

Hickory Gains No.1 Seeds In NW3A/4A Tournament

Written by Mike Kelly

Saturday, 11 February 2012 15:15

To no one's surprise, Hickory High, which is also the host for a third consecutive year, will be the No.1 seed in both the men's and women's Northwestern 3A/4A Conference Tournament, which begins Monday night. The Hickory women (12-0 NW3A/4A; 23-1 overall), who have shared or won

a conference championship for the 21st consecutive year, will receive a first-round bye. The Red Tornadoes will play either Watauga or Fred T. Foard in the conference semifinals at Craft Gymnasium Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m.. The Pioneers (7-15; 5-7) are a No.5 seed; Foard (13-10; 6-6) is the No.4 seed.

On the men's side, Hickory (21-3; 11-1), which shared the regular-season title with Alexander Central (18-5; 11-1), received the No.1 seed by winning a draw at the coach's seeding meeting Saturday morning. The Red Tornadoes will receive a first-round bye, and the Red Tornadoes will play either WHS (9-13; 5-7), the No.4 seed, or South Caldwell (10-13; 4-8), the No.5 seed, in the men's semifinals Wednesday night at Craft Gymnasium at 6:30 p.m.. The men's and women's championship games will be played Friday night.

The state playoff pairings will be announced next Saturday, February 18; the state playoffs for both the men and women begin next Monday, February 20. The WHS men will be making their sixth straight appearance in the state playoffs, and their eighth appearance in nine years. The WHS women, who have made four straight trips to the state playoffs under coach Klay Anderson, are a possible wildcard team. The WHS women haven't missed the state playoffs since the 2006-07 season.

NORTHWESTERN 3A/4A CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

WOMEN:

No.5 WATAUGA @ No.4 FRED T. FOARD, 7 P.M.

No.6 HIBRITEN @ No.3 SOUTH CALDWELL, 7 P.M.

No.7 ST. STEPHENS @ No.2 ALEXANDER CENTRAL, 6:30 P.M.

No.1 HICKORY - FIRST-ROUND BYE

MEN:

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No.5 SOUTH CALDWELL @ No.4 WATAUGA, 7 P.M.

No.6 FRED T.FOARD @ No.3 ST. STEPHENS, 7 P.M.

No.7 HIBRITEN @ No.2 ALEXANDER CENTRAL, (FOLLOWING THE WOMEN'S GAME)

No.1 HICKORY - FIRST-ROUND BYE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

WOMEN:

WATAUGA/FRED T. FOARD WINNER v. No.1 HICKORY, 6:30 P.M.

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**HIBRITEN/SOUTH CALDWELL WINNER v. ST. STEPHENS/ALEXANDER CENTRAL
WINNER, (FOLLOWING FIRST SEMIFINAL GAME)**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

MEN:

WATAUGA/SOUTH CALDWELL WINNER v. No.1 HICKORY, 6:30 P.M.

**HIBRITEN/ALEXANDER CENTRAL WINNER v. FRED T. FOARD/ST. STEPHENS WINNER
(FOLLOWING FIRST SEMIFINAL GAME)**

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP GAME, 6:30 P.M.

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP GAME, (FOLLOWING THE WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP GAME)