

29ers One Win Away From State Tournament

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The Caldwell County Post 29 baseball team took advantage of sloopy fielding and poor pitching in game two of its American Legion Area IV semifinal series. In turn, the 29ers (26-5) blasted the Gaston Braves 11-4 Tuesday night in Belmont, N.C., to take a commanding 2-0 lead in their best of five series. The 29ers can wrap up the series tonight at MS Deal Stadium

in Granite Falls at 7 p.m. Caldwell County, which will host the eight-team state tournament August 1-5, took advantage of six fielding errors and seven walks. Seven of the 29ers' 11 runs reached base by error or walk. Winning pitcher Drew Bolick, a rising junior at Hibriten, and relievers Spencer Greer and former Watauga Pioneer Ethan Greene took care of the rest. Bolick, making his first post-season start, kept the Braves (16-6) hitless for three innings and lasted into the seventh. Greer (South Caldwell) and Greene, who ironically shared co-Pitcher of the Year honors in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference last spring mopped finished up. Greer also had a two-run single; Dylan Poarch had a run-scoring double.