Written by Mike Kelly
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Former Watauga High baseball player Johnny Greene turned in an outstanding effort Thursday night for Bakersfield in the California League, the advanced Class A affiliate of the Texas Rangers.

Greene went three for four with two home runs, a double, two runs scored and four runs-batted-in as Bakersfield defeated High Desert (the first half champions of the California League), 6-3. On the year, Greene is batting .250 in 63 games with 16 doubles, 10 home runs and 36 RBI.

Former South Caldwell pitcher Madison Bumgarner is on a roll as usual. The left-hander, who was named pitcher of the year in the South Atlantic League last summer, is currently 5-1 with a 1.96 earned-run-average, and 38 strikeouts in 46 innings of work pitching for the Connecticut Defenders of the Eastern League, the Class AA affiliate of the San Francisco Giants.

He defeated Portland 7-2 on Thursday. His line: 8 innings, 1 earned run, four hits and five strikeouts.

Josh Dowdy of Appalachian State, who was selected in the 38th round of the Major League Amateur Draft by the Baltimore Orioles, has appeared in one game for the Bluefield Orioles of the Class A (short season) Appalachian League. He is 0-0 with a 0.00 ERA in 1 2/3 innings of work with three strikeouts.

Isaac Harrow of the Mountaineers, who was selected in the 24th round of the MLB draft by the New York Yankees, is playing for the Gulf Coast Yankees of the Gulf Coast Rookie League. In two games, he has two hits, including a home run, two RBI and is hitting .250 with a .625 slugging percentage. Garrett Sherrill, who played for the Mountaineers last season, is currently a member of the Wisconsin Rattlers of the Midwest League, the Class A affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers, has only played in six games this season. He is 1-0 with a 6.10 ERA.

Sam Runion of A.C. Reynolds, who is playing for Burlington Bees of the Midwest League, the Class A affiliate of the Kansas City Royals, is 3-4 with a 6.03 ERA in 14 games.

Jason Rook, a former Mountaineer playing for the Aberdeen Iron Birds of the (short season) New York-Penn League, a Class A affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles, is 0 for 9 through three games.

Matt Payne, who played at Alexander Central High School and North Carolina State, and David Rubinstein, who played at ASU last year, are members of the State College Spikes of the New York-Penn League, the Class A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Payne is hitting .067 with two RBI in four games; Rubinstein is hitting .273 with six hits, including a double, in six games.

Pitcher Zack Quate of ASU, who was selected by the Tampa Bay Rays in the 14th round of the MLB draft, is playing for the Hudson Valley Renegades of the New York-Penn League. He is 0-0 with a 0.00 ERA. He has given up one run, which was unearned, on two hits.

And Rand Smith, who played at ASU this past season, is playing for the Jamestown Jammers of the New York-Penn League, the Class A affiliate of the Florida Marlins. Smith, who was selected in the 20th round of the MLB draft by the Marlins, is batting .188 through four games with three hits and three RBI.