

The Watauga High baseball team had its game with Freedom cancelled for the second day in a row. The game will be made up on Monday, April 20th.

The game will be made up on Monday, April 20th. Now the Pioneers (9-3 overall; 6-1 Northwestern 4A Conference) will turn their focus on McDowell (10-2; 6-1), which begins the night in a first-place tie with WHS in the NW4A Conference. The Titans were rained out at North Buncombe last night. The game will probably not be rescheduled.

Jon Sharpe, the ace of the WHS staff, will get the starting nod tonight. The right-hander is 4-1 with a 2.55 earned-run-average and a save. He also has 49 strike outs in 35 2/3 innings of work. And lifetime, Sharpe is 1-1 in three appearance against the Titans.

McDowell beat the Pioneers in their first meeting, 5-4 down in Marion on March 17th. It was WHS's third consecutive loss at McDowell. WHS left 11 men on base in that game, and they also hit into a double play. Sophomore Trae Young has his best game at the varsity level as he belted a three-run homer and drove in four runs. Sharpe went the distance, struck out 11 and walked four, and suffered the loss.

And the Titans are the hottest team in the NW4A right now. McDowell is the highest scoring team in the conference with 61 runs in seven games. And they've erupted for 38 runs in their last three games, winning each of those contests by the ten-run mercy rule.

Jared Holifield leads the team with 12 runs-batted-in; Josh Huskins (18 hits, .471 batting average, six stolen bases), Eli Miller (16 hits, .421, 6 SB) and Tyler Hopkins (15 hits, .417, seven RBI) are their top hitters. Junior Joey Duncan, who beat WHS his last time out, is their top pitcher. He's 4-0 with a 2.03 ERA. He also has 44 strikeouts in 31 innings of work.

Our coverage begins at 6:05 pm on 100.7, MAC-FM.

In other games:

A.C. Reynolds @ Freedom: The Rockets pulled into a tie for fourth place last night as they blasted Alexander Central 11-2 down in Taylorsville. The Rockets also snapped a three-game losing streak. Tonight they play a Freedom team they beat by the ten-run mercy rule in their last meeting back on March 17th. The Patriots, who have been sitting around the last two days because of poor weather conditions, are 0-6 in league play. But the Patriots are riding a two-game winning streak, and they're currently 5-8.

Alexander Central @ East Burke: The Cougars, who got pounded by A.C. Reynolds last night at home are mired in sixth place at 2-6. and they've lost four in a row. They also begin the night one game behind East Burke and A.C. Reynolds for that fourth and final playoff spot in the NW4A. The Cavaliers, who lost big to South Caldwell on Tuesday night, are playing pretty well right now. They've won two out of three, which includes a 2-1 victory at A.C, Reynolds last Friday night. Winning pitcher Corey Rhoney struck out 13 in that game.

WHS AND Freedom, McDowell and North Buncombe were cancelled last night. The WHS-Freedom game will be made up on Monday, April 20th; the McDowell-North Buncombe game will probably not be rescheduled. In the only game last night, A.C. Reynolds blasted Alexander Central 11-2 down in Taylorsville.

WHS baseball v. McDowell, Thursday, April 9, 2009

Written by Mike Kelly

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South Caldwell has the night off.