

Huskies Win MVC Title

Written by Staff Reports

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Chalk up another win and another conference championship for Ashe County High men's basketball coach Marc Payne. The Huskies rewarded their coach with the Mountain Valley 1A/2A Conference title Friday night as they knocked off West Wilkes 79-36 in Millers Creek. The Huskies (15-1 Mountain Valley 1A/2A Conference; 22-2 overall) put the contest out of reach as they raced out to a 14-0 lead and coasted home. Andrew Lopp led the way with

20 points; Zeb Richardson, who will play in the North Carolina-South Carolina All-Star Basketball Classic next month, chipped in with 16 points and 12 rebounds. The victory handed Payne, now in his 10th year with the Huskies and his 37th overall as a head coach, his 14th conference title. Payne, who has won 571 games in his career, led Watauga High to one of those conference championships back in 1998-99.

The Huskies are the No.1 seed in the MVC tournament, which begins on Monday. The Ashe County women were not as fortunate. West Wilkes snapped their four-game winning streak by knocking off Ashe County 52-40 Friday night. MacKenzie Johnson led the Huskies with 13 points; Hannah Shipp chipped in with nine points. The Huskies (10-14; 5-11) will open MVC tournament play Monday night. They will be on the road, either at North Wilkes or East Wilkes. Those teams finished in a second place tie. The Huskies finished the regular-season in a seventh-place tie with Elkin.