

## **WHS Swimmers Produce Six Regional Qualifiers**

Written by Mike Kelly

Saturday, 22 January 2011 12:35

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The Watauga High swimming team produced six regional qualifiers Friday night at the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference Championships in Valdese, NC.

The WHS women finished third; the men were second. St. Stephens won the women's championship; South Caldwell won the men's title. Sophomore Darby Middlebrook paced WHS by winning two events: the 200 Intermediate in 2:20.76 and the 100 breast stroke in 1:11.75. Middlebrook also qualified for regionals in both events.

The 400 free-style relay team (consisting of Darby Middlebrook, Hailey Middlebrook, Ingrid Forsyth and Doria Kosmala) qualified for regionals by finishing second in 3:59.50.

For the men, the Pioneers qualified two relay teams and an individual. The 200 medley relay team (consisting of Justin Zumbo, Marcus Funston, Cam Haas, and Noah Allain) qualified by finishing second in 1:54.69. Funston qualified in the 100 butterfly by finishing second in 58.63; and the 400 free-style relay qualified as that group (Allain, Justin Zumbo, Sean Zumbo and Funston) finished third in 3:53.34.

Now, the Pioneers have several swimmers with consideration times that could qualify them for regionals competition. Those times will be submitted by WHS coach David Gragg on Thursday, January 27, and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association will announce the final results by no later than next Saturday, January 29.

"We've got some kids that could make it, or they may not," Gragg said. "It's all based on time qualifying, and our conference times were incredibly fast this year. But considering our lack of pool time, fighting the wintry weather we've had, and considering we also lost a couple of meets to all the snow, I couldn't be prouder of my team.

"They did an excellent job. and they put us in a position to contend for the conference championship."

The Class 4A Western Regional will be held at the Huntersville Family-Fitness and Aquatic Center Saturday, February 5. Competition begins at 4 pm.

### **WHS REGIONAL QUALIFIERS:**

#### **WOMEN:**

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Darby Middlebrook: 100 breast stroke; 200 intermidate  
400 free-style relay

### **MEN:**

200 medley relay  
400 free-style relay  
Marcus Funston: 100 butterfly

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### CONSIDERATION TIMES:

#### WOMEN:

200 medley relay (second in 2:05.70); Hailey Middlebrook: 50 free style (second in 27.66) and the 100 free style (third in 59.51); Ingrid Forsyth: 200 free style (fourth in 2:11.61) and the 500 free style (fifth in 5:56.58); Doria Kosmala: 100 butterfly (seventh in 1:13.22) and the 100 back stroke (fourth in 1:10.16); 200 free-style relay (fifth in 1:59.82).

#### MEN:

Cam Haas: 100 breast stroke (third in 1:15.75); Noah Allain: 200 free style (fourth in 2:05.88) and the 500 free style (fourth in 5:52.65); Sam Erwin: 200 intermediate (seventh in 2:31.75) and the 100 back stroke (sixth in 1:10.62); Sean Zumbo: 200 intermediate (fifth in 2:28.13); Marcus Funston: 50 free style (fourth in 24.99); Justin Zumbo: 100 free style (sixth in 57.71); 200 free-style relay (fourth in 1:48.47).

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