

Pioneers Open Playoffs Saturday

Written by Mike Kelly

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Watauga High Athletics Director Tom Wright has announced that the volleyball team will open the state playoffs at home against North Mecklenburg

Saturday at 1 p.m. at Lentz-Eggers Gym. The Pioneers (15-11), the No.2 seed in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference; North Meck (9-13) is the No.5 seed from the I-Meck Conference. The Pioneers have stumbled in recent weeks.

Following an 11-2 start, the Pioneers enter post-season play having lost nine of their last 13 games. But WHS crushed Hibriten in a three-game sweep in its season-finale Tuesday night. The Pioneers have had a successful playoff run since 2003. They've made it to the sectional finals ten years in a row. And last year, WHS reached the Class 4A Western Finals for the first time since 2000, and for the fourth time in school history. WHS was eliminated at home by eventual state champion Charlotte-Providence.

The winner of Saturday's match will play either A.C. Reynolds (14-7), the No.2 seed from the Mountain Athletic 3A/4A Conference, or Charlotte-Olympic (13-11), the No.2 seed from the Mega 7 Conference. If the Pioneers advance, they would play that second-round game next Tuesday night, October 23.

Admission for Saturday's game will be \$5. No passes will be accepted.