

Junior Legion Takes Two From Foard

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The Watauga Junior American Legion team took a double header from Fred T. Foard in a non-Area 4 contest Monday night at Pioneer Field. Watauga (8-7-1) clobbered Foard 11-1 in three innings in the first game; and Watauga wiped out a 5-0 deficit in game two and defeated Foard, 9-8. Jesse

Illich knocked in the game-winning run with a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the fifth in game two, scoring Matt Tindall from third base.

"After we won the first game like we did, I played a lot of the younger kids in the second game," said Watauga coach Bradley Rudisill. "And even though we fell behind, I kept those guys in there. They did a good job coming back."

Carson Isaacs was Watauga's most productive hitter on the night. He had two triples, scored four runs, had a stolen base and drove in four runs in the twin-bill sweep. Clay Mizner had a double, a single, scored twice and drove in three runs in the opener, Jesse Illich had two RBI in the second game, and Justin Greer drove in two runs in game one.

But Brandon Warren had the biggest hit of the night. With Watauga trailing 8-7 in the bottom of the fifth in the nightcap, Warren drove in the tying run with a bloop single. Tindall, who had stolen second base, moved to third on the play, setting the stage for Illich.

"That was a big hit by Brandon," Rudisill said. "We finally started hitting the ball tonight. We put the ball in play and made things happen."

Watauga really stroked the ball in game one. The Junior Legion team pounded out 14 hits and broke the game open by scoring six times in the first inning. Adam Greene got the win the opener. He went three innings and gave up a run on two hits; Tyler Sturgill, who had three hits, scored two runs and drove in a run in the double-header sweep, got the win in game two. He went three innings and gave up three earned runs on three hits.

"We're playing with confidence right now," Rudisill said. "It's good to see with the playoffs coming up in a couple of weeks. We got to keep this up and finish the season strong."

Watauga has a very busy stretch coming up. The Junior Legion team will play four games in four days. It all starts Friday night at home against East Burke at 6 p.m. Watauga then plays three straight games on the road: at Patton Saturday (4 p.m.), at Bunker Hill (3 p.m.) Sunday and at Foard on Monday (4 p.m.).