

## **Three Pioneers Named All-Region**

Written by Mike Kelly  
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The accolades just keep pouring in for the Watauga High women's soccer team.

The Pioneers, who won 12 games, defeated Hickory and made the state playoffs, had three players named to the Class 4A Region 11 All-Region team by the North Carolina Soccer Coaches Association. Those all-region players are Kendyl Baird, Hannah Younger, and Emily Haas. Alexander Central and South Caldwell each had one player named to the Region 11 team. Josie Jarret made it for the Cougars and Rachel Yount represented the Spartans. The Northwestern 3A/4A Conference had 23 regional selections overall. In Class 3A, St. Stephens, the regular-season champion and a western semifinalist, had five players named to the Region 11 team: Megan Cole, Mary Franklin, Katie Johnson, Alyssa Starnes and Sabrina Summers. Hickory, which lost to Charlotte Catholic in the Western Regional finals, had five selections as well: Sara Henson, Lexa Hurley, Jackie Lomboy, Katie O'Brien and Erika Troutman.

Hibriten had five players chosen---Brittany Bolger, Mary Beth Crowe, Hallie Hilliard, Aleigha Patterson and Kayla Stamey; Fred T. Foard has three, Ashley Jolly, Ana Drummond and Caroline Durham.

Kayla Stamey of Hibriten and Sabrina Summers of St. Stephens were named to the Class 3A All-State team.

## **MARY CHESTNUT SMITH NAMED ALL-STATE**

Mary Chestnut Smith of Avery, who will walk on at UNC-Wilmington to play soccer this fall, has been named to the Class 1A All-State team by the North Carolina Soccer Coaches Association. Smith, a senior, led Avery to the state finals her junior year and to the state semifinals her senior year. Smith was also named to the Class 1A Region 10 All-Region team.

She was joined on that squad by Emily Barnes Melinda Rogers, Katelyn Eudy, and Megan Robbins. Smith will also play in the East-West Senior All-Star Game at UNC-Greensboro on July 19.

## **KIDD NAMED REGIONAL COACH OF YEAR**

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And former Watauga High soccer coach Doug Kidd was named the Class 2A Region 4 Coach of the Year. Kidd, who won 335 games with the WHS men's and women's program during his 17-year stay with the program, has led Swansboro deep into the playoffs during his three-year tenure with the Pirates.

He led the men's team to a pair of regional finals, and he led the women's team to consecutive state championships. The Swansboro women were denied a chance at a third state title, when they lost to Carrboro in the Eastern Regional finals May 19.