

## **No.8 Tigers Claw Pioneers**

Written by Staff Reports

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The Watauga High softball team continues to struggle. The Pioneers were victimized by Fred T. Foard, which is ranked eighth in the state in Class 3A in this week's North Carolina Softball Coaches

Association Poll Tuesday night in Newton. The Tigers defeated WHS 16-0 in 4 1/2 innings in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference opener for both teams. The game was called in the top of the fifth because of the ten-run mercy rule.

Riley Pudney had WHS's (0-3 overall; 0-1 NW3A/4A) with a bloop single in the top of the fourth. That broke up Lexi Shubert's no-hit bid. The Tigers also hit three home runs in the game, including a grand slam. The Pioneers also committed nine errors.

"We didn't play well tonight," said WHS coach Stephanie Long. "Hopefully, we can turn it around Friday night at Hickory."

The Pioneers travel to Hickory Friday night.

## **WHS TENNIS REMAINS UNBLEMISHED**

The Watauga High men's tennis team picked up a huge win on Tuesday night. The Pioneers (3-0) defeated Salisbury 7-2 on the road. Mike Smith, Harrison Battle, Landon Taylor, Chris Ludwig and Aaron Evans were all victorious in singles play. Smith and Taylor picked up a win at No.1 doubles; Battle and Ludwig were victorious at No.2 doubles.

"It was a nice win, that's for sure," said WHS coach Scott Taylor. "We're unbeaten and off to a good start."

The Pioneers return home to play Alexander Central Thursday night.

### **MEN'S AND WOMEN'S LACROSSE DROP SEASON OPENERS**

The Watauga High men's and women's lacrosse teams came up short in their season openers Tuesday night. The men dropped a 10-2 decision at Mount Tabor in Winston-Salem. Nick Willaims and Dominick Hamilton scored for the Pioneers (0-1) in the losing cause. And the women (0-1) were bested by Mount Tabor 11-8 in Boone. Olivia Li paced WHS with four goals; Danielle Welsh had three. The JV girls lost to Mount Tabor, 11-3. The WHS women travel to Winston-Salem to play R.J. Reynolds Friday night; the men play their home opener Saturday against Mooresville.