

Pioneers To Host Mallard Creek Wednesday

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The North Carolina High School Athletic Association has released its playoff brackets for the upcoming state playoffs. And the Watauga High (15-3-3), the No.1 seed among the Class 4A schools in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference, takes

on Mallard Creek (11-10-2), the No.5 seed from the I-Meck Conference Wednesday night at Jack Groce Stadium at 6 p.m. And depending on how much snow piles up from the perfect storm that's working its way on the east coast, the game might be moved to Thursday night. Such a decision won't be made until Wednesday afternoon.

If the Pioneers advance, they will play either A.C. Reynolds (15-4-2 and the No.2 from the Mountain Athletics 3A/4A Conference) or Charlotte-Olympic (12-10-1, the No.2 seed from the MEGA 7 Conference) at home Saturday night. The Pioneers are also one of five schools to make the state playoffs from the NW3A/4A.

Alexander Central (6-15-2), the No.2 seed among the Class 4A schools in the NW3A/4A, travels to Lake Norman (11-8-2), the No.2 seed from the I-Meck. In Class 3A, Hickory (22-1), which won the NW3A/4A regular-season championship and ranked No.2 in the North Carolina Soccer Coaches Association Class 3A Poll, opens the state playoffs at home against South Point. St. Stephens (13-6-2), the No.2 seed among the 3A schools in the NW3A/4A, takes on West Henderson (16-5-2, No.2 Western North Carolina Athletic Conference) in the opening round; Fred T. Foard (15-7-1), the No.3 seed, travels to East Henderson (17-3-1, No.1 WNCAC). In Class 2A, Ashe County (20-1-1), the regular-season champion in the Mountain Valley 1A/2A Conference and ranked second in the NCSCA Class 2A Poll, entertains Central Davidson (9-8-2, No.4 Central Carolina Conference) Wednesday night (weather permitting); in Class 1A, Avery (8-12-2) a wildcard team from the Western Highlands 1A/2A Conference, takes on West Wilkes (6-12-1), a wildcard team from the MVC. The winner gets Elkin (12-6), the No.1 seed from the MVC in the second round. The Bucking Elks have a bye in the opening round.