

## Pioneers win again, beat Providence 5-4

Written by Mike Kelly  
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The Watauga High baseball team is on a roll. After suffering through a five-game losing streak, the Pioneers have won four in a row, and they've looked impressive doing it.

The Pioneers continued their hot run Saturday afternoon as they defeated Providence 5-4 in eight innings in a non-conference game at Watauga-High Field. The Pioneers (12-8 overall) came charging back after they blew a 3-0 lead.

The Panthers tied the game at 3 with a run in the top of the seventh, and they took a 4-3 lead with a run in the top of the eighth. But WHS rallied thanks to a Tyler Jones, who drove in Ryan Turner with the tying run, and they won it on Max Linville's RBI single.

"We always look forward to playing programs like Providence," said WHS coach Pete Hardee. "They're tied for first place in their league (the Southwestern 4A Conference), and that conference is strong every year. It's a good test for our kids."

Jake Watts turned in another strong performance. He went seven innings, and gave up three runs in seven innings of work. Matt Proffitt got the win in relief.

"Jake has a strong arm," said Hardee. "He has given us a lot of quality innings this season, and he has given us depth in our pitching staff. He's definitely another arm our team can count on."

David Martin had two hits on the day; Baker Stanley and Cal Hardee each had a base hit. Jackson Campana homered for Providence.

The Pioneers travel to Fred T. Foard Tuesday night. Our coverage begins at 6 pm on Oldies 100.7 FM.

NOTES: The WHS JV team picked up a pair of wins this weekend. They blew a 3-0 lead Friday night, fell behind 6-3 before they rallied to win 7-6 against Hibriten.....On Saturday, they defeated Providence 7-5. Matt Bynum hit a grand slam to pace the JV team.