The Watuaga High girl's soccer team picked up its first win of the year Thursday night with a come-from-behind 5-3 win against Avery in the semifinal round of the Freedom Tournament in Morganton,

N.C. The win moves WHS (1-1-1) into Friday night's championship game against Northwestern 3A/4A Conference foe, Alexander Central. Hannah Younger paced the Pioneers with three goals and an assist. Her goal at the 46-minute mark of the second half tied the game at 3-3, and it ignited a three-goal outburst by the Pioneers in a 17-minute span.
"We didn't play our best tonight, but at least we won the game," said WHS coach Brittany Bolick.
Younger's goal came two minutes after Avery had taken a 3-2 lead. Tori Derrick scored the eventual game-winning goal from 18-yards away 11-minutes later. The goal was unassisted. Tristen Derrick added an insurance goal on a feed from Younger four minutes later.
Tristen Derrick finished with a goal and an assist. Tonight's championship game begins at 7 p.m.

TIGERS BEST PIONEERS, 8-2

Fred T. Foard scored three times in the fifth inning and four more times in the sixth and defeated the Watauga High softball team 8-2 Thursday night in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference opener for both teams in Newton, N.C.
Winning pitcher Lexi Shubert of the Tigers struck out 14 batters. WHS (1-1 overall; 0-1 NW3A/4A) aided Foard's cause by committing three errors. Lost in the shuffle was a marvelous pitching performance by Michala McCune.
She gave up one run, unearned, on four hits with five strikeouts and two walks in her four innings of work. Kim Robinson, who was victimized by a pair of errors in the fifth, suffered the loss.
"What started out as a great game fizzled in the fifth inning," said WHS coach Stephanie Kostis. "Michala was outstanding. But we made a couple of errors in the game that really hurt us. We've got a lot to work on, but I think we are in a good place at the beginning of the season to

peak at the right time. We're looking to bounce back (tonight) against Hickory."
Taylor Drummonds was WHS' most productive hitter with two hits, a stolen base and a run scored.

HARMAN PACES WHS TRACK AT SOUTH CALDWELL

Madison Harman won the girls 3,200-meter run (11:52) and the 800 (2:36) on Thursday in a Northwestern 3A/4A Conference meet in Sawmills, N.C., pacing the Watauga High girl's track team to a second-place finish.
The girls won five events in all. Lily Weeks captured the 400 (1:05.8), Alison Seramur won the pole vault (8-feet, 6-inches), and the Pioneers also won the 4x400 relay (4:57.3). Ashe County won the girls meet with 86 points; WHS finished second with 79.
The WHS boys finished second with 75 points. South Caldwell, the host school, won the boy's meet with 89 points.
The Pioneers won their only event in the 4x200 relay (1:40.8), but they turned in nine second-place finishes. Josh Anderson paced WHS by finishing second in the 800 (2:10) and the 3,200 (10:51). Christian Bachman finished second in the 100 (11.9) and the 200 (24.1).

WHS GOLF FINISHES THIRD AT LENIOR

Carson Nguyen fired a five-over-par 39 Thursday afternoon at the Lenior Golf Club and paced the Watauga High boy's golf team to a third-place finish. Hibriten the host school won the meet

with a team score of 162. Patton finished four shots back in second place.
Hunter McCombs of the Patton bested the field with a one-under-par 34. Troy McNeil and Austin Northern of the Pioneers each had a 43. Cameron Taylor and Kyle Decker of WHS each had a 46. The Pioneers travel to the Cedar Rock Country Club in Lenior, N.C., for a non-conference match next Tuesday.

GOLF RESULTS

Team finals:
Hibriten 162
Patton 166
Watauga 170
South Caldwell 188

Medalist: Hunter McCombs 34 Patton

Watauga's scores:
Carson Nguyen 39
Troy McNeil 43
Austin Northern 43
Christian Bailey 45
Cameron Taylor 46

Kyle Decker 46

WHS TENNIS ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE CHANGE

Watauga High boy's tennis coach Scott Taylor has announced that the Ashe County match scheduled on March 20 between the Pioneers and Ashe County has been cancelled. The Huskies have fallen behind on their Mountain Valley 1A/2A Conference schedule due to weather issues. The Pioneers (2-0) travel to Charlotte to play Providence on Tuesday; they return home to play Hickory next Wednesday.

NORTHWESTERN 3A/4A CONFERENCE BASEBALL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
HIBRITEN 4, SOUTH CALDWELL 0
WINNING PITCHER JOHN CURTIS HAD 16 STRIKEOUTS

ST. STEPHENS 7, BUNKER HILL 4