

UPDATED: WHS Baseball Ranked Eighth In Preseason Poll

Written by Mike Kelly
Monday, 13 February 2012 09:00

The high school baseball season is right around the corner, and the expectations are extremely high for head coach Pete Hardee and the Watauga High baseball team. The Pioneers, who lost their ace pitcher,

Jakes Watts (now a freshman at Milligan College, an NAIA school in Johnson City, TN) to graduation, are currently ranked eighth in the ImpactBaseball.com Class 4A pre-season poll. T.C. Roberson is ranked No.1. Providence, Ardrey Kell, Wilmington-Ashley and Davie County round-out the top five. WHS is the only Northwestern 3A/4A school that is ranked in the pre-season polls.

The Pioneers will play Providence, led by former WHS assistant coach Danny Hignight, in Charlotte on Saturday, March 24; they travel to Ardrey Kell on Saturday, March 3; the Pioneers take on Davie County in their home opener on Monday, March 12. WHS will play its first six games of the season on the road.

The Pioneers won the NW3A/4A Conference tournament (their first tournament title since 2000 and only their third championship in school history) and 18 games last season. The Pioneers also marched there way to the Class 4A sectional championship game, where they lost to Porter Ridge, 1-0. It was WHS's first trip to the sectional finals since 2000 (the Pioneers lost to Richmond County that season).

The Pioneers play at A.C. Reynolds in their season opener on Tuesday, February 28. The Pioneers play a scrimmage at Davie County on Saturday, February 18 beginning at 11 a.m.

Class 4-A

1. TC Roberson HS
2. Providence HS
3. Ardrey Kell HS
4. Ashley HS
5. Davie County HS
6. Southeast Guilford HS
7. New Bern HS
- 8. Watauga HS**
9. Fuquay-Varina HS
10. Southern Alamance HS

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Class 3-A

1. Northeast Guilford HS
2. CB Aycock HS
3. Forestview HS
4. NW Cabarrus HS
5. South Point HS
6. Eastern Wayne HS
7. Wilson Hunt HS
8. Tuscola HS
9. West Brunswick HS
10. DH Conley HS

Class 2-A

1. Randleman HS
2. Cuthbertson HS
3. Starmount HS
4. Whiteville HS
5. East Rutherford HS
6. North Brunswick HS
7. Bunker Hill HS
8. Farmville Central HS
9. Piedmont HS
- (Tie) 10. South Lenoir HS
- (Tie) 10. First Flight HS

Class 1-A

1. South Stanly HS
2. East Columbus HS
3. West Wilkes HS
4. Murphy HS
5. Cherryville HS
6. Midway HS

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7. Riverside-Martin HS
8. East Surry HS
9. Plymouth HS
10. Bishop McGuinness HS