

WILKES STAYS ALIVE

Written by Staff Reports

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The Wilkes County 13-and-14-year-old All-Stars endured a four-hour, 22-minute marathon and defeated Rutherfordton 20-19 Tuesday afternoon at Freedom High School in Morganton, N.C. The win moves Wilkes into today's loser's bracket final of the North Carolina 13-and-14-year-old All-Stars state baseball tournament against Southwest Forsyth. The winner will advance to the state championship game later tonight against Clayton. The state champion advances to the Southeast Regional.

Rutherfordton wiped out an 18-9 deficit by scoring ten times in the bottom of the sixth. Sixteen men batted in the inning. But Wilkes pulled it out with a pair of runs in the top of the seventh. A sacrifice by Jake Boyles scored Josh Handy with the eventual winning run. Handy took over on the mound in the bottom of the seventh. And despite an error that put the tying run on base, Handy shut the door by retiring the next three batters to get the win.

Today's game at Freedom High School begins at 4 p.m.