Written by Mike Kelly
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It's been a big year for Demetre Kostis. The Watuaga High junior marched his way to the state tournament on Saturday by winning the Class 4A Western Regional championship at 132 pounds at Cornelius-Hough. Kostis (49-0) kept his record

unblemished as he marched his way through four opponents to claim the regional crown. Kostis, who was the No.1 seed in his weight class, dominated his first the field in his first two matches. He easily disposed of Pike Davis of McDowell, the No.16 seed, 18-2 in the first round, and he defeated Kyle Greenwald of Lake Norman 11-2 in his second match. Kostis survived a scare as he defeated Jalen Hill of North Mecklenburg 9-7 in overtime in the semifinals before he won the title by pinning Steven Owens of Hough by pinfall in 4:51.

Kostis is WHS' only state qualifier. The Pioneers had six wrestlers in the field. Mark Townsend at 113 pounds was 3-2 before he was eliminated by cody Bramhall of Butler 3-1 in overtime in the consolation semifinals. Townsend won all three of his matches by pinfall.

Gus Coffey, a two-time state qualifier, was denied a trip to states his senior year. Coffey, who was 2-2 against the regional field, was eliminated by Jamie Wright of Mooresville by pinfall (4:30) in the consolation semis; Jake Paige was 1-2 at 160 pounds. He lost to Williams Ramos of T.C. Roberson 5-2 in his second consolation match; Jeremy Critcher at 195 and Jackson Lawley at 220 were both 0-2 against the field.

The state championships will be at the Greensboro Coliseum February 28-March 2. The Pioneers haven't had a state-place finisher since 2008 (Jacob Earp and Sava Kostis both finished second that year, Justin Hyatt was third); Travis Coffey at 112 pounds and Jacob Earp at 130 were WHS' last state champions in 2006.

Photo Courtesy: Demetre Kostis, WHS Athletics