Written by Staff Reports Monday, 06 February 2012 07:54

The Watuaga High men's and women's swimming teams closed out the season on a positive note Saturday at the Class 4A Western Regional in Huntersville, N.C. WHS qualified for state in three events, the 200 Medley Relay, the 400 Free Relay, and Darby Middlebrook qualified in

the 100 breast stroke. They all finished in the top 8 and advanced to the state meet. WHS finished eighth in the 200 medley relay (Darby Middlebrook, Hailey Middlebrook, Doria Kosmala and Anna Taylor) in 2:03.47; seventh in the 400 free style relay (Darby Middlebrook, Hailey Middlebrook, Kosmala and Taylor) in 3:57.62; Darby Middlebrook finished eighth in the 100 breast stroke in 1:10.74.

But because of a scheduling conflict with the state inddor track meet on Saturday, "we made the decision to scratch from the meet," said WHS coach David Gragg. "It was a difficult decision for the girls, but one that I understood might have to happen. When the state rotates the meets between classifications, there are years it becomes an issue and this just happened to be that year. I was proud of the girls for working hard enough to advance and look forward to Anne Taylor, who swam a season best in the 100 Free, and Doria Kosmala rebounding from the setback and swimming hard next year to get back."

The WHS men did not produce a state qualifier. Marcus Funston was 12th in the 100 butterfly (57.85); WHS finished 14th in the 200 medley relay (Funston, Sam Erwin, Ben Watson and Noah Allain) in 1:58.65; the Pioneers finished 15th in the 400 free style relay (Funston, Watson, Allain, and Erwin) in 3:49.80; and that group was disqualified in the 200 free style relay. "Our relays came together after swimming together for about two weeks," Gragg said. "Several of the guys had not been on the 'A' relay stepped up and had some good swims. I was proud of all the swimmers. Considering we have an extremely strong region, we performed well against the competition. I wish we would have been able to swim at the state meet, but their accomplishments cannot be dampened by the conflict."

Team wise, the WHS women finished ninth; the men were 14th. Hough won the women's regional title; Providence won the men's championship.

Women

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- 1. W. A. Hough 432.50
- 2. Ardrey Kell 383.50
- 3. Providence 368.50
- 4. S. Meck 257
- 5. Lake Norman 179
- 9. Watauga 66

200 Medley Relay

8. Watauga 2:03.47 (Hailey Middlebrook, Darby Middlebrook, Doria Kosmala, Anne Taylor)

200 IM

14. Darby Middlebrook

50 Free Style

16. Anne Taylor 24.48

100 Free Style

- 12. Anne Taylor 57.85
- 23. Hailey Middlebrook 59.89

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100 Back Stroke

- 18. Hailey Middlebrook 1:08.54
- 23. Doria Kosmala 1:11.72

100 Breast Stroke

8. Darby Middlebrook 1:10.74

400 Free Style Relay

7. Watauga 3:57.62 (Hailey Middlebrook, Doria Kosmala, Darby Middlebrook, Anne Taylor)

Men

- 1. Providence 379.50
- 2. W. A. Hough 362.50
- 3. Ardrey Kell 241.67
- 4. Lake Norman 241
- 5. S Meck 227.67
- 8. South Caldwell 89
- 14. Watauga 15

200 Medley Relay

14. Watauga 1:58.65

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(Sam Erwin, Ben Watson, Marcus Funston, Noah Allain)

100 Butterfly

12. Marcus Funston 57.85

200 Free Style Relay

DQ - 1:43.25

(Noah Allain, Sam Erwin, Ben Watson, Marcus Funston)

400 Free Style Relay

15. Watauga 3:49.80 (Noah Allain, Sam Erwin, Ben Watson, Marcus Funston)