

Nguyen, McNeil Pace Pioneers On Links

Written by Mike Kelly

Tuesday, 05 March 2013 09:58

One thing for sure, 2013 could be a special year for the Watauga High boy's golf team. The Pioneers, who have struggled in recent seasons, are off and running, at least so far. The Pioneers, who turned

in a second-place finish in their first match of the season last Thursday at the Catawba Country Club in Newton, followed that up by finishing in a third-place tie Monday in a non-conference match at the Orchard Hills Golf Course in Granite Falls, N.C.

The Pioneers fired a 162 and finished in a third-place tie with St. Stephens, and just six shots off the lead. Hickory bested the field for the second time in as many outings with a team score of 156. South Caldwell, the host school, finished second with a 159.

Will Banish of St. Stephens was the leading medalist as he paced the field with a 37, one over on the Par 36 course. But Carson Nguyen and Troy McNeil of the Pioneers were just two shots off the lead as each man fired a three over 39. Austin Northern and Christian Bailey of the Pioneers were at six over as they each had a 42; Cameron Taylor fired a 44; Jeff Gainey had a 53.

The Pioneers are scheduled to play in a non-conference match (weather permitting) at the Catawba Springs Country club in Hickory today. Also, the match scheduled for Monday, March 11 at the Brushy Mountain Golf Course in Taylorsville, N.C., has been moved. The match will now be played on Wednesday, March 13.

ORCHARD HILLS GOLF COURSE MONDAY'S RESULTS

Team finals:

Hickory 156

South Caldwell 159

Watauga 162

St. Stephens 162

Hibriten 165

Alexander Central 177

Fred T. Foard 177

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Medalist: Will Banish 37 St. Stephens

Watauga's scores:

Carson Nguyen 39

Troy McNeil 39

Austin Northern 42

Christian Bailey 42

Cameron Taylor 44

Jeff Gaaney 53

WHS Soccer Beats Asheville On Penalty Kicks

It goes down as a tie, but the Watauga High girl's soccer team advanced to a second-round game at the Freedom Tournament by knocking off Asheville on penalty kicks Monday night. The Pioneers will play Avery Thursday night at 7 p.m.

The game with Asheville ended in a 1-1 tie, but WHS (0-1-1) prevailed thanks to four penalty kicks by Hannah Younger, Tori Derrick, Lillie Brady and Abby Carson. Tristen Derrick scored WHS' only goal (her second of the year) in regulation time.

"Tristen scored a big goal for us late in the game (at the 57-minute mark)," WHS coach Brittany Bolick said. "The game was very intense and very even for the most part. And freshman Heather Ostwalt was in goal and came up with an enormous save on the first penalty kick."

The Pioneers were originally scheduled to play tonight, but because of impending weather, the tournament will now be played Thursday and Friday.

WHS BASEBALL MOVED TO HICKORY

Watauga High Athletic Director Tom Wright has announced that Friday night's home baseball game between the Pioneers and Hickory will now be played in Hickory instead. The Red Tornadoes come to Boone on April 9.

The Pioneers (0-2) are scheduled to play at Fred T. Foard today and at North Davidson Wednesday. But both games are weather-permitting.

Monday night, West Lincoln knocked off Hibriten 12-3, and Alexander Central defeated St. Stephens 6-3 in a Northwestern 3A/4A Conference game. The teams moved their game up a day with the impending weather moving in.

Tad Ratliff of the Cougars (3-0; 1-0 NW3A/4A) snapped a 1-1 tie with a two-run double in the fourth inning. Brandon Lail got the win for Alexander Central; Luke Watts picked up the save. Tyler Jack suffered the loss for Saint (1-1; 0-1). Hibriten (2-1) suffered its first loss of the season Monday night.

NORTHWESTERN 3A/4A CONFERENCE BASEBALL

MONDAY'S GAMES

WEST LINCOLN 12, HIBRITEN 3

ALEXANDER CENTRAL 6, ST. STEPHENS 3

SATURDAY'S GAMES

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WATAUGA @ ARDREY KELL, POSTPONED

SOUTH CALDWELL 11, WEST CALDWELL 3

FRED T. FOARD 18, STATESVILLE 2

HICKORY v. CORNELIUS-HOUGH, POSTPONED AND RESCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY,
MARCH 9

TUESDAY'S GAMES

WATAUGA @ FRED T. FOARD

SOUTH CALDWELL @ HIBRITEN