

## WHS Women's Track Third At Elite Meet

Written by Mike Kelly  
Sunday, 01 May 2011 12:32

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The Watauga High track teams tuned up for the Class 4A Western Regional next Saturday by competing at an elite track meet in Richmond, Va. this weekend.

The women's team finished third in the Milestat.com Elite Track Meet with 38.50 points. The Pioneers turned in several stellar performances. Leading the way were the 4x800-meter relay team (Hannah Barbour, Julia Roberts, Darby Middlebrook and Hailey Middlebrook), who finished second in the time of 9:28.16. The Pioneers finished eight seconds behind Cosby High School, which won the event in the meet-record time of 9:20.31. That eclipsed the old record of 9:20.91 that was set April 24, 2009.

Darby Middlebrook turned in a strong effort in the 3200-meter run. She completed the course in 10:53.07. Megan Moye of Cosby won the event in 10:44.52. Sydney Cook finished third in the pole vault with an effort of 11-feet, six-inches. Ironically, that effort of 11-6 was the winning height, but Melissa Wilson of Menchville won the event because she cleared the bar in lesser attempts. Debra Dommermuth finished fifth with an effort of ten feet; Laura Gulliver finished seventh (9-6).

Tara Trivette finished third in the high jump with an effort of 5-2; Cook was sixth with an effort of five feet. Cosby won the women's meet with 63 points.

On the men's side, WHS finished 21st with 11.50 points. Atlee won the meet with 56.50 points. Reid Harris and Max Ruble were WHS's highest place finishers on the day, and both competed in the pole vault.

Harris finished second with an effort of 13 feet; Nicholas Judy of Riverbend High won the event by clearing the bar with a jump of 13-3. Ruble tied for fifth with an effort of 12 feet. Both the men's and women's teams will compete at the Class 4A Western Regionals on Saturday at Providence High School in Charlotte.

The field will include teams from the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference, the Southwestern 4A Conference, the I-Meck Conference, the Mountain Athletic 3A/4A Conference and the MEGA 7 Conference. The Class 4A state finals will be held Saturday, May 14 at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, beginning at 10 am.