

Watauga Drops Playoff Opener

Written by Mike Kelly
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The Watauga Junior American Legion baseball team suffered an 8-5 loss in its Area 4 playoff opener Friday night in Sawmills, N.C. Watauga fell behind 8-0, but came charging back with three runs on the sixth and two more in the seventh to make the final score respectable. The win gives South Caldwell a 1-0 lead in this best of three series. Tripp Taylor,

who missed most of the season with an injury, suffered the loss. The left hander went 5 1/3 innings and gave up eight runs, but only three were earned.

Taylor also walked ten men and Watauga made six errors; South Caldwell only made three hits. "We just didn't make any plays in the field," said Watauga coach Bradley Rudisill. "Walks and errors really hurt us. Hopefully, we can bounce back Saturday. We've got to play better."

Watauga made six hits; Steadnman Sauls was Watauga's most productive hitter with two hits and three runs-batted-in. Justin Greer and Taylor each drove in a run. Game two will be played Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m. at Pioneer Field. Game three, if necessary, will be played Sunday in Sawmills at 6 p.m.