The Watauga High women's soccer team is flirting with its first conference championship in five years.

The Pioneers took a serious step in that direction Friday night as they knocked off Alexander Central 2-0 at Jack Groce Stadium. The win moves WHS (11-2-1 overall; 7-1-1 Northwestern 3A/4A Conference) into a first-place tie with St. Stphens in the NW3A/4A standings.
Hickory defeated St. Stephens 2-1 in overtime Friday night.
"We really didn't play our best game, but we won," said WHS coach Brittany Bolick, who is making a strong run at Coach of the Year honors in the NW3A/4A. "We had some chances, but (Alexander Central) played real well defensively,"
Hannah Younger tallied the first WHS goal at the ten minute mark of the first half. Lillie Brady picked up the assist. The Pioneers added an insurance tally when Skylar Hicks scored at the 61-minute mark of the second half on an assist by Austin Mauney. The win sets up a huge week for the Pioneers.
WHS, which hasn't won a conference championship since 2006 when Doug Kidd was head coach, travels to Hickory on Tuesday and St. Stephens on Thursday. The Pioneers split their first two games against those teams. They beat Hickory 2-1 March 25, but dropped a 4-1 decision to the Indians on March 29.
The WHS JV team defeated Alexander Central, 6-0. Hali Wood-Miller had two goals; Carrigan Doble had three assists; Eliza Enterline had a goal and an assist. Liz Clarke and Marcie Mahoney scored the other WHS goals. The Cougars also gave up an own goal in the loss.

WHS SOFTBALL:

The Watauga softball team put together a strong showing Friday night at the sports Complex, but came up short as the Pioneers dropped a 4-1 decision to Alexander Central. It was a great

improvement compared to their first meeting when Alexander Central beat WHS 16-0 when pitcher Chelsea Wilkinson threw a perfect game. She has three on the year.
"This was a great improvement from losing to them 16-0 earlier this season," said WHS coach Stephanie Long. "We make any errors. They earned everything they got. This may not have been a win in the books, but I'm very proud of the girls for their positive attitudes and the fight that they showed today."
Elizabeth Dollar paced the Pioneers (5-8 ovearll; 4-5 Northwestern 3A/4A Conference) with two hits, including a double. Kim Robinson drove in WHS's only run with a double; Riley Pudney scored the Pioneers only run. Hope LaPointe doubled and Taylor Drummonds had a single.
The Pioneers did leave five runners on base. Pudney suffered the loss. She faced two batters in the fourth before she departed. Pudney gave up two runs on six hits. She walked two and struck out two. Robinson finished up.
The Pioneers entertain Hickory on Tuesday; St. Stephens comes to town on Thursday for Senior Night, and the Pioneers will play East Wilkes in a double-header on Holy Saturday at the Sports Colmplex to close out the week. The East Wilkes game is a make up for games that were rained out on March 9 and April 7.

WHS LACROSSE:

The Watauga High women's lacrosse team suffered a 6-2 loss at Winston-Salem Reagan Friday night. Olivia Li had both the WHS goals. The Pioneers (4-7) return home to play Mount Tabor Tuesday night. The WHS men's team (0-11) had their regular-season finale with Marvin Ridge rained out Saturday. The match will not be rescheduled, thus concluding their season.