Written by Mike Kelly
Saturday, 02 May 2009 10:13

Watauga High Athletics Director Jeff Link has announced that the Pioneers will play the first semi-final game of the Northwestern 4A Tournament on Thursday at Deal Stadium in Granite Falls, NC.

Game time is 4:30 pm Thursday afternoon, so our coverage begins at 4 pm on 100.7 MAC-FM. WHS (15-6) will play the winner of East Burke and Alexander Central. Those two will square off in a No.4-No.5 match up in Icard on Tuesday night.

The other semi-final game, which begins at 6:30 pm, features the winner of South Caldwell and Freedom taking on the winner of McDowell and A.C. Reynolds. The finals will be played on Friday night at Deal Stadium beginning at 7 pm.

WHS won its first outright NW4A title since 2000 on Friday night when Alexander Central upended South Caldwell 3-2 in eight innings in Sawmills. It's also the last NW4A title in conference history, since with realignment taking effect next fall, the league will officially disolve. WHS, South Caldwell and Alexander Central will be new members of the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference when competition begins in August of this year. They will be joined by Hickory, St. Stephens, Hibriten and Fred T. Foard.

Freedom will join the Southwest Mountain 2A/3A Conference; A.C. Reynolds and McDowell will join the Mountain Athletic 3A/4A Conference; East Burke will join the Class 2A Catawba Valley Athletic Conference. And with the Pioneers winning the last NW4A championship, it's also their fifth conference title under coach Pete Hardee, who took over the program in 1996.