

Pioneers Whip Panthers, 9-0

Written by Mike Kelly
Tuesday, 10 May 2011 08:23

The Watauga High softball team easily defeated Hibriten 9-0 in the opening round of the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference tournament Monday night at the Sports Complex.

Winning pitcher Shelby Drummonds went the distance, struck out seven and scattered two hits. The Pioneers gave her all the help she needed by scoring four times in the first inning. And Drummonds helped her cause with two hits, including a double and she scored twice. Hope LaPointe had two hits and scored two runs; Kim Robinson and Riley Pudney both doubled; Taylor Drummonds, Tori Wright and Nicole Dollar all singled and scored a run. The win moves WHS (9-11) into the semifinal round of the tournament. And the Pioneers have quite a challenge on their hands. They take on the top seed Alexander Central in Taylorsville. The Cougars swept WHS this season, but the Cougars survived a scare in Boone. The Pioneers, who were whitewashed 16-0 in their first meeting as Chelsea Wilkinson fired a perfect game, only lost 4-1 in their rematch in Boone on April 15. And WHS coach Stephanie Long loves the challenge.

"We came into this tournament with the idea of winning it," she said. "We've come a long way and I have a lot of confidence in this team. I feel we have the advantage. We're not suppose to beat them, so all the pressure is on them."

Tuesday's game begins at 4:30. The other semifinal match-up finds St. Stephens taking on Fred T. Foard. The Indians defeated South Caldwell 13-3; Fred T. Foard beat Hickory 15-0. That contest only went three innings.

WHS TENNIS:

The Watauga High men's tennis team will host Ardrey Kell Tuesday afternoon at the Sports Complex. Ardrey Kell (10-2) is the No.2 seed from the Southwestern 4A Conference. The Knights advanced by defeated T.C. Roberson 6-0 in the opening round. The Pioneers (16-4)

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advanced to second-round play by knocking off Davie County in the opening round. The Pioneers will also have a doubles team competing at the state tournament this weekend. The doubles team of Steve Lake (a four-time state qualifier and a two-time regional champion in singles play) will team up with Michael Smith in doubles play this weekend. That pair won the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference championship and finished third at regionals last weekend. The state finals will be played at the Raleigh-Millbrook Park in Raleigh, NC, Friday and Saturday. The seeding meeting begins at 8:30 am; competition begins at 9 am.

STATE GOLF:

Alexander Central turned in a solid first-round showing at the Class 4A State Golf Championships at Pinehurst #6. The Cougars, the No.1 seed among the 4A schools and No.2 seed overall in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference, fired a team score of 304 in the opening round and currently find themselves in a sixth-place tie. Leesville Road leads the team standings with a 285. Zack Burket of the Cougars is in 17th place. He fired a 74 in the opening round. Ben Gardner of the Cougars is 28th with a 76. In Class 3A, Hickory is tied for second place with Burlington Williams at the Foxfire Country Club in Foxfire, NC. Both teams fired a 291 in the opening round, and they trail first-place Forestview by three shots. J.T.Poston of Hickory is the leading medalist. He fired a nine-under-par 63 in the opening round, and he owns a six-shot lead going into the final day of competition.

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WHS SOCCER:

The Watauga High women's soccer team will played Mallard Creek in the opening round of the state playoffs at Jack Groce Stadium Wednesday night. The contest will officially kick off at 6:30 pm.