

## Kostis Continues To Dominate

Written by Mike Kelly

Sunday, 30 December 2012 14:17

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The Demetreus Kostis juggernaut just keeps rolling along. The Watauga High senior continued his winning ways by taking the championship at 132 pounds at the Tiger Holiday Classic in Chapel Hill on Saturday. Kostis (26-0), who won his fourth tournament

title this season, defeated Ryan Davis of Havelock 5-2 in a tiebreaker in the finals Saturday night. And Kostis is on pace to become WHS' first state-place finisher since 2008 (Savva Kostis, Justin Hyatt and Jacob Earp), and possibly the school's first state champion since 2006 (Travis Coffey and Jacob Earp).

Kostis marched his way to the finals by pinning three opponents along the way. He pinned Sinjin Samaluk of Apex in 1:58 in his first-round match; he pinned Reece Dumpson of Jack Britt in 3:08 in the second round; he won a 3-2 decision against Chris Jaeger of Chatham Central in the quarterfinals, and he pinned Matt Harkins of West Montgomery in 4:08 before he won the title against Davis.

"Demetreus was impressive," said WHS coach Todd Allan. "He was real sick on Tuesday and Wednesday, but he healed up pretty quick for the tournament. What's most impressive is that he beat the No.1 guy (Harkins) in the semifinals, and then he beat the No. 2 guy (Davis) in the finals. He's on a roll right now."

Kostis was WHS' only place finisher. The Pioneers had six wrestlers in the field. WHS finished 29th out of 37 teams with 47 points. Jack Britt won the tournament with 188.5 points.

Creekview, Ga., finished second with 158.5 points.

Mark Townsend (22-9) was 1-2 at 113 pounds; Gus Coffey (25-7), who lost to C.J. White of Jack Britt (in 1:50) in his opening match, went 3-2 at 120 pounds. He worked his way to the fourth round in the consolation bracket by winning three consecutive matches before he was eliminated Drake Swigart from the Durham School of the Arts. Swigart won by sudden victory, 9-4.

"Gus and Mark are just thinking too much," Allan said. "They're very good wrestlers, and they know what to do. They need to react more. But we still have half the season to go. I'm confident they'll turn it around."

Jake Page (14-13) went 0-2 at 160; Jackson Carr (2-16) went 0-2 at 170; Jeremy Critcher went 2-3 at 195. Critcher (15-15) won his opening match by pinning Alvin Johnson of Northern Nash in 11 seconds. But he was pinned by Ian Callahan of Green Hope in 1:35 in his second-round match. Critcher bounced back to win his next match by pinning Lazarus Jones of Spring Valley, S.C., in 27 seconds. But Critcher was eliminated in his final match by Dallas Starnes of Parkway, who pinned him in 4:31.

The Pioneers travel to Marion, N.C., for the McDowell Duals on Saturday.

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**Photo Courtesy: Demetreus Kostis, WHS Athletics**