

## **Pioneers Win To Play Another Day**

Written by Mike Kelly

Wednesday, 01 May 2013 08:59

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Justice was served on Tuesday night. The Watauga High softball team finally got some breaks and got a much-deserved win in the opening round of the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference Tournament. The Pioneers (6-11), the No.6 seed, defeated South Caldwell 3-2 in Sawmills, N.C.

WHS scored two unearned runs in the first inning and Michala McCune had an run-scoring single to pace the Pioneers. Winning pitcher Kim Robinson made it stand up. The senior, who has struggled with her control this season, gave up two hits and struck out five in getting the win.

The win moves WHS into the semifinal round Thursday night against Fred T. Foard in Taylorsville. The Tigers, the No.2 seed, defeated Hickory, the No.7 seed, 9-1 in Newton, N.C., Tuesday night.

"We stranded 11 baserunners, but it was a consistent game," said WHS coach Stephanie Kostis. "The girls kept pushing the tempo and playing their game throughout all seven innings. The girls are pumped right now. This is a new season. I really thought we'd break it open when we came back from spring break. Everyone is starting over right now. Everyone is out to beat everyone right now. Everyone is fighting right now. I am so excited."

McCune was 3-4 and reached base four times; Hope LaPointe had a double and scored a run; Riley Pudney walked three times and scored a run; Taylor Drummonds scored on a fielder's choice. The Pioneers made six hits.

The win also avenged WHS' first-round loss to South Caldwell last spring. It's also the first time the Pioneers have advanced to the semifinals since 2010.

### **NORTHWESTERN 3A/4A CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT**

#### **TUESDAY'S GAMES**

#### **WATAUGA 3, SOUTH CALDWELL 2**

FRED T. FOARD 9, HICKORY 1

ST. STEPHENS 5, HIBRITEN 3

ALEXANDER CENTRAL - BYE

#### **THURSDAY'S SEMIFINALS**

#### **AT ALEXANDER CENTRAL**

ALEXANDER CENTRAL v. ST. STEPHENS, 4:30 P.M.

**WATAUGA v. FRED T. FOARD, 6 :30 P.M.**

#### **FRIDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP GAME, 6 P.M.**

#### **PIONEERS WIN PLAYOFF OPENER**

It's been a topsy-turvy season for Watauga High boy's tennis coach Scott Taylor. But one

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guarantee has been the play of Noah Moomaw and Will Spinetto at No.3 doubles.

Time and again this season, that doubles team has bailed WHS (8-5) in tight matches. And Tuesday was no exception. With the match tied 4-4, Moomaw and Spinetto defeated Currie Carpenter and Derek Hobson of Greensboro-Grimsley 9-7 to win the match. 5-4.

The win moves WHS into a second-round match up with T.C. Roberson next Tuesday, May 7 in Skyview, N.C. The Rams (14-0), champions of the Mountain Athletic 3A/4A Conference, defeated Davie County 5-3 in their-round match.

Landon Taylor and Harrison Battle picked up wins at No.1 and No.2 singles to give WHS an early 2-0 lead. But the Whirlies (), the No.2 seed in the Metro 4A Conference, came charging back to win three of the next four match to force a 3-3 tie going into doubles play.

Taylor and Battle picked up a win at No.1 doubles to give the Pioneers a 4-3 advantage, but the Whirlies tied things up with a win at No.2 doubles. Brian Behrhorst and Nick Trye of Greensboro-Grimsley defeated Dristen Trate and Caleb Gould of the Pioneers, 8-4, setting the stage for Moomaw and Spinetto.

The Pioneers will compete in the Class 4A Western Regional at Ardrey Kell High Friday and Saturday. Trate will represent WHS in singles play; Taylor and Battle, and Gould and Brody O'Neal will represent WHS in doubles. The top four finishers in singles and doubles play will advance to the state finals at the Millbrook Exchange Park in Raleigh, N.C., May 10-11.

### 1st Round Dual Team Playoffs

#### Watauga 5 Grimsley 4

##### Singles

Landon Taylor(W) def Stephano Romano 7-6 4-6 1-0

Harrison Battle(W) def Currie Carpenter 6-1 6-1

Brian Behrhorst def Dristen Trate(W) 6-1 6-2

Jedd Ried def Caleb Gould(W) 1-6 6-3 1-0

Brody O'Neal(W) def Nick Trye 6-4 6-4

Nils Lowhagen def Josh Lampkins(W) 6-1 2-6 1-0

##### Doubles

Taylor/Battle(W) def Romano/Lowhagen 8-4

Behrhorst/Tyre def Trate/Gould 8-4

Noah Moomaw/Will Spinetto(W) def Carpenter/Derek Hobson 9-7

### WHS SOCCER COMES UP SHORT AGAIN

What a time for the Watauga High girl's soccer team to hit a tailspin. The Pioneers (8-7-3 overall; 6-4-1 Northwestern 3A/4A Conference) dropped their third game in a row Tuesday night at Fred T. Foard. The Tigers defeated WHS 3-0 in a NW3A/4A Conference game in Newton, N.C.

Caroline Durham scored in the first two minutes of the game for the Tigers (6-4 in NW3A/4A), and Taylor Rios had two goals about two minutes apart that put the Tigers up 3-0. Hannah

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Skeen made nine saves for Foard, while Heather Oswalt made six for Watauga. The Pioneers wrap up the regular season at home Friday night against Hickory. The Pioneers, despite the loss, are still the No.1 seed among the Class 4A schools in the NW3A/4A Conference.