

## Watauga Storm 14U Team Wins Tournament Title

Written by Mike Kelly  
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The Watauga Storm 14&under team got the season started on a huge note this past weekend.

The Storm, coached by Jay Jackson, won the Mother's Day Top Gun Tournament at Catawba Meadows in Morganton. The Storm, made up of girls from Watauga, Ashe and Wilkes Counties, went 4-1 against the field.

The Storm, following a 6-1 loss in their opening game against the Carolina Hit-N-Run, bounced back to win four straight games to win the championship. The Storm got its revenge by pounding Hit-N-Run 8-1 in the semifinals, and they followed that up by defeating the Whitney Warriors 7-6 in extra innings in the finals.

Hope LaPointe was the leading hitter. She went 9-14 for a .643 batting average. Sierra LaPlante (7-14) and Megan Jackson (6-12) both batted .500. Jackson was practically impeccable on the mound, winning four games and striking out 17 batters. Makayla Pennington came on and picked up a save in the finals.

"Our pitcher and catcher were both "on fumes" and I don't know if we could have gone another inning...seriously," said coach Jay Jackson. "With the leadership from Hope and Sloan (Elliott), along with the will and determination of the coaches and other players, I know we left everything we had on the field.

"This is a great start for the team's season. We will build upon this success and look forward to our next outing."

Jackson was assisted by coaches Richard Butler and Mike Steele.