

Realignment Still Undecided

Written by Staff Reports

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The North Carolina High School Athletic Association heard arguments and proposals on Monday concerning realignment, which begins in August of 2013. As of now, Watauga High has been placed in an eight-team conference with Fred T. Foard, South Caldwell, Hibriten, Hickory, St. Stephens, Freedom and Patton. And the Pioneers

find themselves in the same position they were in when the last proposal came out on December 9.

WHS is grouped in a split conference that features six Class 3A schools (Freedom, St. Stephens, Hibriten, Fred T. Foard, Hickory, and Patton) and two Class 4A schools (WHS and South Caldwell). But there were some proposals made on Monday concerning possible changes. Fred T. Foard offered a proposal of an all-Class 3A conference that would include the Tigers, Freedom, Hibriten, Hickory, Patton and St. Stephens. And in the Foard plan, an all-Class 4A conference would feature the Pioneers, Alexander Central, Davie County, Lake Norman, Mooresville, and South Caldwell.

Freedom and Hibriten support Foard's Class 3A league proposal. And according to Fred T. Foard Athletics Director Rob Bliss, 'some positive, some negative like everything else in life,' when he was asked about the reaction to the proposal submitted to the NCHSAA by the Tigers. In another NCHSAA draft, Alexander Central, Lake Norman and Mooresville would join an eight-team with five other Class 3A schools: North Iredell, North Lincoln, South Iredell, Statesville and West Iredell. And according to Athletics Director Tom Harper, that's the most attractive plan for the Cougars at the moment.

Four Iredell County schools – North Iredell, South Iredell, Statesville and West Iredell – want an all-Class 3A conference with Fred T. Foard, Hickory, North Lincoln and St. Stephens. In that plan, Alexander Central was pushed into a eight-team 3A/4A league with McDowell, South Caldwell, T.C. Roberson and Watauga, Freedom, Hibriten and Patton. School officials from Alexander Central, Hibriten, Mooresville and the Caldwell County schools told the NCHSAA they won't support the Iredell plan.

East Burke proposed a simple change in the current eight-team Catawba Valley Athletic 2A Conference, where South Iredell will be a Class 3A school in the next realignment – leave the conference intact. The NCHSAA has East Burke, Draughn, Mountain Heritage and West Caldwell in a split 1A/2A conference with Avery County and Mitchell. A final proposal will be released in May, and realignment takes place in August of 2013.