

Pioneers drop a heartbreaker in the seventh

Written by Mike Kelly
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The Watauga High baseball team lost its fourth consecutive game Monday afternoon in heartbreaking fashion at the Winterville Baseball Bash in Winterville, NC.

The Pioneers (8-7) dropped a 6-5 decision to Greene Central in the consolation round. Trailing 4-0 in the top of the seventh, the Pioneers came charging back to take a 5-4 lead. An error, a hit batsman and an infield single loaded the bases with one out.

A bases-loaded walk to Max Linville, a run-scoring, infield single by Josh Wyant, an RBI single by Cal Hardee, a bases-loaded walk to David Martin and an infield single that dropped in behind the pitcher's mound and second base by Baker Stanley fueled the rally in the top of the seventh.

But the celebration was shortlived as the Rams put together a two-run rally of their won in the bottom of the seventh to win the game. A wild pitch scored the tying run before Will Bynum won it for the Rams with a walk-off double. Matt Proffitt, who came on in relief in the sixth, suffered the loss.

The Pioneers had their chances early. Unfortunately, they left four men on base in the first three innings. The Rams finally snapped a scoreless tie in the fourth on Trent Murray's two-run homer to straight away center-field. They picked up two more runs in the fifth, thanks to a pair of walks and an error. Before the uprising, the Pioneers were limited to only two hits----a single by Ryan Turner and an infield single by Josh Roberts-----through the first five innings.

The loss drops WHS into the seventh-place game Tuesday at noon. The Pioneers will play the loser of North Lenior or D.H. Conley. Our next broadcast of WHS baseball will be Friday night when A.C. Reynolds comes to town.

Our coverage begins at 6 pm on Oldies 100.7 FM.

NOTES: You can follow tomorrow's game from Winterville at the following site: www.twitter.com/whsathletics

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