

## Pioneers Produce Three More State Qualifiers

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Believe it or not, but the outdoor track season is just a little less than two months away. And the Watauga High boys and girls indoor track teams are gearing up for it, thanks in part to some strong

performances indoors. The Pioneers qualified three relay teams for the state meet in February on Tuesday at the JDL Fast Track in Winston-Salem, N.C.

WHS qualified two boys relay teams. The 4x800-meter relay team (Bryan Brackney, Michael Holland, Ryan Hellenbrand, Josh Anderson) finished first in 8:35.33, and the boys 4x400 relay squad (Justin Hall, Ryan Hellenbrand, Bryan Brackney, Zach Styron) finished first in 3:44.04. Brackney also finished first (1:09.14) in the boys 500-meter run; Holland finished second (2:56.44) in the boys 1,000-meter run; Drew Boyette finished third (5:00.55) in the boys 1,600-meter run. Will Vandenberg finished third (11:08.39) in the 3,200-meter run; Styron won the 55-meter hurdles (8.78), and Hall finished second in the triple jump with an effort of 37-feet, .50-inches.

The girls 4x800 relay, led by Madison Harman, Doria Kosmala, Lily Weeks and Kaitlyn Harman, qualified for state by finishing first in 10:28.54.

Madison Harman also finished second (3:17.49) in the girls 1,000; Taylor Drummonds finished second (9.14 seconds) in the girls 55-hurdles. WHS finished third in the 4x400 relay (4:34.55). The Pioneers return to the JDL Fast Track on January 25-26. The state finals will be at the JDL Fast Track on February 9.