

State Playoff Pairings Announced

Written by Mike Kelly

Saturday, 19 February 2011 16:28

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association has released its state playoff pairings.

And both the Watauga High men's and women's basketball teams will play home games in the first round Monday night at Lentz-Eggers Gym. The WHS women (14-12), the No.2 seed among the Class 4A schools in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference, will play East Gaston at home Monday night at 6:30 pm.

The Warriors (11-12) are the No.3 seed from the MEGA 7 3A/4A Conference. The Warriors were eliminated by Harding University High, the No.1 seed, in the semifinal round of the MEGA 7 tournament. The Pioneers defeated East Gaston in the opening round of the state playoffs last season. Brooke Rhodes, only a freshman at the time, came off the bench and paced WHS with 16 points in that win.

The Warriors are led by Shelby Winchester, a 5-9 junior guard. She's averaging 14 points-a-game, she's shooting 50% from the floor and 33% from the three-point line. She also leads the team with 167 rebounds and 17 blocked shots. Her best effort of the season came against Garinger on January 25. She scored a season-high 22 points with a season's best 19 rebounds in that game.

Senior point guard Lindsey Greeson is second on the team in scoring. She's averaging 11 ppg, and she's shooting 55% from the floor. Greeson is also averaging three steals an outing. Her best effort came against North Gaston in the season-opener on November 23. She had a season-best 20 points, five assists and nine steals.

Senior center Taylor Hawley is averaging nearly nine-points-a-game and senior Hannah Hayes is averaging just over seven points a game. The Warriors are shooting 41% from the floor, and 61% from the foul line.

The Pioneers had their three-game winning streak snapped by Hickory in the NW3A/4A Conference championship game Friday night. The Red Tornadoes won, 86-53. The Warriors had a two-game winning streak snapped by Harding in the MEGA 7 semifinals.

The Warriors scored a season-high 77 points in a victory against Garinger on December 14, but they allowed a season-high 77 points in a loss to Harding on January 21. The Warriors also scored a season-low 31 points in a loss to Olympic on February 1, and they held North Gaston to a season-low 19 points on December 3.

The WHS men (17-8), the No.1 seed from the NW3A/4A Conference, will open post-season play at home Monday night against Charlotte Vance (14-7), the No.4 seed from the I-Meck Conference. The Pioneers come in limping a bit. Senior Damian Edwards will not play. He will be serving the final game of that three-game suspension he received on February 11.

The Pioneers were eliminated by St. Stephens in the semifinal round of the NW3A/4A Conference tournament last Tuesday night. Casey Quinn and Will Koppenhaver have picked up the slack in Edwards' absence. Quinn has 26 assists in two post-season games; Koppenhaver has 37 points and 21 rebounds during that stretch. But the Pioneers have lost two of their last

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three games.

Vance, on the other hand, is struggling as well. The Cougars have lost three in a row. They were eliminated by Hopewell in the opening round of the I-Meck tournament. The Cougars are led by Eric Lusha, a 6-4 senior wing player. He's averaging 11 points-a-game and he's shooting 50% from the floor and 42% from the three-point line. His best effort of the season came against West Charlotte in the regular-season finale on February 10. He poured in 23 points in a 47-45 loss. He also leads the Cougars with 48 three pointers.

Jawuan Springs, a 6-5 senior, is second on the team in scoring with 10.7 points-an-outing. He's made 75% of his shots and he leads the Cougars with nearly eight rebounds a game and 53 blocked shots. He had a season-high eight blocked shots against East Mecklenburg in the season opener on November 22. He also scored a season-high 21 points in that game.

Keynan Harper, a 6-6 senior, is averaging 10.5 ppg and he's shooting 66% from the floor. But he's only shooting 47% from the foul line. He poured in a season-high 23 points in a win against Butler on November 30.

As a team, the Cougars are shooting 52% from the floor, 41% from the three-point line and they're averaging 61.4 ppg. They scored a season-high 83 points in the season opener against East Meck on November 22; they scored a season-low 40 points in a loss to West Charlotte on January 14. They gave up a season-high 78 points against Mooresville on December 14, and they held Hough to 36 points on December 21.

Our coverage begins at 6 pm Monday night from Lentz-Eggers Gym on Oldies 100.7 FM. If the WHS women win, they will play either A.C. Reynolds or Hopewell in the second round Wednesday night. If the WHS men win, they will play either East Meck or ACR at home on Wednesday night.

The Pioneers made it to the sectional finals last season. It was their first trip to the Sweet 16 in 30 years.

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WOMEN:

CLASS 1A WEST

Sectional 4

Lake Norman Charter (19-4) at Gastonia Highland Tech (17-6)

Mooresboro Thomas Jefferson Classical (6-16) at Murphy (19-5)

East Surry (10-12) at Avery (22-5)

Robbinsville (17-6) at Hiwassee Dam (8-20)

Semifinals on Wednesday, February 23, at 7 p.m. at higher seed. Finals on Friday, February 25, at 7 p.m. at higher seed. Seeding priority: Little Smoky Mountain, Big Smoky Mountain, Carolina 10, Western Highlands, Mountain Valley, Northwest, Southern Piedmont, Rocky River, Yadkin Valley.

2A WEST

Sectional 3

Boonville Starmount (10-12) at Newton-Conover (21-3)

South Iredell (9-16) at Burnsville Mountain Heritage (18-7)

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East Burke (18-8) at Ashe County (22-3)

East Rutherford (14-9) at Brevard (11-11)

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Sectional 4

West Caldwell (11-14) at Shelby (22-0)

Sylva Smoky Mountain (11-11) at Catawba Bandys (24-3)

Polk County (14-11) at Canton Pisgah (15-6)

Wilkes Central (23-4) at Black Mountain Charles D. Owen (14-9)

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3A WEST

Sectional 3

Lenoir Hibriten (6-15) at Morganton Freedom (19-8)

Boiling Springs Crest (7-17) at Asheville Clyde Erwin (19-5)

West Henderson (8-16) at Gastonia Forestview (21-4)

Newton Fred T. Foard (14-10) at Franklin (17-9)

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Sectional 4

Morganton Patton (9-14) at Hickory (23-2)

Belmont South Point (23-2) at Asheville (9-13)

North Buncombe (10-13) at Waynesville Tuscola (19-6)

Gastonia Ashbrook (11-11) at R-S Central (18-6)

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4A WEST

Sectional 3

North Mecklenburg (15-11) at Indian Trail Porter Ridge (21-4)

Charlotte Olympic (14-8) at McDowell (15-10)

Asheville A.C. Reynolds (11-11) at Huntersville Hopewell (22-3)

East Gaston (11-12) at Watauga (14-12)

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Sectional 4

Charlotte Independence (7-17) at Asheville T.C. Roberson (18-4)

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Lake Norman (14-10) at South Caldwell (20-6)

Cornelius W.A. Hough (17-9) at West Mecklenburg (19-6)

Charlotte Mallard Creek (23-4) at Monroe Sun Valley (13-12)

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MEN'S PAIRINGS:

1A WEST

Sectional 4

North Stokes (11-14) at Cherryville (22-4)

Avery (14-9) at Hayesville (17-8)

East Montgomery (7-12) at Hendersonville (17-7)

Swain (8-13) at 2 Highlands (11-15)

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2A WEST

Sectional 3

Ashe County (17-9) at West Caldwell (23-2)

Claremont Bunker Hill (14-12) at Burnsville Mountain Heritage (19-6)

Newton-Conover (13-10) at Boonville Starmount (17-5)

Shelby (8-14) at Canton Pisgah (12-10)

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Sectional 4

Valdese Draughn (16-9) at East Rutherford (21-1)

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North Henderson (13-11) at East Burke (21-6)

Black Mountain Charles D. Owen (4-19) at Sylva Smoky Mountain (24-0)

Wilkes Central (17-9) at Polk County (11-13)

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3A WEST

Sectional 3

Lenoir Hibriten (6-17) at Morganton Freedom (21-6)

Boiling Springs Crest (11-14) at Asheville Clyde Erwin (21-3)

West Henderson (6-18) at Gastonia Hunter Huss (23-2), 6 p.m.

Hickory St. Stephens (20-6) at Franklin (11-13)

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Sectional 4

R-S Central (11-11) at Hickory (22-3)

Gastonia Ashbrook (16-8) at North Buncombe (16-8)

Enka (14-11) at Waynesville Tuscola (11-13)

Gastonia Forestview (17-7) at Lawndale Burns (18-5)

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4A WEST

Sectional 3

Huntersville Hopewell (11-12) at Monroe Sun Valley (17-7)

West Mecklenburg (15-9) at McDowell (13-11)

Northwest Guilford (12-13) at West Charlotte (22-2)

East Gaston (7-16) at Alexander Central (11-13)

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Sectional 4

East Mecklenburg (7-17) at Asheville A.C. Reynolds (15-7)

Charlotte Vance (14-7) at Watauga (17-8)

Mooresville (18-8) at Charlotte Olympic (25-1)

North Mecklenburg (21-5) at Indian Trail Porter Ridge (3-20)

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