

Watauga A Team Moves Into Second Place

Written by Mike Kelly

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The Watauga Junior American Legion A Team bounced back from Saturday's disappointing effort by splitting its double-header with Patton Monday night.

The A Team (4-4 overall; 4-2 in divisional play) defeated Patton 2-1 in nine innings in game one, but Patton prevailed in game two 7-2 at Pioneer Field. The split moves Watauga into second place in the Northwestern Junior American Legion Division. Taylor Shuford picked up the win in game one. He went the distance and struck out 11, and the only run he gave up was unearned. The game was scoreless through the first eight innings before Patton pushed a run across in the top of the ninth. But Watauga came back with two runs of its own in the bottom of the ninth. Matt Byrum drove in the tying run with a double. Justin Isaacs came on as a pinch runner for Bryum and moved to third on Shuford's single. He scored on Tyjer Sturgill's walk-off single that won the game.

"Taylor really pitched his heart out," said Watauga coach Bradley Rudisill. "He was strong throughout the game. He did an excellent job."

Sturgill, doubled, walked and scored a pair of runs in game two; Andrew Miller went 2-2 with an RBI and Jesse Illitch had two hits. Watauga travels to Lenior to play Hibriten Tuesday night at 6 pm. The Watauga B Team entertains the South Caldwell B Team Tuesday night at 5 pm at Pioneer Field.