

JV Boys Win Thanksgiving Tournament

Written by Staff Reports

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The Watauga High JV boys basketball team is on quite a roll to start the season.

The Pioneers (3-0) have held their first three opponents to an average of 22 points-a-game. The end result, WHS has won those games by the whopping margin of 82 points. WHS continued its

stingy ways Saturday night.

WHS won the Miller Insurance/Dr. Pepper JV Invitational Thanksgiving Tournament by blowing out Avery 46-23 in the championship game. The teams traded baskets for most part in the first quarter, and Watauga actually trailed 9 - 8. But the Pioneers put together a 17-3 run to close out the first half sparked by a steal and dunk by Cameron Baker.

"The thing that I am most impressed with about this team is their unselfish play," said WHS JV and varsity assistant coach Jerry Moretz. "The guys really don't care who scores or gets it done as long as we get it done as a team. They play as hard as they can all game long, no matter the situation."

The Pioneers, who led 25-13 at the break, used their defensive pressure to ignite their offense creating 15 steals as a team and multiple turnovers from a talented Viking squad. It was 40-17 after three and the Pioneers coasted home from there.

Cameron Baker was named tournament MVP. Eli Gailes and Trevor Eggers were named to the all tournament team. Baker finished with 14 points and five rebounds to pace WHS. Matt Lambert chipped in with nine points,, TJ Poulos had six, Jonathon Plyler had five, Eli Gailes scored four points, Trevor Eggers and Jesse Illich each had three points, and Matt Tyndall had two. Zeb Speir grabbed five rebounds.

"This is a real unselfish group," Moretz said. "For example, we're up comfortably in the 4th quarter and there is a loose ball on our defensive end and Cam dives on the floor to secure it. Here's a guy that was named tournament MVP and really didn't have to put his body on the line in that situation, but he did it without thinking. That's the attitude all these young men have. They are fun to watch play and I am very fortunate to be able to coach them."

And the WHS men's basketball program is glad to have them. The WHS men and women travel to Newland to play Avery Friday night. Our coverage begins at 6 p.m. on Oldies 100.7 FM.

The JV girls (0-3) lost to Ashe County 26-21 in Saturday's consolation game. Clare Harris, who had seven points in Friday's loss against Hampton, Va., led the Pioneers with eight points on Saturday.

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