

Middlebrook Finishes 12th At South Regional

Written by Mike Kelly

Sunday, 27 November 2011 15:41

Darby Middlebrook finished two places and four seconds shy of becoming Watauga High's first national qualifier in women's cross country on Saturday

at the Footlocker South Regional at McAlpine Park in Charlotte.

The WHS junior, who was a second-place finisher at the Class 4A state cross country meet on November 5 in Kernersville, finished 12th against a very competitive field in the Women's Seeded Race. She covered the 3.10-mile course tying a personal-best effort of 17:36. Lily Williams of Florida nailed down the tenth and final spot, qualifying for nationals. She crossed the finish line in 17:32 and will advance on to nationals in San Diego, CA., next month.

"They were really flying out there," said WHS coach Randy McDonough. "It was a very fast field on a very fast track. Darby had an excellent time. The field she was up against was just a little bit better."

Samantha George of Raleigh-Millbrook, who won the Class 4A championship after finished second behind Middlebrook in last fall, finished sixth in 17:15 and earned a trip to San Diego.

Cali Roper of Texas won the women's race in the blistering time of 17:02.

The last WHS runner to qualify for nationals was Ricky Brookshire in 1999. The Pioneers have never had a women qualifier. Hannah Barbour was 161st (20:44).

Hailey Middlebrook of the Pioneers finished 19th in the women's senior race. She crossed the finish line in 19:47. Brooke Blackwell was 64th in the girls freshman race (24:15).

For the men, Peter Vandenberg, who finished eighth at the Class 4A state meet and earned All-State honors, was 67th in the Men's Seeded Race on Saturday. He completed the 3.10-mile course in 15:53. Craig Nowak of Texas won the race in 14:37, finishing five seconds shy of tying the course record of 14:32 set by Andrew Bumbalough of Brentwood Academy in Tennessee in 2004.

"Peter had another solid effort on Saturday," McDonough said. "I know his place wasn't the greatest, but look at his time. He ran a heck of a race and held his own against a very strong field. It's typical of Peter, and really any of the Vandenberg's. They're dependable runners, and they always give us a strong effort."

Josh Anderson was 129th (16:23) and Andrew Vandenberg was 148th (16:32). Bryan Brackney had a stellar effort in the men's junior race finished 13th in 16:23. Carson Nguyen was 74th (17:20) and Avery Pitts was 78th (17:24). Dustin Hickernell was 106th, Dylan Lewis was 163rd and Nick Younger was 229th.

Matt Osborne was 114th in the boys sophomore race (17:44); Jacob Soule was 161st.

The indoor track season officially begins Saturday, December 10 at the Eastern Alamance Polar Bear Meet. Kevin Shaw, who coaches hurdles, jumps and sprints, takes over as head coach this season for Daniel Isaacs, who is moving to Hawaii with his family.

Middlebrook Finishes 12th At South Regional

Written by Mike Kelly

Sunday, 27 November 2011 15:41

Foot Locker South Regional Saturday, November 26, 2011 McAlpine Greenway Charlotte, NC Seeded Girls Results

Girls 5000 Meter Run

1. Cali Roper (12) TX #1 17:02
2. Sophie Chase (11) VA #1 17:06
3. Grace Tinkey (11) GA #1 17:08
4. Megan Moye (12) VA #2 17:11
5. Olivia Ortiz (11) FL #1 17:13
6. Samantha George (12) NC #1 17:15
7. Bridget Blake (11) FL #2 17:26
8. Alana Hadley (9) NC #2 17:27
9. Karis Jochen (11) TX #2 17:31
10. Lily Williams (12) FL #3 17:32
11. Shelby Davidson (12) FL #4 17:33
12. **Darby Middlebrook (11) NC #3 17:36**
13. Margaret Drazba (11) WV #1 17:40
14. Maggie Montoya (11) AR #1 17:40
15. Cassidy Hale (11) KY #1 17:41
16. Allie Klimkiewicz (9) VA #3 17:42
17. Audrey Batzel (12) VA #4 17:43
18. Anne-Marie Blaney (12) FL #5 17:47
19. Rachel Roberts (12) AL #1 17:48
20. Crystal Nelson (12) VA #5 17:50

Middlebrook Finishes 12th At South Regional

Written by Mike Kelly

Sunday, 27 November 2011 15:41

Seeded Boys Results

1. Craig Nowak (12) TX #1 14:37
2. Ahmed Bile (12) VA #1 14:38
3. Daniel Vertiz (12) TX #2 14:40
4. Joshua Brickell (11) GA #1 14:41
5. Thomas Graham (12) NC #1 14:52
6. Sean McGorty (11) VA #2 14:54
7. Jacob Thomson (11) KY #1 14:55
8. Thomas Madden (11) VA #3 14:56
9. Mark Blackmon (12) NC #2 15:01
10. Robert Domanic (11) TX #3 15:02
11. Christopher Godwin (12) FL #1 15:10
12. Jack Manesiotis (11) SC #1 15:13
13. James McAlister (12) NC #3 15:15
14. Eric Graf (12) WV #1 15:15
15. Bailey Roth (10) GA #2 15:16
16. Brent Coulter (12) VA #4 15:18
17. Paul Gates (12) VA #5 15:19
18. Jacob Sears (12) NC #4 15:21
19. Max Del Monte (12) FL #2 15:22
20. Craig Engels (12) NC #5 15:23

Top Ten Finishers in the Men's and Women's Races Advance To Nationals in San Diego, CA.

Middlebrook Finishes 12th At South Regional

Written by Mike Kelly

Sunday, 27 November 2011 15:41

Photo Courtesy: Darby Middlebrook, by Sheila Kelly