

Watauga Eliminated By ACR

Written by Mike Kelly
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A.C. Reynolds defeated the Watauga Junior American Legion A Team 11-6 Friday night at Pioneer Field completing the two-game sweep in their best-of-three series in the Area 4 playoffs.

ACR broke the game open with a nine-run explosion in the third inning. Losing pitcher Andy Miller was touched up for six runs in two-plus innings of work. Tripp Taylor finished up and only gave up two runs in four innings. Trailing 9-0, Watauga (7-11) chipped away with a run in the fourth and five more in the fifth. But the comeback fell short.

"The big inning hurt us (Thursday) night, and it hurt us again tonight," said A Team coach Bradley Rudisill. "But we fought back and made a game of it. (A.C. Reynolds) got a good team. They're fundamentally strong."

Jake Cody went 3-5 in the loss; Jesse Illitch was 3-4 with two runs scored; Matt Lambert was 2-5 with a run scored and two RBI; Tyler Sturgill scored a run; Chance Richards and Andrew Miller each had a base hit and scored a run. "The season's over, but it was a lot of fun," Rudisill said. "I love coaching, and I'm thankful for this opportunity. I really want to be a coach some day. That's why I changed my major (to physical education).

"I really want to thank Dustin Kerley, all the players and the Watauga (High) baseball program for allowing me to do this."

ACR (16-4) will play the Carolina Flames in the second-round of the Area 4 playoffs.