

The Appalachian State baseball team travels to Charleston tonight to begin a big three-game Southern Conference series with the Cougars.

The Mountaineers (19-16 overall; 8-11 in the SoCon) are riding an eight-game winning streak, and they've won 11 of their last 12 games. The teams will play a 6 pm game tonight; they will wrap-up the series with a pair of 1 pm games on Saturday and Sunday. Our next broadcast of ASU baseball comes your way next Friday, April 24th (6:40 pm air-time on WATA), when Wofford comes to town. The Apps do return home to play North Carolina A&T on Tuesday; they travel to High Point University on Wednesday.

The Watauga High baseball team, playing pretty well of late by winning eight of its last nine games, travels to Charlotte on Saturday to play Providence, currently the No.1 seed in the Southwestern 4A Conference. And the teams will also wear pink tops to show their support in the fight against breast cancer. The JV game begins at noon. They will play the full seven innings. The varsity game begins at 3 pm. Our next broadcast of WHS baseball will be Monday night when Freedom comes to town. Our coverage begins at 6:05 pm on 100.7, MAC-FM.

Now, the ace of the Pioneers (12-4 overall; 7-1 and in first place in the Northwestern 4A Conference) pitching staff, Jon Sharpe, is complaining of a sore arm. The senior is 5-1 with four complete games, a 2.35 earned-run-average. He's also struck out 61 men in 47-plus innings of work.

Now, if Sharpe can't go this week, Cal Hardee (3-1) will go two innings against Providence, and it will then be a pitching-staff by committee for the rest of the game; Will Littlejohn (1-0) will make his first career start in the NW4A Conference on Monday against Freedom; Hardee gets the call on Tuesday in Asheville against A.C. Reynolds; and if Sharpe can't pitch on Friday at East Burke, Jake Wallace (1-2) will get the call against the Cavaliers.

And the playoff pairings are out. The No.1 seed from the NW4A will play at home against the No. 5 seed from the Southwestern 4A Conference in the opening round of the state playoffs. The No. 2 seed from the NW4A will play at home against the No. 3 seed from the Queen City Conference; The No. 3 seed will play at the No. 2 seed of the SW4A; and the No. 4 seed will play at the No. 2 seed from the Big South Conference. The Pioneers, as of now, are looking at South Meck, Independence or Butler in the first round.

Sports round-up for Friday April 17, 2009

Written by Mike Kelly
Friday, 17 April 2009 03:58

In NW4A Conference baseball last night:

Catawba Easter Tournament: Hickory 8, Alexander Central 1

Freedom Easter Tournament: East Burke 12, Freedom 2

West Henderson Easter Tournament: McDowell 12, West Henderson 6

McDowell 13, Pisgah 3

Shelby Easter Tournament: South Caldwell 6, Lawndale Burns 2

Kings Mountain 3, South Caldwell 0

Friday's schedule

South Caldwell v. Shelby 4:30 pm (third-place game)

In softball news, Alexander Central is 14-0 and ranked fifth nationally in the USA Today/NFCA National High School Poll. They will play Southwestern Randolph at North Carolina State on Friday night.

In basketball news, Alexander Central Athletics Director Tom Harper has announced that Matt Taylor, the Cougars JV coach, will be the new women's basketball coach at Alexander Central. Taylor, a former U.S. Marine, replaces Nikki Setzer, who resigned after three years. The Cougars were 0-24 last season; the JV team led by Taylor was 16-4.

The ASU men's tennis team wrapped up the regular season by knocking off Davidson 7-0. The

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Apps (14-9; 5-5 SoCon) travel to Elon for the SoCon Tournament next Thursday. The ASU women entertain Chattanooga today.

In track news, Rebecca Hazeltine of ASU has been named the SoCon Track & Field Athlete of the Week. She qualified for regionals in the high jump with a personal-best effort on April 10th at the Sea Ray Relays in Knoxville, TN. The ASU men's and women's track team will host the ASU Invitational at Kid Brewer Stadium on Friday. The WHS men's and women's track teams travel to Knoxville for the Vol Classic on Friday.

And David Knighingale of Zap Fitness in Blowing Rock will be competing in Los Angeles, CA this weekend. David and Pete Myer (the founder of Zap Fitness) will be our quests next Friday, April 24th during the second-half of the 11 o'clock hour on WATA.

ASU softball plays its final home series of the year. The Apps, (19-23; 11-9 SoCon) play Furman in a double-header on Saturday; They will play a single game on Sunday.

And the ASU golf teams will be in South Carolina this weekend competing the SoCon Championships. The women will be at Hilton Head Island; the men will be in Florence.

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