

Watauga Junior Legion Drops Season Opener

Written by Mike Kelly
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The Watauga American Junior Legion team dropped its season-opening double-header Friday night in Marion. McDowell pulled off the sweep by winning game one, 4-0, and taking game two, 7-5. Watauga (0-2) nearly rallied to tie the game in the fifth inning in game two. But with runners at second and third and two outs, McDowell got off the hook on a close play at

first base.

"It wasn't even close," said Watauga coach Bradley Rudisill. "I thought the throw pulled their first baseman off the bag, but the umpire didn't see it that way. It was a tough call."

Hunter Isaacs paced Watauga in game two with a base hit, a run scored and two runs-batted-in; Tripp Taylor and Adam Greene had a base hit and an RBI apiece. Jesse Illich and Tyler Sturgill each had two hits and they each scored a run. Clay Mizner doubled and scored. Matt Lambert, who coughed up four runs (only two runs earned), in two innings suffered the loss. Watauga trailed early 5-1 and got within 5-4 by the third inning, but couldn't complete the rally.

"We left a lot of guys on base," Rudisill said. "But like I said before the season started, it's a young team, and it's going to take a lot of patience."

In game one, Watauga only had one hit, a double by Sturgill in the second inning. Taylor suffered the loss. He gave up four runs, all unearned (Watauga made four errors behind him) and he struck out eight. Watauga will play its home opener next Friday night, June 1, when Alexander County comes to Boone. The McDowell game rained out Thursday night may possibly be made up sometime this coming week.

"Nothing is certain right now," Rudisill said. "But they want to make it up sometime this week. We have an open week, so we have plenty of time to get it in."

Next Friday night's double-header with Alexander County begins at 5 p.m.