

Region 7 in consolation round

Written by Mike Kelly
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The Region 7 All-Stars fell into the consolation round of the North Carolina State Games baseball tournament on Saturday.

Region 7 dropped a 6-2 decision to Region 3 at UNC-Charlotte. The end result, Region 7, 1-2 in pool play, will now play Region 4 for fifth place on Sunday morning. Max Linville had another tough day. The rising junior from Watauga High went 0-3 with a pair of ground outs and a fly ball out. He remains hitless in the tournament. Dylan Norris of the Pioneers, who suffered a tough loss in the opening round on Thursday against Region 5 despite four solid innings of work, came on in the seventh and retired the only three men he faced. He also had a strikeout for his efforts.

Region 7 will play Region 4 in the fifth place game Sunday morning at 11:30 am at Hopewell High School in Charlotte. The first game of the day features a seventh-place match up between Region 1 and Region 8, which is winless at 0-3 in pool play. That game begins at 9:30 am at Hopewell.

The medal round will be played at UNC-Charlotte on Sunday. Region 3 takes on Region 2 in the bronze-medal game at 10 am, and Region 5 takes on Region 6 in the gold-medal game at 1 pm.

Saturday's results:

Region 1 7, Region 5 1
Region 2 7, Region 8 5
Region 3 6, Region 7 2
Region 4 5, Region 6 0

WHS Junior Legion has tough weekend

The Watauga High junior legion baseball team dropped three games in two days. The Pioneers suffered an 8-0 loss at A.C. Reynolds on Friday night. Ben Margolis had Watauga's only hit of the game with a single in the first inning. The Pioneers (2-11) dropped both ends of a five-inning, double-header on Saturday at home against the South Caldwell B Team. South Caldwell won the opener 5-3 at WHS-High Field. Ben Margolis had two hits; Taylor Shuford had two runs-batted-in. They lost game two 12-7 in seven innings. Jesse Illich forced extra innings with a bunt that

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drove in the tying run in the fifth, that evened the score at 5. After the team's each scored a run in the sixth, South Caldwell broke it open with a five-run seventh inning to put the contest out of reach.

Carson Issacs had three hits to pace WHS.

"The kids are playing hard," said WHS coach Dustin Kerley. "And that's all I can ask. We've made strides, and the kids are getting better. But we're still young and we're still making mistakes at key times.

"All we can do is keep play, and keep improving."

WHS has a busy week coming up with ten games in the next six days. It all begins Monday night in Lenior against Hibriten. Game time is 6 pm.