Written by Mike Kelly
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The baseball season finally came to an end for Watauga Junior American Legion coach Bradley Rudisill and his players, Tyler Sturgill and Hunter Isaacs, Saturday afternoon. That trio represented the High Country in the Area IV Junior American Legion All-Star Tournament at McDowell High School in Marion Saturday afternoon. Rudisill, Sturgill and

Isaacs were members of the "Black Team" in the three-team, round-robin tournament. The Black Team was made up of players from Watauga, Caldwell, and Iredell Counties.

The black team lost to the Blue Team from the Charlotte area 6-4 in their first game Saturday morning; and they were eliminiated by the Camouflage Team from the Hickory area by a 5-3 score in the second game Saturday afternoon. Sturgill had two hits in the first game; he had two hits on the day. Isaacs went hitless, but he got on base four times, including three times in game one.

Isaacs suffered the loss against the Camouflage Team in game two. He coughed up two earned runs in three innings of work (a two-run home run in the first inning). Jack Carty of South Iredell paced the Black Team in game two with a pair of doubles and he drove in all three runs. The Black Team only made five hits in the second game.

"It was a good experience for the guys," said Rudisill, who will be a student teacher in the spring semester of the coming school year. He will graduate from Appalachian State University in May of 2013. "I want to be a teacher and a coach, and working here at Watauga has really helped me a lot. Talking to other coaches, and watching their approach to the game, working with (Watauga High coach) Pete Hardee has been very helpful. It was a good summer. I learned a lot and the kids put together a good season."

Justin Greer, Carson Isaacs and Jesse Illich were invited to play in this tournament, but were forced to bypass it because of prior family commitments.