

Junior Legion Announces Time Change

Written by Mike Kelly

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Watauga Junior American Legion baseball coach Bradley Rudisill has announced a schedule change concerning Sunday's season finale against East Burke in Icard. The teams were scheduled to play a double header beginning at 3 p.m., but because of the recent heat wave, the game has been moved to a seven-inning, single-game affair starting at 6 p.m., Sunday night. Watauga (11-8-1) goes in riding a three-game winning streak; the Junior Legion team is 7-7 in Area 4 West, and the playoffs begin Friday, July 6.

"The brackets are due out early next week," Rudisill said. "That's why I'm going to use this game as a tune up for the post season. We're going to get a lot of kids in, especially our young guys."

Hunter Isaacs gets the starting nod Sunday night; he'll go the first two innings. Then Jesse Illich will pitch the third and fourth innings; Adam Greene the fifth and sixth innings; and Tyler Strugill will close it out in the seventh.

"It's a non-area game, so it really won't have an affect on our standing in the league," Rudisill said. "Pitching usually plays a big role in the playoffs. I just want to make sure we get our guys ready."

Watauga and East Burke had their scheduled double header on June 22 in Boone rained out. Those games were not rescheduled. Rudisill led the Junior Legion team to the playoffs last summer. They lost to A.C. Reynolds in the first round.