

Caldwell Joins National Team

Written by Mike Kelly
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Rising junior Jeff Caldwell of Watauga High has been invited to play for the 17-and-Under National Soccer Team down in Bradenton, Fla. Caldwell, a goalkeeper and the younger brother of Sarah Caldwell, who played at WHS

and Furman University and was the last WHS women's player to compete in the East-West Senior All-Star Game in Greensboro in 2006, backboned a stingy WHS defense that did not give up a regulation-time goal on its home pitch last fall.

"You could see it coming," said WHS coach Woody McKay. "Jeff is a talented keeper he was playing a very high level of club soccer. It's a great honor for him and his family, and it's well deserved. We'll certainly miss him."

Rising junior Jake Chasteen will replace Caldwell in goal this season. The Pioneers were 16-6 last year. They finished second overall in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference, and they were the No.1 seed among the Class 4A schools in the league. WHS lost to Mallard Creek in overtime at home in the second-round of the Class 4A playoffs.

The WHS soccer team plays a scrimmage game at West Forsyth in Clemmons, N.C., Tuesday night at 7 p.m.; the Pioneers open the season at Ashe County in West Jefferson, N.C., next Monday, August 13. The J-V team plays at 5 p.m.; the varsity kicks off at 7 p.m.