

State Soccer Pairings Announced

Written by Mike Kelly
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The Watauga High women's soccer team has quite a challenge on its hands.

The Pioneers (12-5-1), the No.1 seed from the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference will open the state playoffs at home Wednesday night at Jack Groce Stadium against Mallard Creek (13-6-4), the No.4 seed from the from the I-Meck Conference out of Charlotte. A game time for the contest has not been announced by the WHS athletic department.

The winner of this game will face either A.C. Reynolds (the No.1 seed from the Mountain Athletic 3A/4A Conference) or Butler (the No.5 seed from the Southwestern 4A Conference) in the second round. All second-round games must be completed by Saturday, May 14.

The Pioneers snapped a three-game losing streak by battering South Caldwell 9-2 Friday night in Sawmills.

In other games, in Class 4A, Alexander Central, the No.2 seed among the 4A schools, entertains West Mecklenburg. In Class 3A, St. Stephens, the No.1 seed, entertains R.S.Central; Hickory, the No.2 seed, takes on West Henderson at home; and Hibriten, the No.3 seed, travels to Lawndale Burns.

In Class 2A, Ashe County, a wildcard team from the Mountain Valley 1A/2A Conference, travels to West Caldwell for a first-round game Wednesday. That one kicks off at 6 pm. Wilkes Central travels to South Central; and in Class 1A, Avery (14-4-2), a state runner-up last year, travels to Hendersonville. West Wilkes entertains Graystone.