

Greene Puts Up Big Numbers In AA

Written by Mike Kelly
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Jonathan Greene, who played baseball at Watauga High, has put together an impressive season, so far.

The former Pioneer, who played college baseball at Western Carolina University, is batting .312 for the Frisco Roughriders of the Texas League, and a Class AA affiliate of the Texas Rangers. He ranks third on the team in home runs with eight, third in batting average, third in RBI with 42 and he's tied for the team lead in doubles with 19.

Greene was taken by the Rangers in the eighth round of the Major League Baseball draft in 2007.

Greg Holland, who played baseball at McDowell High School and at Western Carolina, has finally worked his way into the big leagues.

Holland, who picked up his first big league win on May 19, is playing for the Kansas City Royals. He's 1-1 with a 1.17 earned-run-average. Holland has 20 strikeouts and has only allowed five walks in 15 1/3 innings this season.

Aaron Attaway and Dykota Speiss, who played at Freedom, are currently playing in the Valley Summer Collegiate League.

Attaway and Spiess, both members of the Western Carolina baseball program, have put up decent numbers this summer. Attaway has started 11 games for the Haymarket (Va.) Senators. He's batting .281 with two doubles, and four RBI; Speiss is playing for the Waynesboro (Va.) Generals. He's batting .267 with two doubles, five runs scored and a stolen base.

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The National Basketball Association draft will be held Thursday night. And could Donald Sims, the all-time leading scorer in Appalachian State history, possibly be selected. Sims has worked out for Oklahoma City Thunder and Phoenix Suns, and he's scheduled to have a second workout with the Charlotte Bobcats on Wednesday.

Sims closed out his brilliant career at ASU owning six all-time records: points (2,185), three-pointers (358), free throw percentage (89.2), free throws (545), three-point attempts (883) and field goal attempts (1,477). And he also ranks in ASU's top-10 in six other career stats. Cleveland has the first pick in the draft; the Bobcats have the ninth choice.

Chirs Deal has stepped down as head coach at Patton High School to become the new offensive coordinator at Emerald High School in Greenwood, SC.

Deal, in his only season at Patton, was 6-6, leading the Panthers to their best season in school history. They lost to Hibriten in the opening-round of the state playoffs. Deal led the Alexander Central program for six seasons (2001-06) before he left for Lexington in 2007. Deal will be reunited with former Freedom coach Tim McMahon, the head coach at Emerald.

Mercedes Bentley of Avery will play college basketball at Emory & Henry College next season. The Vikings were 22-6 last season. They lost to East Surry in the opening round of the Class 1A state playoffs....Dustin Clarke of the Vikings will play at Hartford University, a Division I school and a member of the America East Conference. A four-time All-Western Highlands Conference selection, Clarke was the league MVP as a junior and a North Carolina First Team All-State performer as a senior. This past year, Clarke led his team with 23.9 points per game, 7.5 rebounds a game and 4.3 assists per contest. A sharpshooter, Clarke shot 42.9 percent from beyond the arc. He was also a 92.3 percent free throw shooter. Clarke was also named a Class 1A All-State selection by NCPreps.com last season. The Vikings were 14-10 last season. They were eliminated by Hayesville in the first round of the state playoffs..Running back Colton Blackburn of the Vikings will play football at Coastal Carolina this fall, a Division I school and a member of the Big South Conference. Blackburn helped the Vikings to a 10-4 record and their first winning season since 2003. The Vikings, lost to Mitchell in the Western quarterfinals, also defeated Watauga, their biggest rival, for the first time since 2005.

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