

## WHS Netters Win Fourth Straight

Written by Mike Kelly

Friday, 02 September 2011 08:05

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What a difference a week can make. Last week the Pioneers found themselves gazing at a two-game losing streak---their longest dry spell in ten years---but they quickly erased their woes by putting together a four-game winning streak. Mount Tabor was WHS's (5-2) latest victim. The Pioneers bested the Spartans 3-1 (25-16, 26-28, 25-12, 15-18) down in Winston-Salem.

"It was so hot in that gym," said WHS coach Kris Hagaman. "But the girls put together a strong effort. We played through it. It was a great win on the road."

Kristen Carter was at it again as she posted 36 assists. Colby Combs (ten kills), Hannah Stewart (nine kills) and Channing Hagaman (seven kills, six aces and 12 digs) backboned WHS's front line. Skylar Hicks chipped in with 17 digs.

"We take a lot of pride in this program," Hicks said. "Our coaches really work us hard, and they bring out the best in us. That's why our program is so successful every year."

The JV team continued its winning ways by knocking off Mount Tabor 2-0 (25-19, 25-16).

Whitney Dunningan had four aces, four digs and two kills; Andrea Foster had two kills, Cheyenna Jones and Blake Boyd each had five digs.

WHS returns home to play Fred T. Foard in its Northwestern 3A/4A Conference opener Tuesday night at Lentz-Eggers Gym.

## WHS POUNDS AVERY, 35-8

The Watuaga High JV football team won its second consecutive game in convincing fashion Thursday night.

The Pioneers blasted rival Avery 35-8 at Jack Groce Stadium. Freshman T.J. Poulos paced the Pioneers (2-1) as he scored four touchdowns. Poulos, who scored on runs of four, nine, seven and 74-yards, ran for 153 yards on 17 carries, and he also scored a two-point conversion.

Zack Comer scored on a 63-yard jaunt, Stephen Shirley had an extra point and quarterback Austin Northern scored a two-point conversion. The Pioneers entertain West Caldwell Thursday, September 8.

### SINCLAIR SCORES TWICE, ASU WHIPS CATAWBA

by ASU Sports Information

Freshman Sekani Sinclair (Parkland, Fla./Marjory Stoneman Douglas) scored the first two goals of his collegiate career to lift Appalachian State men's soccer to a 3-0 win over visiting Catawba College at ASU Soccer Stadium on Thursday. The Mountaineers' record levels out to 1-1-0, while the Indians open the season at 0-1-0.

Appalachian came out firing, recording its first shot less than a minute into the game. In the 16th minute, Sinclair scored his first career goal on a perfectly-placed shot from the top corner of the penalty area. Fellow-freshman Nicholas Skoda (Knoxville, Tenn./Hardin Valley) earned his first career point on the assist.

Early the second half, Catawba refused to give up, and the Indians came up with two quick shots to open the period. Catawba earned five corner kicks during the game, including four in the latter half.

In the 80th minute, ASU senior Mark Bridges (Morganton, N.C./East Burke) fed a lofty pass down the sideline from midfield. Sinclair was in position to retrieve it and converted the breakaway opportunity into his second goal of the day.

Less than three minutes later, senior Sean Dreybus (Newport News, Va./Warwick) scored his first of the season from six yards out from the goal. Skoda crossed the pass from near the goal line to earn his second assist of the day.

The Mountaineers finished the match with an 18-6 advantage in shots.

Coach Shaun Pendleton was proud of his players' performance. "I'm satisfied with 3-0, but getting the shutout is just as important."

Freshman Paul West (Apex, N.C./Apex) made his debut in goal for the Mountaineers; he successfully defended all three of the Indians' shots on goal to earn the shutout.

"Sekani had a great day," continued Pendleton. "Our younger players benefited from the playing time, as did our more-experienced seniors. Our fitness got us through, but we still need to clean

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up the final third. The win gets the spirits up, and now it's on to five games on the road."

With the 3-0 victory in hand, Appalachian now prepares for a lengthy road trip beginning Sunday. The Mountaineers next travel to play at Mercer on Sunday, Sept. 4 at 1 p.m. After that, ASU will play in tournaments at Davidson and Coastal Carolina before returning for the next home game on Sept. 27 against UNC Asheville.