

Pioneers Nail Down No.1 Seed

Written by Mike Kelly
Saturday, 21 April 2012 11:12

The Watauga High women's soccer team blasted South Caldwell 5-1 Friday night at Jack Groce Stadium. The win hands WHS (9-4 overall; 6-2 NW3A/4A, and 4-0 against the Class 4A schools) the No.1 seed among the Class 4A schools in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference. Kendyl Baird paced WHS with two goals; Skylar Hicks had

two assists in the win. The Pioneers wasted little time settling the issue as they scored back-to-back goals in the ninth-and-tenth minute of the first half.

Hannah Younger scored on a header ball off a corner kick from Abby Carson for a 1-0 lead, and Lillie Brady scored moments later on a feed from Hicks. The Pioneers put the contest away at the 18-minute mark on a goal by Baird. Lydia Mauney picked up an assist on the play. The Pioneers led 4-1 at the break, and Baird finished things off with her second goal of the game at the 49-minute mark of the second half on a feed from Hicks. Ivy Wilcox also scored a goal for the Pioneers.

"What a great way to end the week being in first place in the conference in 4A," said WHS coach Brittany Bolick.

The Pioneers began the week with a convincing win at Alexander Central on Tuesday. The JV team won 3-0. Marcie Mahoney scored twice and had an assist in the win. Brianna Seeley scored once; Emily Goodnight had an assist. The Pioneers travel to Hibriten Tuesday night.

WHS SOFTBALL HANGS ON AGAINST SOUTH

The Watauga High softball team built a 9-0 lead and hung on to beat South Caldwell 9-7 Friday night in a Northwestern 3A/4A Conference game at the Softball Complex. Kim Robinson picked up the win, despite walking seven batters. She gave up five runs, four earned on three hits in 5 2/3 innings. Robinson, who walked four times, also helped her own cause with a two-run double.

There were 18 walks issued on Friday night, ten by WHS (8-8 overall; 5-5 NW3A/4A) and eight by South Caldwell. Riley Pudney paced WHS going 2-4 with a double and two runs-batted-in.

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Nicole Dollar had a two-run single and Megan Jackson drove in a run with a single. Hope LaPointe was 2-4 with two runs scored.

The Pioneers made nine hits. Robinson and Michala McCune, despite giving up ten walks between them, limited South Caldwell to just five hits. The win also clinches the No.2 seed among the Class 4A schools in league play. The JV team lost 11-9 in seven innings. Jackson suffered the loss. She struck out five, walked four and gave up seven hits. The Spartans erased an 8-5 deficit with a three-run rally in the sixth; they won it with three more runs in the seventh. WHS travels to Hibriten Tuesday night; Monday's game with Wilkes Central was cancelled and will not be rescheduled. The Eagles have to make up a (Mountain Valley 1A/2A) conference game against Starmount on Monday.

WHS MEN'S LACROSSE FLIRTING WITH DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

The Watuaga High men's lacrosse team put itself in a prosperous position Friday night by clobbering Freedom 14-1 in a District 9 game at the Sports complex. The win moves WHS (5-4 overall; 4-1 in district play) into a first-place tie with Patton. The Pioneers host the Panthers, who they've all ready beaten once this season, Tuesday night. A win, and WHS would clinch the District 9 title and the automatic berth in the state playoffs that goes with it.

It would also be WHS's first appearance in the men's state playoffs since the school began playing lacrosse three years ago.

"But if we lose, then we'll probably get a wildcard spot," said WHS coach Chris Wallace. "Our district is one of two in the 12 districts that play lacrosse to receive one automatic berth. I don't like it, but those are the rules. So, it's simple, beat Patton and w're in."

The Pioneers displayed their moxie Friday night by scoring 14 unanswered goals after Freedom scored 15 seconds into the match for a 1-0 lead. After that it was all WHS. Nick Williams led the scoring barage with six goals and an assist; Dominick Hamilton had three goals and an assist; Canyon Mueller and Barrett Williams each scored twice.

Unfortunately, the WHS women (3-8) continue to struggle. WHS, which got hammered by R.J. Reynolds in their first meeting of the season back on March 9, nearly pulled off a huge upset against the top team in district play. WHS actually led 13-11 before the Demons, who are undefeated this season, rallied to win the game, 15-14. RJR scored the game winner with 14 seconds left.

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Taelor Critcher led the Pioneers with five goals; Danielle Welsh and Olivia Li each had three goals in the loss. The results weren't much better Friday night as Pfafftown-Reagan doubled up WHS, 12-6. Courtney Kapral led the Pioneers with two goals. The Pioneers travel to Kernersville-Glenn Tuesday night.