

Spartans Stave Off Pioneers For No.1 Seed

Written by Mike Kelly
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The Watauga High boy's golf team made a strong run for the No.1 seed among the Class 4A schools in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference Monday afternoon, but came up short. The Pioneers had a team score of 322 and finished fourth, four shots behind South Caldwell, which finished third with a team score of 318, in the season finale at Cedar Rock Country Club in Lenior, N.C.

That effort handed South Caldwell the No.1 seed and an automatic berth in the Class 4A Western Regional at the North Shore Country Club in Huntersville, N.C., next Monday. The Spartans finished 13 shots ahead of WHS in the overall standings. The Pioneers will be sending four individuals to regionals: Austin Northern, Austin Graham, Carson Nguyen and Troy McNeil. Hickory won Monday's meet with a team score of 300, and the Red Tornadoes clinched the regular-season championship and the No.1 seed among the Class 3A schools. Hibriten, playing on its home course Monday, finished second with a 306. The Panthers were also second overall and clinched the No.2 seed among the Class 3A schools for regionals.

Roland Morris of Hickory was the leading medalist. He fired a two-under 70 on the par 72 course. Northern paced WHs with a four-over-par 76, four shots off the lead. Nguyen and McNeil each fired an 80, ten shots off the lead. Austin Graham had an 88.

Team Scores

Hickory 300
Hibriten 306
South Caldwell 318
Watauga 322
St. Stephens 335
Alexander Central 354
FT Foard 354

Medalist: Roland Morris from Hickory shot a two under 70.

Watauga's Scores:

Austin Northern 76
Carson Nguyen 80
Troy McNeil 80
Cameron Taylor 86
Austin Graham 88
Christian Bailey 90

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Final Conference Standings

Hickory 1836
Hibriten 1906
South Caldwell 1914
Watauga 1927
St. Stephens 1934
FT Foard 2107
Alexander Central 2160

NOTES: Hickory is number 1 seed from NW 3A conference and Hibriten is 2 seed for regional's to be held at Cedar Rock Country Club next Monday.
South Caldwell receives only team invite from the NW 4A conference to be played at North Stone CC in Huntersville, NC next Monday.
Watauga will play four individuals at North Stone CC. Austin Northern, Austin Graham, Troy McNeil and Carson Nguyen.

WHS SOCCER DROPS SECOND STRAIGHT

Nicole Corcione scored three times in the first half as Enka built a 4-0 lead and went on to beat the Watauga High girl's soccer team 5-1 at Jack Groce Stadium in a non-conference game Monday night.

Ironically, the Pioneers (8-6-3) outshot Enka, 23-14. Coricone gave Enka a 1-0 lead with a goal at the 3:49 mark of the first half. Samantha Sheppards goal nearly seven minutes later (at 10:39) gave the Jets a 2-0 lead. Nikki Murdoch picked up an assist on each of those goals. Corcione scored two more times before halftime, the last one coming at the 36:12 mark of the first half, giving Enka a commanding 4-0 halftime lead.

"We got more than our share of shots, but we just couldn't seem to find the back of the net," said WHS coach Brittany Bolick. "We're hoping for better results (tonight at Fred T. Foard)."

Hannah Younger scored WHS' only goal 90 seconds into the second half. Tristen Derrick picked up the assist. But Enka regained its four-goal lead nearly nine minutes later as Corcione scored her fourth goal of the game.

The Pioneers travel to Fred T. Foard tonight for a Northwestern 3A/4A Conference match. The JV team plays at 5 p.m., the varsity begins at 6:30 p.m. The JV team won last night, beating Enka, 2-1.

Emily Goodnight and Jenny Schlenker scored for WHS; Megan Gottfried had an assist.