

Say It Ain't So.....

Written by Mike Kelly
Tuesday, 02 April 2013 08:25

Monday may have been "April Fool's Day", but Watauga High baseball coach Pete Hardee wasn't in a joking mood, especially after the Pioneers dropped a 2-1 decision to the East Rutherford JV team in the

opening round of the East Rutherford Easter Tournament at McNair Field in Forest City, N.C. Center fielder Cameron Hodges did all the damage for the Cavaliers. He drove in a run with a sacrifice fly in the first inning that gave East Rutherford (8-0-2) a 1-0 lead; his solo home run with two outs in the fifth gave the Cavaliers a 2-0 advantage.

The Pioneers (2-9), mired in a four-game losing streak, also suffered their third straight opening-round loss in this tournament. The Pioneers will play Gaston Christian (4-8) in a consolation round game Wednesday afternoon at 1 p.m. Coverage of that game begins at 12:30 p.m., on AM 1450, WATA. East Rutherford defeated Gaston Christian 15-0 Monday night. The Pioneers, who came in batting .242 as a team, only made six hits on Monday. They left eight men on base, six in scoring position, and they also lost a base runner. Ryder Jones provided the offense with a solo home run, his third of the year, in the seventh inning. Winning pitcher Marcus Ledford went the distance, scattered six hits, walked two and struck out eight. Tyler Jones (0-2) suffered the loss, but he really deserved a better fate. The left hander went the distance and coughed up one earned run on five hits. He walked four and struck out a season-high ten batters.

But the troubles started early for Tyler Jones and the Pioneers. A lead-off walk to A.J. Simmons to start the game, a sacrifice by Cole Baldwin and a throwing error by Tyler Jones, put runners at first and third with nobody out. Hodges followed with a sacrifice fly to deep center field that scored Simmons with the game's first run.

The Pioneers threatened, but couldn't score. The Pioneers left runners at second and third in the second inning. Ledford struck out Chance Richards to end the frame. They left runners on at second and third in the fourth and couldn't push a run across.

Ledford struck out Richards and Anthony Raymonds to end the threat. WHS threatened again in the fifth. Mason Illich reached on a two-out double, but Tyler Sturgill hit a soft looping liner that was hauled in by the shortstop, Nathan Owens, to end the inning.

"We just can't hit and we're not driving in runs," said WHS coach Pete Hardee. "That's the bottom line."

Ryder Jones was 2-4 on the day; his brother, Utah, was 2-2 with a double and a stolen base. Richards (0-2) will get the starting nod Wednesday against Gaston Christian.

MONDAY'S GAMES AT EAST RUTHERFORD EASTER TOURNAMENT EAST RUTHERFORD JV 2, WATAUGA 1

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EAST RUTHERFORD 15, GASTON CHRISTIAN 0

AT CATAWBA CLASSIC

ST. STEPHENS 4, FRED T. FOARD 3
HICKORY 8, SOUTH IREDELL 2

TODAY'S GAMES

AT EAST RUTHERFORD EASTER TOURNAMENT

SOUTH CALDWELL v. CHASE, 5 P.M.
ALEXANDER CENTRAL v. R.S. CENTRAL, 7:30 P.M.

AT CATAWBA EASTER CLASSIC

FRED T. FOARD v. SOUTH IREDELL, 12 NOON
ST. STEPHENS v. HICKORY, 5 P.M.