Written by Mike Kelly
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Cal Hardee had a senior year worth remembering.

Hardee, who backboned a youthful Watauga High baseball team to a Northwestern 3A/4A Conference regular-season championship, has been named to the North Carolina Baseball Coaches Association Class 4A All-State team.

He's the second WHS player to be named All-State. Adam Church, who will attend and play baseball at Wilkes Community College this fall, was named to the all-state team last season.

Hardee, who will continue his playing career at Appalachian State University this coming fall, batted an impressive .402 during his senior year with the Pioneers. He had 35 hits, six doubles, two home runs and drove in 22 runs. He was just as impressive on the mound.

He led the Pioneers with 63-innings pitched and he struck out a team-leading 74 men. Hardee also won ten games for the Pioneers the last two years, backboning them to back-to-back conference championships.

Hardee was also played in two all-star games this season---the East-West Senior All-Star game in Charlotte and the North Carolina-South Carolina All-Star Showcase in Myrtle Beach, SC.

"I was probably the hardest on him," said WHS coach and his father Pete Hardee. "But he handled it very well and he was a tremendous leader for us. I'm very proud of him."

Hardee is joined on the Class 4A squad by Lukas LaSalle of Alexander Central, who beat out Hardee for NW3A/4A Player of the Year. honors last spring, and Phillip Treadway of A.C. Reynolds, who set a school-record with 15 home runs, breaking the old mark of 12 set by current Rockets coach Bryan Craig in 1988.

Tyler Barnette of Hickory, who was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the Major League draft in early June, was named to the Class 3A squad; Ryan Harrold and Luke Gragg of Wilkes Central were named to the Class 2A team; Logan Hallock, Scott Gambill and Jacob Shepard (named the Most Outstanding Player in the Class 1A state championship game), and Micah Bryan of East Wilkes were named to the Class 1A team.

And Hardee will follow in his dad's footsteps when he enrolls at ASU this fall. His dad, Pete, had an impressive career with the Mountaineers, and he is also a member of Appalachian State's Hall of Fame.

"It won't be easy," Hardee said. "He was a great player, and he's a great coach. "But I just have to be myself. I can't base myself on what he did at ASU. I just have to go out there, work hard and prove myself at that level."