

## WHS Competes At New Balance Nationals

Written by Mike Kelly

Tuesday, 14 June 2011 21:02

---

The Watauga High women's track team will be well represented at the New Balance Nationals this weekend at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro.

The Pioneers have four individuals and a relay team competing in five events. Leading the way is WHS's 4x800-meter relay team. That group, led by Class 4A cross country state champion Darby Middlebrook, finished third at the Class 4A state track meet in May, ironically on the same track at NC A&T. The rest of that group includes Hailey Middlebrook, Julia Roberts and Hannah Barbour. They were clocked in at 9:21.27, the fifth fastest time in state history. The 4x800 relay team, a first-team All-Northwestern 3A/4A Conference performer, competes at 9:30 pm Friday night in the championship race.

Barbour, a second-team All-NW3A/4A performer in the 1,600-and 800-meter run, will compete in the 2,000-meter steeplechase on Saturday morning at 9:30 am. Laura Gulliver and Debra Dommermuth get things started Thursday afternoon at 3 pm, competing in the pole vault in the Emerging Elite Division.

Gulliver was a second-team All-NW3A/4A Conference performer in the pole vault and the 100-meter high hurdles this spring. Dommermuth turned in a sixth-place finish at the state meet in the pole vault. Sydney Cook will compete in the Championship Segment of the pole vault Friday morning at 10 am; she will compete in the high jump Friday night at 7 pm in the Emerging Elite Division.

Cook, who will attend Appalachian State University this fall on a track scholarship, turned in two top-five finishes at the state meet. She was fifth in the pole vault (11-feet) and finished a four-way tie for fourth place in the high jump (5-2).

And Cook, who was a first-team All-NW3A/4A selection in the pole vault and the high jump, turned in a personal-best effort of 11-9 in the pole vault (at St. Stephens on March 23) this season. That effort left Cook, a two-time NW3A/4A Field Performer of the Year, just four inches shy of the school record of 12-1 set by Sally Gurganus set in 2006.

The WHS men's track team will not have anyone competing this weekend.