

Rams Eliminate Pioneers

Written by Staff Reports
Friday, 10 May 2013 08:37

The Watauga High boy's tennis team suffered through a disappointing season. The Pioneers (8-6) failed to win the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference championship and they also failed to win ten matches this season. It's the first time since 1993 that's happened.

And the Pioneers were put out of their misery on Thursday by Asheville-Roberson. The Rams (15-0), the No.1 seed from the Mountain Athletic 3A/4A Conference, bested WHS 5-2 at the WHS Tennis Courts in the second round of the North Carolina High School Association Class 4A State Dual Team Playoffs.

Landon Taylor and Brody O'Neal posted victories for WHS in singles play. The Rams will play Charlotte- Providence (10-1), the No.1 seed from the Southwestern 4A Conference, in the sectional finals on Tuesday.

In Class 3A, Weddington defeated Hickory 5-4 in a second-round match on Thursday. The Red Tornadoes (12-2) won the regular-season championship in the NW3A/4A Conference this season.

TAYLOR STEPS DOWN

Matt Taylor, who turned the Alexander High girl's basketball program into a regional power the last two years, has stepped down as head coach. Taylor stepped down on Tuesday. He led Alexander Central to 65 wins (65-46) during his tenure, including 50 wins the last two seasons. He led the Cougars to the Class 4A Western Regional in 2011-12; the Cougars were 25-5 last season. They were eliminated by Indian Trail-Porter Ridge in the sectional finals.

Before Taylor took over, the Cougars had suffered through 15 consecutive losing seasons. Their last winning season prior to 2011-12 was in 1995-96, when that team posted a 14-11 record.

COUGARS ELIMINATED BY LAKE NORMAN

The Alexander Central High baseball team saw its most successful season in ten years come to an end Thursday night. Winning pitcher Jon Stires tossed a complete-game shutout as Lake Norman blanked Alexander Central 6-0 in the opening round of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Class 4A state playoffs in Taylorsville, N.C.

Stires scattered four hits and struck out six as the Cougars (20-6) closed out the campaign losing two in a row. Lake Norman avenged a 7-2 home first round loss from two years ago against the Cougars. Leadoff hitter Jesse Seaford, No. 3 hitter Josh Ledowski and No. 8 hitter Dylan Galbo each had two hits for Lake Norman, which had nine, and Bailey McKee and Austin Portelance each drove in two runs and Devin Renfro added an RBI.

Brandon Lail, who lasted 4.2 innings, suffered the loss. Alexander left six men on base and committed two errors. The Cougars won their first Northwestern 3A/4A Conference regular-season championship since 2004, which ironically was also the last time they won 20 games in a season (26-2 that year). The Cougars also made their first appearance in the NW3A/4A Tournament championship game since 2005, but they lost to South Caldwell in the finals.

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STATE SOCCER PLAYOFFS

THURSDAY'S GAMES

CLASS 2A

ASHE COUNTY 2, RANDLEMAN 1

SATURDAY'S GAMES

CLASS 4A

A.C. REYNOLDS (19-2-3) @ WATAUGA (9-8-3), 6 P.M.

CLASS 3A

FRED T. FOARD (11-7-3) @ ASHBROOK (16-1-2)

PATTON (13-5-1) @ ST. STEPHENS (15-5-1)

STATE SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

THURSDAY'S GAMES

CLASS 4A

ALEXANDER CENTRAL 13, NORTH MECKLENBURG 0

FRIDAY'S GAMES

CLASS 4A

CORNELIUS-HOUGH (16-5) @ SOUTH CALDWELL (14-7)

CLASS 3A

HIBRITEN (14-8) @ FRANKLIN (13-5)

FORESTVIEW (8-14) @ FRED T. FOARD (20-4)

ST. STEPHENS (14-7) @ WEST HENDERSON (10-9)

CLASS 2A

ASHE COUNTY (6-11) @ CENTRAL DAVIDSON (13-11)

CLASS 1A

ELKIN (7-10) @ AVERY (3-12)

STATE BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

THURSDAY'S GAMES

CLASS 4A

LAKE NORMAN 6, ALEXANDER CENTRAL 0

FRIDAY'S GAMES

CLASS 4A

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SOUTH CALDWELL (14-9) @ HUNTERSVILLE-HOPEWELL (15-9)

CLASS 3A

FRED T. FOARD (11-13) @ EAST HENDERSON (12-11)

KINGS MOUNTAIN (11-10) @ HICKORY (13-10)

ST. STEPHENS (12-9) @ WEST HENDERSON (19-3)