Written by Mike Kelly
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Watauga High Athletics Director Jeff Link has announced that the Northwestern 4A Conference Tournament will move its dates from May 7-9 to May 5, 7-8.

Saturday, May 9th will be the rain date. The NW4A tournament will be played at Deal Stadium in Granite Falls, NC. WHS is the No.1 seed, and the Pioneers will receive a first-round bye.

WHS (15-6 overall; 10-2 NW4A) will most likely play East Burke in the semi-final round on Thursday, May 7th. The Cavaliers, who beat WHS on Monday night, have the inside track to finish fourth, earning an automatic berth in the state playoffs. The Cavaliers (10-7; 4-7 NW4A) have won five in a row, and they close out the season at Freedom on Friday night.

All first-round games will be played at the higher seeds on Tuesday, May 5th. The match-ups look this way right now, but keep in mind they could change: #7 Freedom @ #2 South Caldwell; #6 Alexander Central @ # 3 McDowell; # 5 A.C. Reynolds @ #4 East Burke. The winners advance to Deal Stadium for the semi-finals on Thursday. The finals will be played on Friday.

And no matter what happens concerning the Pioneers, they will maintain the No.1 seed in the NW4A in the state playoffs. The Pioneers will open the state playoffs at home on Friday, May 15th against the No.5 seed from the Southwestern 4A Conference (either Butler, South Mecklenburg, or Weddington).