

Pioneers admitted into the WTAC; Coach Galyon couldn't be happier

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Western Piedmont Community College Athletic Director Chuck Galyon probably couldn't be happier this week.

The Pioneer athletic program, fresh off a rather impressive rookie season in basketball, tennis and golf, has been accepted into the Western Tarheel Athletic Conference effective in September.

"This conference really gives the players something to play for," says Galyon. "It gives us the playoffs to strive for, and if we make it in the first or second place spot, we'll go to the regionals. When you're independent, all you can do is play the season out."

The WTAC changes from a nine-team league to a 10-member conference. Included in the conference makeup is AB-Tech, Caldwell Community College, Catawba Valley

Technical College, Davidson County Community College, Isothermal, Haywood Tech, Wilkes Community College, Mitchell Community College and Surry Community College.

"It's a good conference, probably the strongest in Region 10 (North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia)," says Galyon. They have the strongest membership, and the strongest voting power. I think there are about three other schools in this area that would like to be in the conference. Central Piedmont has applied, and will be on a one-year probation for the 1980-81 season. Southwestern Tech in Sylva and Randolph Tech would also like to be in the conference."

WPCC was unanimously admitted into the league Sunday. Attending the meeting from Western Piedmont were Galyon, WPCC President Wilmon H. Droze, SGA President Carl

Lusk and Chairman of the Athletic Council Odell Witherspoon.

Galyon indicated that WPCC hopes to increase its sports program into cross country and girls' basketball.

"I think it (having an athletic program) is a good drawing card," said Galyon. "We've already noticed a difference."

The Pioneer basketball team, which Galyon coaches, has already set up its 1980-81 schedule. The WPCC cagers will play a full 16-game conference slate and six non-conference games. The Pioneers will also play in three holiday tournaments, including one sponsored by the Morganton Jaycees at the Collett Street Recreation Center Dec. 26-27.

"We'll be playing in a tourney at Lees McRae and one in Asheville during Christmas," says Galyon. "I'm really looking forward for this year...that's for sure."



Four Western Piedmont athletes were named their respective team's Most Valuable performer Saturday. Standing from left to right is basketball

MVP Jeff King, tennis MVP Tom Griffin, golf MVP Rusty Davis, and Most Outstanding cheerleader Teresa Anthony. (Photo by Mark Phillips)