

Watauga Drops Playoff Opener

Written by Mike Kelly

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The Watauga Junior American Legion A Team dropped a 9-3 decision to A.C. Reynolds in the opening round of the Area 4 playoffs Thursday night in Asheville.

ACR scored four times in the fourth, snapping a 1-1 tie; and four more times in the fifth to put the contest away. Mason Illitch, who coughed up three runs in three innings of work, took the loss. Tripp Taylor came on in relief and was victimized for six runs.

Watauga pitching also gave up three walks and hit two batters. In turn the A Team (7-10) struck out ten times.

"We just didn't play very well tonight," said Watauga coach Bradley Rudisill. "We made a lot of mistakes, and like a good team, they capitalized on them. Hopefully, we can turn it around at home (Friday) night."

Jake Cody went 2-4 with a run scored; Tyler Sturgill doubled, scored a run and drove in a run; Mason Illitch had an RBI, Taylor scored and Nick Williams had a double and an RBI.

Watuaga trails 1-0 in this best-of-three series. Game two is Friday night at Pioneer Field at 6 pm. Game three, if necessary, will be played in Asheville Saturday. The winner of this series will play the Carolina Flames. They eliminated Hibriten in a double-header sweep Thursday night.