

Region 7 wins finale at State Games

Written by Mike Kelly
Sunday, 20 June 2010 20:08

The Region 7 All-Stars closed out tournament play on a winning note Sunday morning.

Region 7 defeated Region 4 7-2 at Hopewell High School in the consolation round of the North Carolina State Games. The win earned Region 7 a fifth-place finish at the tournament. Dylan Norris of the Pioneers, playing for Region 7, went 1-2 with a single; Max Linville of Watauga High was retired in his only at bat. He was hitless for the tournament in nine trips. Region 5, from the Winston-Salem area, captured the gold medal by knocking off Region 6 4-2. Region 2 defeated Region 3 6-5 in the bronze medal game; Region 8 won its first game of the tournament by defeating Region 1 7-3 in the seventh-place game. The consolation round on Sunday was played at Hopewell High School in Charlotte; the medal games were played at UNC-Charlotte.

WHS ties for Will Dicus title

The Watauga High varsity baseball team turned in a stellar effort at the first-annual Will Dicus Memorial Tournament.

The Pioneers, playing at Smith Stadium-Beaver Field on the campus of Appalachian State University, went 2-1-1 and shared the tournament championship with the T.C.Roberson A Team.

The teams played to a 5-5, eighth inning tie in the championship game.

"It was a very good tournament for our kids," said WHS coach Pete Hardee. "We had a defensive breakdown in the title game, or we would have won the tournament. But the kids played great.

"We've been blessed with a good baseball group. They know the game; they're smart, they work hard and they've got a lot of talent. We're going to be pretty good the next two years." Ryan Turner was one of the many standouts on the mound for WHS. The right-hander went 6 innings, gave up no runs and struck out seven. Jake Watts was just as impressive. He went five strong innings in an 8-2 win against North Bumcombe. Watts gave up one earned run and struck out eight.

"Our pitching was very strong this weekend," Hardee said. "Everybody threw the ball real well.

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But Ryan and Jake were the ones that really stood out. Jake threw it real good and every time we called on Ryan in relief, he got the job done."

Offensively, Tyler Jones was 6-14 with three doubles and five runs-batted-in; Matt Proffitt had a three-run homer and Baker Stanley was 4-12 with three RBI. WHS lost to the T.C. Roberson B Team 4-3 in the opening round; defeated North Bumcombe 8-2 in their second game and defeated the T.C. Roberson A Team 10-6 before the teams played to a tie in the finals. WHS is scheduled to play in the North Bumcombe tournament this coming weekend (June 25-27).