

Middlebrook, Two Relays Qualify For State

Written by Mike Kelly

Monday, 04 February 2013 11:06

The Watauga High boys and girls swimming teams will be sending two relay teams and Darby Middlebrook to the North Carolina High School Athletic

Association Class 4A State Swimming/Diving Championships in Cary, N.C., Thursday night. Darby Middlebrook qualified for states by finishing sixth at the Class 4A Western Regional championships in Huntersville, N.C., Saturday in the girls 500-freestyle. She also set a school record in the event by crossing the finish line in the time of 5:22.02.

WHS also qualified both of its 400-freestyle relay teams. The boys team, led by Forrest Brown, Noah Allain, Brandon Michelsen, and Marcus Funston, finished eighth in the time of 3:38.99 and qualified for the state meet; the girls 400 freestyle team, led by Darby Middlebrook, Carson Middlebrook, Julianna Silver and Anne Taylor, turned in an eight-place finish and qualified for state with an effort of 3:55.09.

"After both teams experienced finishing 9th in their first two attempts at getting relays in the state championship meet, the last attempt finally saw both men and women qualify so the state championship meet in Cary on Thursday" said WHS David Gragg. "A few breaks here and there would have allowed all six relay teams to qualify."

The WHS girls had two ninth-place finishes. The 200 medley relay team (Doria Kosmala, Carson Middlebrook, Anne Taylor, Darby Middlebrook) just missed qualifying for state. That group, which set a Northwestern 3A/4A Conference record at the conference championships last Thursday, completed the race in 2:00.91. The Pioneers also had a ninth-place finish in the 200 freestyle relay (Darby Middlebrook, Carson Middlebrook, Maddy Allain, Anne Taylor) as that group crossed the finish line in 1:47.10.

For the boy's team, the 200 medley relay team (Forrest Brown, Josh Herman, Marcus Funston, Noah Allain) finished ninth in 1:51.53; the 200 freestyle relay team (Forrest Brown, Noah Allain, Brandon Michelsen, Marcus Funston) finished ninth in 1:38.83.

"It was that close of a meet," Gragg said. "I thought we swam extremely well and put up our fastest swims of the entire season. We just competed against some really good teams."

Team wise, the WHS girls finished ninth with 77 points; the boys team finished ninth with 60 points. The state preliminaries begin at 9:30 a.m. Thursday morning. The finals begin Friday afternoon around 5 p.m.

SWIMMING RESULTS

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Girls

1. Hough - 514
2. Providence - 419
9. **Watauga - 77**

200 Medley Relay

9. Watauga 2:00.91
(Doria Kosmala, Carson Middlebrook, Anne Taylor, Darby Middlebrook)

100 Free

11. Anne Taylor 57.37

500 Free

6. Darby Middlebrook 5:22.02 **(School Record)***

200 Free Relay

9. Watauga 1:47.10
(Darby Middlebrook, Carson Middlebrook, Maddy Allain, Anne Taylor)

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400 Free Relay

8. Watauga 3:55.09*

(Darby Middlebrook, Carson Middlebrook, Julianna Silver, Anne Taylor)

Boys

1. Hough - 375

2. South Meck - 368

9. **Watauga - 60**

200 Medley Relay

9. Watauga 1:51.53

(Forrest Brown, Josh Herman, Marcus Funston, Noah Allain)

100 Fly

15. Marcus Funston 58.28

100 Free

19. Forrest Brown 53.04

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(Forrest Brown, Noah Allain, Brandon Michelsen, Marcus Funston)

400 Free Relay

8. Watauga 3:38.99*

(Forrest Brown, Noah Allain, Brandon Michelsen, Marcus Funston)

***-STATE QUALIFIERS**