Written by Mike Kelly
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Rising senior Cal Hardee of the Watauga High baseball team turned in a strong performance for the Region 7 all-star team in the opening round of the North Carolina State Games in Charlotte Thursday night.

Hardee, who turned in a stellar junior campaign for the Pioneers, went three for four, including a home run in a 9-8 loss to Region 1. Hardee batted .356 this past spring for WHS with 31 hits, two home runs, four doubles and 18 runs-batted-in.

Hardee also turned in a strong season on the mound. The right-hander was 4-1 with a 4.29 earned-run-average, in 13 appearances. He had one save, three complete games, and he struck out 41 men in 49 innings of work.

Region 7 plays Region 3 on Friday; Region 5 on Saturday at 1 pm, and the medal round will be played on Sunday. The fifth and seventh place games will be played at Hopewell High School in Charlotte; the gold and bronze medal games will be played at UNC-Charlotte. Hardee is the Pioneers lone representative on the Region 7 squad.

His dad, WHS coach Pete Hardee, was an assistant coach for the West all-stars in the East-West senior all-star game at UNC-Charlotte Wednesday night. The West won both games by scores of 6-2 and 4-1.

Rising senior Katherine Mayhew will represent WHS at the state games in soccer. Mayhew, a goalkeeper, will play for the West team, which will be coached by A.C. Reynolds coach Patrick Gladys.

Former WHS assistant coach Brian Jillings, now the head coach at Hickory, will coach the West men. And former WHS soccer coach Doug Kidd, who led the Swansboro women to a state title two weeks ago, has been named an assistant coach with the East men.

The soccer matches will be played at Queens University in Charlotte. The opening round will be played on Saturday. The West women will play the East at noon on Saturday. The medal round will be played on Sunday.