

Watauga A Team In Area 4 Playoffs

Written by Mike Kelly

Tuesday, 28 June 2011 17:35

The Watauga Junior American Legion A Team, despite losing five of its last six games, has made the Area 4 Junior American Legion Playoffs.

The A Team (5-7 in the Northwestern Junior American Legion Division; 5-9 overall) will play at A.C. Reynolds beginning Thursday night in a best-of-three series. Game two will be played in Boone Friday night, and if necessary, game three would be played in Asheville Saturday night. The South Caldwell A Team and Hibriten join the Watauga A Team in post-season play.

"We got there, and that's all that matters," said A Team coach Bradley Rudisill. "We haven't played real well of late, but we've put together a good season. And getting this chance to make the playoffs was a good opportunity for us. We get to play a few more games."

The A.C. Reynolds Junior Legion team (14-4) is coached by A.C. Reynolds High School baseball coach Brian Craig. The state finals will be hosted by Area 4 and will be played in Hickory this season at the Fairgrounds, July 15-19. The Carolina Flames from Area 4 will be the host team.

"Each Area usually gets two teams in the state tournament," said tournament coordinator Rocky Bennett. "But with Area 4 hosting this season, and the Carolina Flames being host team, that leaves only one slot open for 16 Area 4 teams. That makes these playoffs a little more tense. But it also means good baseball."

Rudisill will also add some members from the Watauga Junior B Team to the post-season roster. Leading the way is righthander Hunter Isaacs, who threw a gem last Saturday against the A Team. He fired a one-hit shutout, and struck out four, going the distance in a 2-0 win at Pioneer Field.

Joining Isaacs on the playoff roster will be Matt Lambert, Adam Greene, Carson Isaacs and Andy Gilliam.

"All those guys have had productive seasons," Rudisill said. "They're young, but they could be very good players in a couple of years. Allowing them to move up in this situation, gives them more exposure to the game at this level."

The Watauga A Team will wrap-up regular-season play Wednesday night in Sawmills against the South Caldwell B Team at 5 pm.

AREA 4 PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

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WATAUGA v. A.C. REYNOLDS

GAME ONE: AT A.C. REYNOLDS , THURSDAY
GAME TWO: AT WATAUGA, FRIDAY
GAME THREE:* AT A.C. REYNOLDS, SATURDAY

*** - IF NECESSARY**