

Pioneers' sectional final moved back to 6 pm start

Written by Mike Kelly

Thursday, 25 February 2010 10:47

3:42 p.m. - Watauga High Athletic Director Tom Wright announced Thursday afternoon that Friday night's sectional championship game between WHS and West Charlotte will officially tip off at 6 pm Friday night.

Our coverage begins (weather permitting) at 5:30 pm on Oldies 100.7 FM. The Pioneers (16-8 overall), who reached the Sweet 16 for the first time in 38 years (in 1972) by defeating Garinger in the second round of the state playoffs at Lentz-Eggers Gym Wednesday night, take on a West Charlotte (20-9) team that's loaded with confidence right now.

The Lions, who were a mere 11-14 last season, have ascended among the state's elite teams thanks to a pair of transfers. James J.T. Terrell is probably the most prolific scorer in the state. He erupted for 109 points in a three-game stretch as the Lions, who finished fourth in the I-Meck Conference during the regular season, won the tournament championship and grabbed the No.2 seed.

Terrell, who transferred in from Burlington Cummings last summer, is currently ranked 49th nationally among college recruits by ESPN. He recently signed with Wake Forest University. Terrell was an Associated Press All-State selection as a junior at Burlington Cummings. He scored 2,202 points in three years at Burlington Cummings.

The other transfer is Jacoby Davis who moved in from Charlotte Vance last summer. Davis, a 6-1 junior, averaged 14 points a game last season. He can play guard or forward, and like his teammates, he is extremely athletic.

The Lions, who are looking for their first state title in 11 years, have defeated Porter Ridge (112-58) and Vance (66-47) in the first two rounds of the state playoffs.

NOTES: When the Pioneers reached the Sweet 16 in 1972, they were a Class 3A team. This is the first time WHS has reached the Sweet 16 at the Class 4A level.....The Lions have three of their best guards in the country on their roster in Terrell, Davis and sophomore Julius Hamilton, who scored in double figures as a freshman.....Brandon Richardson, who stands in at 5-5, is their point guard, and probably West Charlotte's second-best player on the team. He had seven steals in the playoff opener against Porter Ridge. He had 14 points, four rebounds and three assists against Charlotte Vance.....Speaking of Charlotte Vance, the Cougars, who were the Class 4A pre-season favorite to win the state championship before they lost three star players that transferred elsewhere, including Davis, shot 17-67 (25%) against West Charlotte in their second-round match-up Wednesday night.....Terrell has scored 167 points in five post-season games. He's averaging 33.4 ppg.

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