

## UPDATED: Pioneers Advance To Regional Finals

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For the first time since 2000 and for only the fourth time in school history, the Watauga High volleyball team has marched its way to the Class 4A Western Regional championship game. And the Pioneers (22-7), who have won eight in a row, will host the title game against Providence Tuesday night at Lentz-Eggers Gym. Providence (26-2 and the No.1 seed from the Southwestern 4A Conference) defeated Northwest Guilford 3-0 Saturday night. It's the first time the Pioneers have hosted a

regional title game since 1998, and it's also the first time since 2000, when they lost to West Charlotte on the road in a three-game sweep.

The Pioneers claimed their latest victim on Saturday as they blasted Hough in three games: 25-18, 25-21, 25-16. It's also the third time in three games that the Pioneers have avenged an earlier loss. The Huskies beat WHS in a tri-match down in Charlotte back on October 8. But on Saturday, it was WHS's moment to shine.

"What can I say," said WHS coach Kris Hagaman. "I'm excited. This is great. The girls are so confident right now. We're just playing so well. I can't put into words how proud I am of this team."

Kristen Carter paced the Pioneers again with 35 assists; Colby Combs had 11 kills; Channing Hagaman had ten kills and six digs; Hannah Stewart had nine kills and five aces; Rebecca Hayes had six kills and Skylar Hicks had 19 digs.