Written by Mike Kelly
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Watauga High baseball players Max Linville, Ryan Turner and Matt Proffitt will represent the Pioneers at the North Carolina State Games in June.

Linville, Turner and Proffitt will play for the District 7 All-Stars, who will be coached by Mike McCann of Starmount High School. The State Games in baseball will be hosted by Wake Forest at BB&T Ball Park and Forsyth Country Day. The tournament will be held June 15-19.
Linville, who has made a verbal committment to attend Western Carolina Unversity following graduation in the spring of 2012, is batting .348 with three home runs, a triple, three doubles, six runs-batted-in and three stolen bases. He also has a .652 slugging percentage.
Turner, who has made the move from third base to second base without any problems this season, is hitting .293 with a home run, nine RBI and a team-high five stolen bases.
"I played some middle infield with the Dirt Bags (a summer traveling team) last year, so making the move wasn't so tough," Turner said. "I've been able to make the necessary adjustments without any real problems. It's a lot different playing second base than it is playing third. But I think playing third base, and how quickly the ball gets to you, really got me ready to play second base as well as I have."
Turner has made only three errors in 33 chances this season at second base, and he has a .909 fielding percentage.
Proffitt is batting .317 with two home runs and 11 RBI with a .537 slugging percentage this season. He also has three doubles and a .492 on-base percentage. Pitching-wise, Proffitt has made only two appearances this season, but he has a team-low 1.40 earned-run-average.
Dillon Norris, Jake Watts and Josh Roberts are trying out for the East-West Senior All-Star Game that will be played at Wake Forest's BB&T Ball Park. The best of three series will be held June 15-16. Those tryouts were rained out on Sunday.
Cal Hardee, who is currently a freshman at Appalachian State University, played in the East-West game last summer. He also played in the North Carolina-South Carolina All-Star game in Myrtle Beach, SC. Hardee was the first WHS player to participate in the East-West game since Johnny Greene (now in the Texas Rangers organization) in 2004; Jacob Chaney played in the East-West game in 2000. Hardee is also the only Pioneer ever to play in the North Carolina-South Carolina All-Star game.