Receiver Hill Despard put Marvin Ridge up 21-0 early in the second quarter.

Northern Guilford responded with a rushing touchdown of their own on their first possession of the second quarter to cut the lead to 21-7.

A 23-yard block punt return for a touchdown cut the lead to 21-14 giving the Nighthawks momentum. However, the Mavericks got a field goal before halftime to go up by 10 at the break.

With no score in the third quarter, the Nighthawks scored first in the fourth quarter when Running Back Amare Akers rushed for a 17-yard touchdown to cut the lead to three.

After a Marvin Ridge interception, NGHS’s Dwight Hall rushed for a 67-yard touchdown to give them a 28-24 lead late in the fourth quarter.

The Mavericks drove the ball down to the 11-yard line of NGHS but turned it over on downs with eleven seconds to go all but sealing the win for the Nighthawks.

Northern Guilford advances to the third round of the state playoffs.

The Nighthawks will head to Weddington High School (11-0) this Friday night for the third round of the state playoffs.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.