

Pioneers, Nguyen Finish Second at Catawba

Written by Mike Kelly
Friday, 01 March 2013 10:00

If the opening match of the season is an example of good things to come, then head coach Mike Northern and the Watauga High golf team might be looking at a promising campaign. The Pioneers

opened the 2013 season with a second-place finish at the Catawba Country Club (Fred T. Foard was the host school) in Newton, N.C., seven shots behind Hickory, which won the match with a team score of 160.

The Pioneers fired a 167, and Carson Nguyen turned in a stellar effort of his own as he finished one shot behind the leaders, Austin Lackey of Hickory and Zayne Fox of Fred T. Foard, who shared leading medalist honors as each man fired a 38.

Troy McNeil of the Pioneers was two shots back with a 40. The Pioneers travel to Orchard Hill Golf Course Monday. South Caldwell, which finished third, one shot behind WHS, will be the host school.

Team finals:

Hickory 160

Watauga 167

South Caldwell 168

Hibriten 171

St. Stephens 175

Alexander Central 181

Fred T. Foard 185

Medalist:

Austin Lackey- Hickory 38

Zayne Fox FT Foard 38

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Watauga's scores:

Carson Nguyen 39
Troy McNeil 40
Austin Northern 43
Cameron Taylor 45
Jeff Gainey 51
Christian Bailey 51

KOSTIS ADVANCES TO QUARTERFINALS

Watauga High junior Demetre Kostis, who is competing at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association State Wrestling Championships this weekend in Greensboro, N.C., won his first match at states by forfeit against Tiu Rahlan of Broughton.

Kostis (50-0) will face Jeremy Ward of Parkland in the quarterfinals today. The Pioneers have not had a state champion since 2006; they haven't had a state place finisher since 2008.

WHS TENNIS WINS TWO STRAIGHT

The Watauga High boy's tennis team, despite some anxious moments, got the year off on the right foot by winning back-to-back matches to start the regular season.

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The Pioneers defeated Concord Wednesday on the road, 5-4. A win by Noah Moomaw and will Spinetto at No.3 doubles snapped a 4-4 tie to win the match. The Pioneers followed that up by knocking off Wilkes Central 5-4 Thursday in Moravian Falls, N.C.

The Pioneers rallied for a 4-2 deficit and won the match by sweeping singles play. Landon Taylor, who is playing No.1 singles this season, and Harrison Battle, the No.2 seed, teamed up for a win at No.1 doubles. Driston Trate, who is 2-0 in singles play (he won at No.5 singles Wednesday and he won at No.4 singles Thursday), teamed up with Caleb Gould for a win at No.2 doubles to tie the match. Moomaw and Spinetto, like they did the day before, won the match with a win at No.3 doubles.

"We really didn't play very well against Wilkes Central," said WHS coach Scott Taylor. "But our doubles pulled us through. Noah and Will really came through with big wins for us the last two days."

The Pioneers travel to Mooresville for an 11 a.m. match Saturday.