

Watauga Blanks East Burke In Season Finale

Written by Mike Kelly
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The Watauga Junior American Legion baseball team closed out the regular season riding a four-game winning streak with a 1-0 shutout over East Burke in Icard, N.C. Sunday afternoon. Watauga (12-8-1) coach Bradley Rudisill used six different pitchers in posting the shutout. Hunter Isaacs, who got the start, went two innings and gave up one hit with two

strikeouts to pick up the win. In all, Watauga's pitching staff scattered three hits. Tripp Taylor had a strikeout and a walk in his one-inning of work; Tyler Sturgull and Jesse Illich each had a strikeout in their brief one-inning stints; Adam Greene gave up two hits and a walk in the sixth; and Casrson Isaacs retired the side in order in the seventh with a strikeout to pick up the save. "I just wanted to get a lot of guys in," Rudisill said. "With the playoffs coming up, I just wanted to get as many guys on the mound as I could. We did a great job today. Everyone that came in gave us a quality appearances. It certainly was a win by committee."

Watauga scored the game's only run in the second inning. Justin Greer and Clay Mizner both reached on back-to-back singles, putting runners at first and second with one out. Greene drove in the game's only run with an RBI single that gave Watauga's its 1-0 lead. Watauga made seven hits; Sturgill and Greer each had two hits apiece. Greene and Ryan Chruch had the other Watauga hits. The Junior Legion playoffs begin Friday. The brackets are due out Wednesday.