Written by Mike Kelly
Tuesday, 14 April 2009 09:01

The Watauga High baseball team wiped out a 7-3 deficit Tuesday and defeated Southwest Guilford 8-7 at the Impact Baseball Easter Spring Classic at the U.S. Olympic facility in Cary NC.

Ian Stewart, who had a run-scoring single in the sixth, was the man of the moment as he was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded and one out in the seventh to plate Kyle Miller with the winning run.

The Pioneers take two out of three in Cary and improve their record to 12-4. WHS hasn't been eight games over .500 this deep into the regular season since the 2000 campaign.

The heroes were many for the Pioneers, who utilized six pitchers during the affair. Jon Shape got the start, but struggled. The WHS ace gave up four runs, two earned on five hits. He left in the fifth inning when Southwest Guilford exploded for four runs wiping out a 3-2 WHS lead. Mitch Minford kept the Cowboys in check in the sixth before Beckett Bathanti came on in the seventh and picked up his first varsity win in his very first varsity appearance.

Southwest Guilford took an early 2-0 lead in the first inning when a throwing error plated a pair of unearned runs. The Pioneers finally tied it on Adam Church's two-run double in the third, and they took a 3-2 lead in the fourth when Kyle Miller, leading off the frame, reached on a two-base error. He later scored on Trey Lowder's run-scoring single.

After falling behind 7-3, the Pioneers chipped away with two runs in the sixth on run-scoring singles by Stewart and Baine Martin. They won it with a three-run rally in the seventh.

WHS loaded the bases with nobody out before a throwing error by Southwest Guilford catcher Elliott Slack allowed Church to score from third to make it 7-6. Lowder's RBI single scored David Martin to tie the game at seven before Stewart drove in the game winner.

Church, Lowder and Stewart each drove in two runs apiece.

The Pioneers travel to Charlotte on Saturday to play Providence in a non-conference game. The teams will also wear pink to show their support for the fight against breast cancer. The JV team will play at noon; the varsity will play at 3 pm. The Pioneers will wear pink jerseys with gray bottoms on Saturday.

There will be no radio coverage for this game. Our next broadcast will be Monday night, April 20th when Freedom comes to town. Our coverage on 100.7, MAC-FM begins at 6:05 pm.