

Watuaga Junior Legion Earns Split

Written by Mike Kelly
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The Watauga Junior Legion A Team opened the 2011 season splitting a double-header with West Caldwell Thursday night at Pioneer Field.

West won the opener 6-1 in seven innings; Watauga (1-1) rallied to win the night-cap, 8-4. Tyler Shuford had a marvelous performance on the mound in the opener. The youngster gave up one earned run on five hits and struck out four men. But had a no-decision for his efforts. He also drove in Watauga's only run.

In game two, Matt Byrum had two hits, a walk and drove in three runs to spark the offense as the Watauga prevailed and handed Bradley Rudisill his first career head-coaching win. Watauga scored four times in the first, one run in the third and three more times in the fourth to settle the issue.

"We did all right for our first time out," Rudisill said. "Our goal is just to keep getting better. The guys struggled a little bit early, but once things settled down, I thought we played pretty well." Jesse Illich had three hits in the two games; Tripp Taylor got the win in relief in game two and Shawn Buchhiet, though he had a no-decision in the second game, pitched well enough. He gave up two earned runs with three strikeouts in four innings.

The Watauga A Team entertains Valdese Monday night at Pioneer Field. That DH begins at 5:30 pm.

The Watauga B Team, coached by Dustin Kerley, makes its debut Saturday in Marion against McDowell. That DH begins at 12 noon.