

## WHS Announces 2013 Baseball Schedule

Written by Mike Kelly

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Watauga High baseball coach Pete Hardee has announced his baseball schedule for the upcoming 2013 season. The Pioneers, who were 16-9 last season, will open the season with three consecutive road

games. The Pioneers will open the season on Wednesday, February 27 at A.C. Reynolds. They travel to Mount Tabor the next day before closing out the first week of the season in Charlotte against Ardrey Kell on Saturday, March 2.

The Pioneers will play their home opener and their Northwestern 3A/4A Conference opener against Fred T. Foard on Tuesday, March 5. The Pioneers also have non-conference games scheduled against North Davidson, Providence, and Davie County. WHS will also play in the East Rutherford Easter Tournament, April 1-3, and the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference Tournament will be played April 30-May 4.

WHS will only play ten home games this season. All of the Pioneers baseball games will air on Oldies 100.7 FM this season. WHS lost 12 seniors to graduation. The Pioneers were eliminated by Asheville-Roberson in the second-round of the Class 4A state playoffs.

The Pioneers, who only return five players from last season, have also added a pair of transfers in sophomore Utah Jones and his older brother Ryder, who is ranked among the top 50 players in the nation by PerfectGame.com. He was also among 40 players invited to tryout for the 18-and-under USA National Team last summer.

The Jones boys transferred to WHS from Stillwater, OK., when their father, Billy, was named the new baseball coach at Appalachian State University last summer. Ryder Jones, a 6-foot-3 senior, signed with Stanford University, a Division I school and a member of the Pacific 12 Conference, last fall. Jones led Stillwater High to its first state playoff appearance in seven years last spring.

Jones, a right-hander who most likely will be selected the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft in June, will be WHS' No.1 pitcher this season. He will also play shortstop or third base when he is not pitching. Utah played in the 2015 ImpactBaseball.com Futures Game in August at UNC-Chapel Hill and was named the Most Valuable Player.

## WHS 2013 BASEBALL SCHEDULE

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FEBRUARY 27 @ A.C. REYNOLDS  
FEBRUARY 28 @ MOUNT TABOR  
MARCH 2 @ ARDREY KELL  
**MARCH 5 FRED T. FOARD\***  
MARCH 6 @ NORTH DAVIDSON  
**MARCH 8 HICKORY\***  
MARCH 12 @ DAVIE COUNTY  
MARCH 15 @ ALEXANDER CENTRAL\*  
**MARCH 16 MOUNT TABOR**  
**MARCH 19 SOUTH CALDWELL\***  
MARCH 22 @ HIBRITEN\*  
**MARCH 23 PROVIDENCE**  
**MARCH 26 ST. STEPHENS\***  
MARCH 28 @ FRED T. FOARD\*  
APRIL 1-3 @ EAST RUTHERFORD EASTER TOURNAMENT  
APRIL 9 @ HICKORY\*  
**APRIL 10 NORTH DAVIDSON**  
**APRIL 16 ALEXANDER CENTRAL\***  
APRIL 19 @ SOUTH CALDWELL\*  
**APRIL 20 A.C. REYNOLDS**  
**APRIL 23 HIBRITEN\***  
APRIL 26 @ ST. STEPHENS\*  
APRIL 30-MAY 4 NORTHWESTERN 3A/4A CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

### HOME GAMES IN BOLD

\*- DENOTES NW3A/4A GAMES

Photo Courtesy: Ryder Jones, PHOTO SUBMITTED