

WHS comes up short again

Written by Mike Kelly
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The woes continue for the Watauga High baseball team.

The Pioneers, who got off to an impressive start by winning eight of their first 11 games, now find themselves mired in a five-game losing streak.

And the storyline continues: fall behind early, fight your way back into it, only to come up short at the end. That plot played itself out on Tuesday afternoon as D.H. Conley defeated WHS 6-5 in the seventh-place game of the Winterville Baseball Bash in Winterville, NC.

Dylan Norris, who had been practically unblemished for the better part of the year, coughed up an earned run in the first and was touched up for five runs before departing in the second inning. Leading 5-0, the Vikings withstood a gallant comeback by the Pioneers to get the win.

WHS (8-8) scored a run in the third and three more times in the fourth, cutting the deficit to one at 5-4. Max Linville and Baker Stanley each drove in two runs each to highlight the rally. But the Vikings added an all-important insurance run in the sixth that kept WHS at bay.

The Pioneers loaded the bases with one out in the bottom of the seventh, but only managed to score one run on Ethan Critcher's RBI single. Matt Proffitt grounded out to end the game. In all, the Pioneers left eight men on base. For the tournament, WHS left 24 on base. Norris (3-2), who coughed up five earned runs, only last 1 1/3 innings and suffered the loss.

Ryan Turner was the only Pioneers selected to the all-tournament team.

The Pioneers, who went winless at the tournament, now return home to play A.C. Reynolds in a non-conference battle between two former Northwestern 4A foes Friday night. Jake Watts is

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the scheduled starter for the Pioneers.

Our coverage of that game begins at 6 pm on Oldies 100.7 FM.