Written by Mike Kelly
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The Watauga High baseball team had its scheduled game with Mount Tabor rained out Saturday following a 23-minute delay.

No make up date has been announced. Matt Proffitt got the starting nod on Saturday afternoon, his second start of the season. And the righthander, who has the best earned-run-average on the team at 1.40, survived a scare in the first inning. A one-out walk and a hit batsman put two runners on for the Spartans (6-10), who had scored 55 runs in their last five games. But Proffitt wriggled off the hook by retiring Appalachian State signee Jamie Nunn on a long fly ball to center field and opposing pitcher Matt McConnell on a ground ball to third to end the inning. Third baseman Ethan Critcher made a nifty play as he charged the ball on the grass and gunned down McConnell.

The Pioneers (9-4) didn't waste any time jumping on McConnell in the bottom of the first. Max Linville led off with a double to the left-centerfield wall. Ryan Turner walked, and both scored on David Martin's double to right-centerfield for a 2-0 lead.

But play was eventually halted moments later because of lightning with Josh Roberts at the plate, nursing a 2-2 count. A steady rainfall followed, and the game was called 23 minutes later.

It's the second time this week, the Pioneers have been plagued by bad weather. Monday's game with South Caldwell was interrupted by rain in the third inning. That game was suspended, and the teams completed that game last Thursday. The Pioneers return to Northwestern 3A/4A Conference play Tuesday night, when Fred T. Foard comes to town.

The Tigers (6-8; 4-5) have lost four in a row. They begin the night in fifth place . The Pioneers (5-3 NW3A/4A) begin the night in sole possession of second place, trailing South Caldwell by two games with four league games remaining on the schedule.

The Pioneers won the first meeting between the schools in extra innings down in Newton on March 18. They defeated the Tigers 4-3 in nine innings. A misplayed fly ball by Tigers' leftfielder Jonathan Fleetwood in the top of the ninth allowed the eventual winning run to score.

Dylan Norris, in relief of Ethan Greene, picked up his first win of the year. The righthander struck out seven of the 11 men he faced. Losing pitcher Mitchell Henderson had a no-hitter for 4 2/3 innings. He left the game after eight innings and received a no-decision for his efforts. The Tigers dropped a 5-1 decision against St. Stephens at home on Friday night.

Our coverage Tuesday night from Pioneer Field begins at 6 pm on Oldies 100.7 FM.

SATUJRDAY'S GAMES:

SOUTH CALDWELL 11, DRAUGHN 0

HIBRITEN 9, WEST WILKES 2

MOUNT TABOR @ WHS (RAINED OUT)

TUESDAY'S GAMES:

FRED T. FOARD @ WHS

HIBRITEN @ SOUTH CALDWELL

ALEXANDER CENTRAL @ ST. STEPHENS