Written by Mike Kelly Thursday, 20 October 2011 06:56

The Watauga High boys and girls cross country teams claimed another conference championship, despite a steady rain on Wednesday afternoon.

The WHS women had the top four finishers in the race and six in the top ten as they dominated the field with 17 points. WHS came within two points of a perfect score. Darby Middlebrook defended her conference title by besting the field in 18:27.45. Hannah Barbour finished second (19:31.33), more than a full minute behind Middlebrook, who has developed into WHS's most dominate runner since Ricky Brookshire (who led WHS to a state cross country title in 1999).

"Darby is running very well right now," said WHS coach Randy McDonough. "You can just see the confidence in her. She is very strong on the course, and she sets the pace for us. She hasn't slowed down a bit from last season (when she captured her first state title and set a course record as well at Beeson Park in Kernersville)."

Madison Harman (19:53.46) finished third on Wednesday and Hailey Middlebrook (20:00.72) was fourth; Julia Roberts was eighth and Molly Ruble finished tenth. Team-wise, WHS outdistanced Fred T. Foard by the whopping margin of 42 points for the title.

The WHS boys bested the field with 24 points. Like the girls, WHS simply dominated. The Pioneers had the top three finishers in the field and five in the top ten. Peter Vandenberg led the way winning the conference title in 16:43.22. Josh Anderson finished a strong second in 17:12.09; Andrew Vandenberg finished third (17:19.48). Bryan Brackney was eighth and Avery Pitts was tenth.

"Peter has been solid all year," McDonough said. "He's really dedicated himself this season. His work ethic has been outstanding, and the results have shown all year. He's put together a good season. And so have our guys. We're young, but we've gotten some great results from them." Fred T. Foard finished a distant second with 73 points; Alexander Central finished third. Up next, the Class 4A Western Regional at McAlpine Park in Charlotte. Providence High School will host the event. Middlebrook won the regional championship on thaT course last fall.

Event 1 Boys 5k Run CC

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Name Year School Finals Points ______ 1 Vandenberg, Peter 0 0 0 0 0 0 11 Watauga 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 16:43.22 0 0 0 10 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 Anderson, Josh 00000000 11 Watauga 000000000 17:12.09000 200000000000 4 Warren, Jake 12 Alexander Central 17:33.43 4 5 Bauguess, Broderick 9 FT Foard 17:34.91 5 6 Craig, Alex 11 South Caldwell 17:36.33 6 7 Killian, Zack 12 Hickory 17:50.97 7 8 Brackney, Bryan 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 11 Watauga 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 17:51.17000 8 9 McNeil, Tres 12 St. Stephens 18:04.22 9 011 Seagle, Robert 000000000 12 Watauga 0000000000 18:10.9100 11000000000 13 Rice, Will 9 FT Foard 18:22.50 13 14 Becker, Josh 10 Hickory 18:32.07 14 17 Ortega, Paco 12 Alexander Central 18:45.42 15 19 Sadowski, Joe 10 Hickory 18:49.67 16 9 FT Foard 20 Meade, Nathaniel 18:51.53 17 21 Ellwanger, Chatham 10 FT Foard 18:52.11 18 22 Henry, Tyler 10 South Caldwell 18:56.69 19 **23 Harrelson, Andrew** 25 Swink, Patrick 11 FT Foard 19:03.35 20

Team Scores

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Rank Team Total 1 2 3 4 5 *6 *7 *8 *9

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000000 Average: 000 17:26.08

2 FT Foard 73 5 13 17 18 20 23 25

Total Time: 1:32:44.40 Average: 18:32.88

3 Alexander Central 93 4 15 21 26 27 28 29

Total Time: 1:34:57.77 Average: 18:59.56

4 Hickory 93 7 14 16 24 32 34 35

Total Time: 1:34:56.68 Average: 18:59.34

5 South Caldwell 143 6 19 31 43 44 46 48

Total Time: 1:41:43.37 Average: 20:20.68

6 St. Stephens 161 9 36 37 39 40 41 45

Total Time: 1:41:37.59 Average: 20:19.52

7 Hibriten 165 22 30 33 38 42 47

Total Time: 1:42:44.26 Average: 20:32.86

Event 2 Girls 5k Run CC

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0 3 Harman, Madison 0000000 11 Watauga 000000000 19:53.46000 3000000000 0 4 Middlebrook, Hailey 0 0 0 0 12 Watauga 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 20:00.72 0 0 4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 5 Hull. Courtney 11 FT Foard 20:25.45 5 6 Rayfield, Kaitlyn 11 FT Foard 20:32.21 7 Braswell, Kady 11 Hibriten 21:08.97 8 Roberts, Julia 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 12 Watauga 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 21:16.11 0 0 0 7 9 Lemoreaux, Jackie 10 Hickory 21:40.95 8 0 12 Shultz-Coulon, Anna 0 0 0 0 0 11 Watauga 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 21:52.91 13 Walker, Cierra 10 Alexander Central 21:53.25 11 16 Poovey, Cere 9 Alexander Central 22:12.97 12 17 Jones, Jessica 11 FT Foard 22:19.66 13 18 Robinson, Elizabeth 10 FT Foard 22:20.88 14 19 Juerges, Ella 9 Hickory 22:26.61 15 20 Adams, Rachel 12 South Caldwell 22:34.48 16 21 Gaither, Amelia 11 Hickory 22:41.35 17 **23 Wangler, Lynde 10 Uatauga 10 Watauga 23:03.85** 24 Craft, Jennifer 10 Hickory 23:10.57 18 25 Jonas, Jordi 11 Alexander Central 23:12.75 19 ======= Rank Team Total 1 2 3 4 5 *6 *7 *8 *9 ======= 2 FT Foard 59 5 6 13 14 21 24 25

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> Total Time: 1:48:57.61 Average: 21:47.53

3 Hickory 78 8 15 17 18 20 32 35

Total Time: 1:53:17.29 Average: 22:39.46

4 Alexander Central 87 11 12 19 22 23 28 31

Total Time: 1:54:01.22 Average: 22:48.25

5 South Caldwell 131 16 26 27 29 33 37 42

Total Time: 1:59:09.92 Average: 23:49.99

6 St. Stephens 177 30 34 36 38 39 40 41

Total Time: 2:05:48.03 Average: 25:09.61