

Watts, Norris Selected For East-West Game

Written by Mike Kelly
Tuesday, 31 May 2011 12:27

Graduating seniors Jake Watts and Dylan Norris of the Watauga High baseball team have been selected to play in the North Carolina Baseball Coaches Association East-West Senior All-Star Game.

The two-game series will be played Wednesday, June 15 at Wake Forest University. The West team will be coached by Glen Hunt of Bishop McGuinness High. He will be assisted by Matthew Neville of Asheville School, Terry Tucker of South Stanley and Terry Johnson of Wilkes Central. Watts put together a stellar campaign for the Pioneers in 2011. The right-hander, who was an All-Northwestern 3A/4A Conference selection this season, was 9-4 with a 2.20 earned-run-average; and he only gave up two earned runs in his last five appearances (31 2/3 innings for a 0.45 ERA). Watts, who was 3-1 in the state playoffs, will attend Milligan College this fall, an NAIA school in Johnson City, TN.

Norris, the NW3A/4A Conference Pitcher of the Year as a junior, was hampered by a nagging shoulder injury his senior year. The right-hander, who will attend Pfeiffer University this fall, a Division II school and a member of Conference Carolinas, was 2-1 with a 3.82 ERA.

But despite his limited role due to injury, Norris had four complete games, he had 37 strikeouts and only gave up eight walks in 29 1/3 innings. Norris was named Honorable Mention All-NW3A/4A. How much he plays in the East-West game, or if he even plays at all, depends on his shoulder. Right now, Norris is resting his shoulder and he will have it re-evaluated.

Matt Proffitt, Max Linville and Ryan Turner of the Pioneers (all are rising seniors) will play in the North Carolina State Games June 16-19 for Region 7.

The Region 7 team will be coached by Mike McCann of Starmount. And he will be assisted by Jeff Burchett of Mooresville, Mike Herndon of Davie County and Brandon Scott of Patton.

Region 7 will play its first game against Region 5 at 7 pm on June 16 at the BB&T Ball Park in Winston-Salem.

They play Region 3 at Wake Forest on June 17 at 1 pm; and they wrap up pool play against Region 1 at 10 am at Wake Forest on June 18. The consolation games will be played at Forsyth County Day School on Sunday, June 19; the seventh-place game begins 9:30 am; the fifth-place game begins at 11:30 am. The medal round games will be at Wake Forest the same day. The Bronze Medal game begin at 10 am; the Gold Medal game starts at 1 pm.

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