

Pioneers-Spartans Suspended by Weather

Written by Mike Kelly
Tuesday, 05 April 2011 07:53

The highly-anticipated first-place showdown between the Watauga High baseball team and South Caldwell was put on hold by Mother Nature on Monday night at Pioneer Field in Boone.

The contest was halted by lightning and rain in the top of the third inning with the Spartans leading WHS, 6-3. Starting pitcher Travis Cook backboned the Spartans (10-1 overall; 6-1 in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference) with four runs-batted-in, including a towering three-run homer that cleared the right-centerfield fence in a four-run third inning before the rains interrupted play. The game is on hold until Pioneer Field is in playable condition. According to WHS coach Pete Hardee, that could be Wednesday or Thursday. And when the game resumes, the Spartans will have two men on in the top of third with one out. Kevin Jones will be at the plate with an 0-2 count.

Jake Watts, who is the pitcher of record for WHS, coughed up four earned runs on two hits with three walks and he hit a batter. Ethan Greene is on in relief. He coughed up back-to-back home runs to Cook (on his first pitch) and to Blake Johnson in the third inning before the rains came. Matt Proffitt belted a three-run home run in the bottom of the first inning that wiped out an early 2-0 deficit and gave the Pioneers (8-3; 4-2) a short-lived 3-2 lead.

WHS SOFTBALL:

Kim Robinson saved the day with a walk-off solo home run in the seventh inning on Monday as WHS rallied from an early 2-0 deficit and defeated South Caldwell 4-3 in Boone. The win also give WHS the No.2 seed in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference in the Class 4A division. "We're starting to come together as a team," said Robinson, who also picked up the win in relief of Shelby Drummond. "We just have to show these other teams what we're made of." The Pioneers (3-6 overall; 3-3 NW3A/4A) entertain East Wilkes in a non-conference game on Thursday; they return to league play when Hibriten comes to town on Friday.

MEN'S TENNIS:

The WHS men's tennis team dropped a 5-4 decision to Hopewell down in Charlotte on Monday night. Steve Lake, Michael Smith and Harrison Battle picked up wins in singles play; Lake and Battle picked up a win at No.1 doubles. The Pioneers are scheduled to play St. Stephens today, but the match may be moved down to Hickory for weather reasons.

GOLF:

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The WHS men's golf team traveled to the Brushy Mountain Country Club in Alexander County. The Pioneers finished in fifth place with a team score of 345. Alexander Central bested the field on its home course with a 312. Hickory finished second at 319. J.T. Poston of Hickory was the leading medalist with a 73. Christian Carpenter of St. Stephens finished second with a 74. Ben Beason paced WHS with an 82. Spencer Hodges had an 83. The Pioneers travel to Cedar Rock Country Club for a non-conference match on Thursday.....in middle school golf, Caldwell County paced the field at Cedar Rock Country Club with 169. Watauga finished second with a 176. Tyler Johnson of Caldwell County was the leading medalist with a 38. Austin Northern paced Watauga with a 40; Miles Lytle had a 44, Rory McNeil had a 45. The middle school team travels to the Mimosa Country Club in Morganton on April 12.