

UPDATED: Linville verbally commits, Watts to sign

Written by Mike Kelly

Wednesday, 17 November 2010 09:39

Watauga High baseball coach Pete Hardee has announced that two of his players will continue their playing careers at the collegiate level.

Senior Jake Watts, who will be the No.2 starter this year behind Dylan Norris (Norris signed with Pfeiffer University a Division II school last week), will sign with Milligan College. Milligan is an NAIA school and it is located between Johnson city and Elizabethton, TN. The school is just an hours drive from Asheville, NC.

Milligan is also a member of the Appalachian Athletic Conference. Watts, who was a spot starter and reliever last spring for the Pioneers, put up some impressive numbers. He was 3-2 with a save, he had a 2.82 earned-run-average, he made ten appearances, including five starts, with one complete game. In 44 2/3 innings of work, Watts gave up 18 earned runs, struck out 44 men and walked 16.

"(Milligan) is real excited about Jake," WHS coach Pete Hardee said. "He did a very good job for us last year, considering it was his first year playing at the varsity level. He'll be our No.2 guy this season, and we're expecting good things from him. We haven't decided on a signing date just yet, but Milligan is anxious to get up here and get it done."

Junior Max Linville, even though he still has two years of eligibility left at the high school level, has verbally committed to play baseball at Western Carolina University, a Division I school and a member of the Southern Conference after he graduates in the spring of 2012. Linville was a starter for the Pioneers last season.

As a sophomore, he split time between the outfield and at shortstop (when Cal Hardee, now a rising freshman at Appalachian State University) was pitching. And Linville put up some big numbers. He started 26 games, and batted .278 with a team-leading six home runs and 19 runs-batted-in. He had a .557 slugging percentage, a 386 on-base percentage and he was tied with Matt Proffitt for the team lead with five stolen bases.

The Pioneers (16-10 last season) open the season March 1 at A.C. Reynolds. In fact, the Pioneers play 10 of their first 11 games on the road. The schedule includes heavyweights like North Davidson, Providence and Adrey Kell. The Northwestern 3A/4A Conference opener will be at South Caldwell on March 11.

NOTES: WHS coach Pete Hardee has announced that Watts will sign with Milligan College on Monday at 1:30 pm in the Media Center at the high school.

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Watauga High School

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 19th Davie County (Scrimmage) Away 1:00

Thursday, February 24th Mt. Tabor (Scrimmage) Away 4:00

MARCH

Tuesday, March 1st AC Reynolds Away 6 PM

Thursday, March 3rd North Davidson Away 6:30

Saturday, March 5th Ardrey Kell Away 2:30

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Tuesday, March 8th Mt. Tabor Away 7:00
Friday, March 11th South Caldwell Away 6:30
Saturday, March 12th Providence Away 2:30
Tuesday, March 15th Hibriten Away 6:30
Friday, March 18th Fred T. Foard Away 6:30
SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH AC REYNOLDS HOME 2:30
Tuesday, March 22nd Alexander Away 6:30
Friday, March 25th Hickory Away 6:30
TUESDAY, MARCH 29TH ST. STEPHENS HOME 6:30

APRIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND NORTH DAVIDSON HOME 2:30
TUESDAY, APRIL 5TH SOUTH CALDWELL HOME 6:30
FRIDAY, APRIL 8TH HIBRITEN HOME 6:30
SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH MT. TABOR HOME 2:30
Tuesday, April 12th FRED T. FOARD home 6:30
Friday, April 15th ALEXANDER HOME 6:30
SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH PROVIDENCE HOME 2:30
TUESDAY, APRIL 19TH HICKORY HOME 6:30
Thursday, April 21st St. Stephens Away 6:30
Monday, April 25th -Thursday, April 28th
McNair/East Rutherford (Easter Tourney)
Away/TBA

MAY

Tuesday, May 3rd Conference Tourney TBA/TBA
Friday, May 6th Conference Tourney M.S. Deal TBA
Saturday, May 7th Conference Tourney M.S. Deal TBA
Monday, May 9th Conference Tourney Rain Date M.S. Deal TBA
Friday, May 13th
1st Round State Play-Offs TBA/TBA

HOME GAMES IN ALL CAPS AND BOLD