

Pioneers Swimmers Compete At NW3A/4A Championships

Written by Mike Kelly

Monday, 23 January 2012 08:48

The Watauga High men's and women's swimming team hosted the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference championships Friday in Valdese. St. Stephens won the women's championship, besting the field with 316 points. Hickory finished second with 259; WHS finished

third with 245 points.

And the Pioneers also won two events. The Pioneers won the 200 medley relay (Hailey Middlebrook, Darby Middlebrook, Doria Kosmala, Anne Taylor) in 2:03.94. Darby Middlebrook won the 100 breast stroke in 1:10.74. WHS also finished second in the women's 400 free-style relay, and Marinela Procopii finished second in the 100 breast stroke (1:12.73), Lauren Arrington finished third (1:17.47). Anne Taylor finished third in the 100 free style (58.31) and the 50 free style (26.39). Darby Middlebrook was third in the 200 IM (2:21.50).

The WHS men finished second with 296 points. South Caldwell won the meet with 314 points. The WHS men did not win any events, but they posted five second-place finishes. Forrest Brown finished in the 100 free-style (53.71) and the 200 free style (2:00.14). The Pioneers also finished second in the 200 medley relay (Sam Erwin, Justin Zumbo, Marcus Funston, Forrest Brown) in 1:51.70, the 400 free-style relay (Forrest Brown, Justin Zumbo, Noah Allain, Marcus Funston) in 3:41.42, and in the 200 free-style relay (Sam Erwin, Sean Zumbo, Noah Allain, Brandon Michelson) in 1:44.71.

"Other than winning, I could not be more proud of this team," said WHS coach David Gragg.

"They performed well and allowed themselves to be factors for the conference title. We do not have the same number of year-round swimmers that St. Stephens, Hickory, and South Caldwell have on their rosters. We basically compete off three months of training while these other teams might take two weeks off during the entire year. Sava Turcanu (St. Stephens) and Jake Pierce (Fred. Foard) are two of the top male swimmers in North Carolina. Janie Kennedy (Hickory), Leah Watts (Fred T. Foard), and Marinela Procopii (St. Stephens) are some of North Carolina's top women.

"They are all extremely versatile and tough to beat in big meets. I am glad my swimmers like to compete and are willing to push themselves. I told the kids I had two options heading into the meet. We could go conservative and know we could not win or go for the win and possibly have us far to 5th or push ourselves to win. When we went risky, there was not any flexibility. If there was a disqualification or bad swim, we were in trouble. Luckily we fought and overcame same issues along the way. I was extremely proud how my staff had the kids ready for the meet."

The Class 4A Western Regionals will be held in Huntersville, NC, on Saturday, February 4.

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NORTHWESTERN 3A/4A CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Women

1. St. Stephens 316
2. Hickory 259
- 3. Watauga 245**
4. Fred T. Foard 221
5. South Caldwell 220
6. Hibriten 198
7. Alexander Central

200 Medley Relay

1. Watauga 2:03.94
(Hailey Middlebrook, Darby Middlebrook, Doria Kosmala, Anne Taylor)
2. Fred T. Foard 2:04.51
3. South Caldwell 2:04.88

200 Free

1. Rachel Ponti (SC) 2:04.56
2. Abigail McREa (HK) 2:06.57
3. Nanami Miyazaki (SS) 2:13.16

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4. Hailey Middlebrook 2:14.36
13. Sidney Wiswell 2:38.06
15. Kaitlyn Erwin 2:39.12
20. Suzy Barker 2:57.93
21. Riley Dobbins 3:01.31

200 IM

1. Leah Watts (F) 2:14.97
2. Samantha Merta (HK) 2:20.66
3. Darby Middlebrook 2:21.50
8. Tori Placentra 2:44.03
17. Sophia Prisco 3:23.20

50 Free

1. Janie Kennedy (HK) 25.72
2. Lauren Arrington (SC) 26.30
3. Anne Taylor 26.39
9. Alise Blair 30.87
11. Cheyenne Hayler 31.18
12. Kylie Winklemann 31.63
23. Brittany Brown 34.43
35. Emiline Greer 37.31
36. Ciara Dallas 37.42
38. Megan O'Keefe 38.33
45. Hanna Reeves 42.96
47. Megan Critcher 45.02

100 Fly

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1. Kelsey Gregory (HB) 1:05.46
2. Amelia King (SC) 1:06.59
3. Katie Knecht (SS) 1:07.65
7. Doria Kosmala 1:12.91
9. Tori Placentra 1:17.64
15. Sophia Prisco 1:41.64

100 Free

1. Marinela Procoii (SS) 57.28
2. Rachel Ponti (SC) 57.61
3. Anne Taylor 58.31
11. Dakota Wilson 1:09.28
16. Cheyenne Hayler 1:14.57
17. Kylie Winkleman 1:15.95
20. Suzy Barker 1:17.08
28. Olivia Fowler 1:25.15
30. Kat Welsh 1:25.50
32. Brittany Brown 1:25.63
34. Emiline Greer 1:26.32
37. Ciara Dallas 1:29.59
42. Hanna Reeves 1:39.60
45. Megan Critcher 1:45.15

500 Free

1. Leah Watts (F) 5:25.35
2. Kelsey Gregory (HB) 5:34.58
3. Abigail McRea (HK) 5:40.41
10. Sidney Wiswell 7:16.06
12. Kaitlyn Erwin 7:28.04

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200 Free Relay

1. Hickory 1:48.03
2. Fred T. Foard 1:50.84
3. South Caldwell 1:51.12
6. Watauga 2:02.10

100 Back

1. Janie Kennedy (HK) 1:04.13
2. Jessica Burgess (SS) 1:06.19
3. Julie Bottoms (HB) 1:07.11
5. Hailey Middlebrook 1:08.65
6. Doria Kosmala 1:11.58
15. Dakota Wilson 1:23.50
23. Olivia Fowler 1:35.38
25. Kat Welsh 1:41.93
28. Megan O'Keefe 1:48.75

100 Breast

1. Darby Middlebrook 1:10.74
2. Marinela Procopii 1:12.73
3. Lauren Arrington 1:17.47
8. Alise Blair 1:24.20
12. Riley Dobbins 1:31.23

400 Free Relay

1. Hickory 3:55.90

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2. Watauga 3:59.53
(Hailey Middlebrook, Doria Kosmala, Darby Middlebrook, Anne Taylor)
3. St. Stephens 4:03.38

Men

1. South Caldwell 314
- 2. Watauga 296**
3. St. Stephens 261
4. Hickory 219
5. Fred T. Foard 206
6. Hibriten 110
7. Alexander Central 108

200 Medley Relay

1. South Caldwell 1:48.33
2. Watauga 1:51.70
(Sam Erwin, Justin Zumbo, Marcus Funston, Forrest Brown)
3. St. Stephens 1:52.14

200 Free

1. Sami Alkoutami (SS) 1:56.98

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2. Forrest Brown 2:00.14
3. Cole Jensen (F) 2:10.82
4. Ben Watson 2:11.82
- DQ – Brandon Michelson 2:09.62

200 IM

1. Sava Turcanu (SS) 2:01.32
2. Nick Gibson (SC) 2:03.72
3. Alex Ivanov (SS) 2:34.38
4. Noah Allain 2:26.72
5. Sam Erwin 2:31.18
6. Josh Herman 2:35.00

50 Free

1. Collin Hites (HB) 23.20
2. Clay Graves (SC) 23.41
3. Stuart Williams (HK) 24.27
4. Marcus Funston 24.70
12. Berkley Wilcox 27.00
28. Alex Parsons 31.34
29. John Vollmer 32.40
34. Peter Vandenberg 36.39

100 Fly

1. Jake Pierce (F) 54.97
2. Devin Abernathy (SC) 57.14
3. Marcus Funston 58.37
5. Noah Allain 1:02.13

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7. Sean Zumbo 1:04.81

100 Free

1. Clay Graves (SC) 51.94
2. Forrest Brown 53.71
3. Collin Danner 54.68
6. Justin Zumbo 58.11
27. Alex Parsons 1:17.38
28. Peter Vandenberg 1:17.90

500 Free

1. Sava Turcanu (SS) 4:51.12
2. Nick Gibson (SC) 5:01.82
3. Zack Muehl (SC) 5:36.86
5. Brandon Michelson 5:56.44
7. Ben Watson 6:24.23
15. Adam Patton 8:01.44

200 Free Relay

1. Hickory 1:43.33
2. Watauga 1:44.71
(Sam Erwin, Sean Zumbo, Noah Allain, Brandon Michelson)
3. Fred T. Foard 1:45.27
- DQ – South Caldwell 1:38.41

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100 Back

1. Devin Abernathy (SC) 59.95
2. Stuart Williams (HK) 1:02.88
3. Justin Zumbo 1:04.16
6. Sam Erwin 1:07.86
17. Adam Patton 1:30.73
18. John Vollmer 1:35.93

100 Breast

1. Jake Pierce (F) 1:04.15
2. Collin Hites (HB) 1:05.53
3. Sami Alkoutami (SS) 1:10.36
7. Josh Herman 1:16.93
9. Sean Zumbo 1:18.22
17. Berkley Wilcox 1:25.12

400 Free Relay

1. St. Stephens 3:37.46
2. Watauga 3:41.32
(Forrest Brown, Justin Zumbo, Noah Allain, Marcus Funston)
3. Fred T. Foard 3:51.30