Written by Mike Kelly
Friday, 10 April 2009 04:34

The Watuaga High baseball team took over sole possession of first place in the Northwestern 4A Conference as the Pioneers (10-3 overall; 7-1 NW4A) rallied to beat McDowell, 6-2 at WHS-Field on Thursday night.

Winning pitcher Jon Shape turned in a stellar effort as the right-hander gave up one earned run, scattered six hits, walked one and struck out nine. Sharpe also did a great job working around three WHS errors in the first inning that handed McDowell (10-3; 6-2) an early 1-0 lead by striking out the side.

The heroes were many. Trey Lowder had his best game of the year offensively asd the went 3-3 with two doubles, a single, a run scored and an run-batted-in. Adam Church ignited a four-run rally in the fifth as the belted a two-run homer, his fourth of the year, snapping a 2-2 tie and putting WHS on top to stay.

David Martin had two hits and scored a run; Phil Gordon had a single and drove in two runs; Cal Hardee had a hit; Chris Shelton drove in a run, and Baine Martin walked and scored on Church's home run in the fifth.

The loss drops McDowell into a two-way tie with South Caldwell for second place. But the Spartans own the tie breaker because they've beaten McDowell this season.

The JV team won 14-1 in 4 ½ innings. The game was called because of the ten-run mercy rule.

The Pioneers travel to Clemmons to play a non-conference game at West Forsyth on Saturday. JV game at noon; the varsity at 2 pm. Then it's off to Cary for the Impact Spring Classic on Monday and Tuesday at the U.S. Olympic facility.

The Pioneers will play Ragsdale, which is ranked third in the state in Class 3A on Monday at 1:30 pm; and then they play South Central at 4 pm that afternoon. WHS wraps up tournament play with one game on Tuesday. There will be no radio coverage for any of these games (Saturday, Monday and Tuesday), but we will have updates on our morning sports reports on WATA.

Our next WHS broadcast will come your way on Monday, April 20th when Freedom comes to town. Our air time, 6:05 pm on 100.7, MAC-FM.

Alexander Central snapped a four-game losing streak by beating East Burke and its ace pitcher, Cory Rhoney, 2-0 last night down in Icard. The win pulls Alexander Central into a fifth-place tie with the Cavaliers.

The Southern Conference has announced that it is moving the men's and women's basketball tournaments to Charlotte in 2010. The tournament will be played March 4-8, 2010. The first three rounds will be played at the Bojangles Arena; the semi-finals and finals will be played at the Times Warner Cable Arena, home of the Charlotte Bobcats.

Charlton Young is the new men's basketball coach at Georgia Southern. He replaces Jeff Price, who resigned after 10 years. Young was a standout player with the Eagles from 1989-93, and they retired his No. 12 jersey.

Appalachian State men's tennis beat Gardner Webb on Thursday, 6-1. The Mountaineers host Chattanooga on Saturday.

Ashe County product Kayla Richardson has been named the Southern Conference Pitcher of the Month for March. Richardson was 6-4 with a 1.57 earned-run-average with eight complete games and 25 innings without allowing an earned run during the month of March. On the year, Richardson is 9-11 with a 2.58 ERA with 15 complete games. The ASU softball team plays a three-game series at SoCon leader Chattanooga beginning today.

ASU senior Shea Snow has been named the SoCon Track and Field Athlete of the Week for her efforts at Western Carolina last weekend. Snow, who picked up her first award of the year, turned in a 12-foot, 1 ½ inch effort in the pole vault, tying her best effort in that event. The ASU men's and women's track teams travel to Knoxville, TN for the Sea Ray Relays today.

The WHS men's and women's track teams travel to Columbia, SC for the Taco Bell Invitational this weekend. The competition begins and Friday and concludes on Saturday.

David Knighingale, Nathan Peck and Thomas Morgan of Zap Fitness in Blowing Rock will be in Greenville, SC for the Blue Shoe Invitational on Saturday.

ASU baseball entertains Samford in a three-game weekend series at Smith Stadium/Beaver Field beginning tonight. WATA will carry the Friday (air time, 6:40 pm) and Saturday games (2:40 pm). The series concludes with a single game on Easter Sunday at 1 pm.