

## **Wilkes Falls In Regional Opener**

Written by Staff Reports  
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The 12-and-under Wilkes All-Stars, representing the state of North Carolina at the Southeast Regional Tournament in Warner Robbins, Ga., were upended 3-1 by Florida in the opening round of pool play Thursday morning. Starting pitcher Lillie Anderson tossed the first two innings and held Florida scoreless. But Florida finally broke through with runs in the third and fourth innings. Kaylin Blankenship, who came on in relief to start the third inning, suffered the loss. An error ignited Florida's scoring rally. Wilkes County will play Georgia this evening at 7 p.m.

### **WILKES JUNIORS ELIMINATED**

The Wilkes County 13-and-14-year-old Junior Little League team made it to the state finals, but was eventually eliminated on Thursday by Clayton at Freedom High in Morganton, N.C. Wilkes, which advanced to the semifinals thanks to a wild 20-19 win against Rutherfordton Tuesday, continued its quest for a state title by knocking off Southwest Guilford 7-3 Wednesday in the state semifinals. Winning pitcher Logan Petty, a left hander, tossed just over six solid innings before reaching the Little League pitch count limit.

Petty scattered just four hits and held Southwest Guilford scoreless for six innings before Guilford broke through in its final at bat using three hits—two off of Petty—and an error to squeak three runs across.

Evan Anderson led all hitters on the afternoon with a 3-for-4 performance at the plate for Wilkes, including a pair of doubles.

But Clayton upended Wilkes County in the state finals. Clayton won 6-2 and advanced to the Southeast Regional in Greenville, S.C., which begins next Friday, August 2. Wilkes fell behind 3-0 before it finally broke through with a run in the fourth inning.

After John Hamby and Tanner Waddell singled to lead off the inning, Evan Anderson connected on an RBI single down the left field line. Wilkes loaded the bases following a two-out walk from Jake Boyles but Suarez got Dennis Barlow to ground out to him to end the threat.