

## Braves Force Post 29 To Limit

Written by Staff Reports  
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The Gaston Braves, left for dead just a couple of days ago, have forced a fifth-and-deciding game with Caldwell Post 29 in the Area IV semifinals. The Braves, who staved off elimination Wednesday night at MS Deal Stadium with an 11-6 win, evened up the series at two wins apiece with a 3-2 win against Post 29 Thursday night in Belmont, N.C. Game five will

be played at MS Deal Stadium tonight at 7 p.m. Former Pioneer Ethan Greene suffered his first loss of the year. He went nine innings and gave up three runs on seven hits with five strikeouts and a walk. Former Pioneer David Martin had a run-scoring double and scored a run in the loss. Win or lose tonight, Post 29 will host and play in the state tournament at MS Deal Stadium, August 1-5, in Granite Falls. Also, Greene, who will attend Pfeiffer University this fall, leads Area IV with 59 strikeouts; former Pioneer Max Linnville, who will attend Western Carolina in the fall, leads Area IV with a .482 batting average.

## POLLARD ADDS ASSISTANT COACH TO STAFF

Former Appalachian State University baseball coach Chris Pollard has announced that Pfeiffer University coach Mark Hayes, who played at South Caldwell, will be a volunteer assistant coach at Duke this season.....Linebacker Darius Lipford, who played at Hibriten High and is currently a rising junior at the University of North Carolina, is out for the season with a torn ACL in his knee. Lipford played in 11 games and started one as a true freshman linebacker and special teams player. He had four tackles on the season, including two vs. Virginia and one each against Miami and William & Mary. He started against William & Mary.....And the home run ball continues to plague Madison Bumgarner. The left hander, who played at South Caldwell High School, dropped a 3-2 decision against the Atlanta Braves Wednesday afternoon at Turner Field. Bumgarner (11-6) went seven innings giving up three runs, two earned, on two hits with eight strikeouts. Bumgarner coughed up home run balls to Freddie Freeman and David Ross, who hit a two-run shot that snapped a 1-1 tie.

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