

## **Pioneers Bounce Back Against Happy Valley**

Written by Mike Kelly

Thursday, 18 April 2013 08:59

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The Watauga High softball team took its frustrations out on Happy Valley (from Elizabethton, TN.) Wednesday afternoon with an 8-4 non-conference win at the WHS Softball Complex. Kim Robinson,

who has struggled on the mound this season, got the start and tossed two scoreless innings with no hits allowed.

She walked three and struck out three. Megan Jackson tossed two scoreless innings and gave up two hits with a strikeout during his short stint. MiChala McCune finished up and gave up four runs on four hits with three strikeouts.

McCune also had a productive day at the plate with two hits, including a home run and two runs-batted-in. Riley Pudney doubled, walked three times and drove in three runs. The Pioneers (5-7) made seven hits.

"It was truly a team effort," WHS coach Stephanie Kostis said. "Everyone played and everyone contributed to our victory."

Robinson had two doubles and scored a run; Hope LaPointe had a base hit, walked and scored a run; Taylor Drummonds was 1-1 with a run scored. Happy Valley won the JV game, 16-9.

The Pioneers, because of heavy rains in the forecast for Friday, will play South Caldwell at home tonight. The varsity goes first at 4:30 p.m.; the JV game will follow.

## **PIONEERS BLANK ASHE COUNTY**

The Watauga High soccer team won its second game in a row by knocking off Ashe County 3-0 Wednesday night in a non-conference game in West Jefferson. The Pioneers (5-4-3) were led by Hannah Younger, who scored twice. Ivy Wilcox, who picked up an assist on Younger's first tally, had two assists on the night.

The Pioneers didn't waste any time getting on the scoreboard as Younger scored at the two-minute mark of the first half. Younger added an insurance goal at the 25 minute mark, and Sierra Hicks closed out the scoring with a goal at the 47-minute mark of the second half.

Tori Derrick had an assist on Younger's second goal. The Pioneers, because of bad weather moving into the area Friday, will play South Caldwell at home tonight. The Pioneers can clinch the No.1 overall seed among the Class 4A schools in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference with a win tonight against the Spartans.

The JV match begins at 5 p.m.; the varsity starts at 6:30 p.m. The JV team defeated Ashe County 1-0 Wednesday night. Brooklin Carroll scored for WHS at the nine-minute mark of the first half.

## **STYRON, HALL BACKBONE WHS TO SECOND-PLACE FINISH**

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The Watauga High boy's track team won nine events on Wednesday at Jack Groce Stadium and finished in second place in a three-team meet that included Alexander Central and Crossnore Academy.

Justin Hall and Zach Styron paced the Pioneers as they each won two events. Hall won the boy's 200-meter dash in 23.82 seconds; he also won the boy's pole vault with an effort of nine feet. Styron won both the boy's 110-meter hurdles (16.70) and the 300-meter hurdles (42.39). The Pioneers also captured wins in the boy's 4x800 relay (9:48.85) and the boy's 4x400 relay (3:47.79). Dallas Trivette won the 400 (55.46), Avery Pitts captured the 800 (2:12.86), and Luke Johnson won the 3,200 (11:19.24).

Zack Horine finished second in the 400 (57.65), Noah Allain was second in the 800 (2:12.91), Dylan Lewis was second in the 3,200 (11:52.44), WHS finished second in the 4x100 relay (50.64), the WHS B team finished second in the 4x400 relay (3:55.30) and the 4x800 relay (9:51.80), T.J. Poulos finished second in the triple jump (36-5.5), Cody Yates was second in the discus throw (107-04), and Josh Herman finished second in the pole vault (seven feet).

Alexander Central won the meet with 172 points.

In the girls meet, WHS won five events and finished second with 138 points. The highlight of the day went to senior Darby Middlebrook, who won the girl's 800 in 2:30.62. The former state champion, who suffered a leg injury last fall at the cross country regionals in Charlotte, won her first race in the indoor or outdoor season.

Belle Lehmann won the 100 hurdles in 16.87, Kennedy Kavanaugh won the 300 hurdles in 53.33, Savanna Randle won the 100 (13.43) and Savannah Drummonds won the pole vault with an effort of 9-6. Alexander Central won the meet with 182 points.

Randle turned in a second-place finish in the 200 (27.27), Kavanaugh finished second in the 100 hurdles (19.17), Lehmann finished second in the 300 hurdles (53.90), WHS finished second in the 4x100 relay (1:03.33), WHS had a second-place finish in the 4x200 relay (2:17.12), and the Pioneers also finished second in the 4x400 (4:42.63) and the 4x800 (12:32.55).

Clare Harris had a second-place finish in the triple jump (29-5-05), Lehmann finished second in the high jump (4-06), and Taylor Drummonds finished second in the pole vault (nine feet).

The WHS boy's and girl's track teams travel to Johnson City, TN., Saturday for the Tri-Cities Meet hosted by the Knoxville Track Club.

## **NORTHWESTERN 3A/4A BASEBALL SCOREBOARD WEDNESDAY'S GAMES**

ALEXANDER CENTRAL 13, STATESVILLE 2

ST. STEPHENS 11, MAIDEN 0