

WHS Swimmers Earn All-NW3A/4A Honors

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The Watauga High men's and women's swimming teams had five relay teams and two individuals earn All-Northwestern 3A/4A Conference honors in 2011-12. For the women, Darby Middlebrook earned all-conference honors in three events. She was named first team all-NW3A/4A in the 100 breast stroke, and she was also

a member of WHS's 200 medley relay team (Darby Middlebrook, Hailey Middlebrook, Anne Taylor and Doria Kosmala) that earned first-team honors. Middlebrook was also a member of the 400 free-style relay (Darby Middlebrook, Hailey Middlebrook, Anne Taylor and Doria Kosmala), which was named second-team all conference.

Forrest Brown earned all-conference accolades in four events. He was a second-team selection in the the 100-and 200-free style events; and he was also a member of the 200-medley and 400-free style relays. The Pioneers earned second-team all-NW3A/4A honors in the 200 medley relay (Justin Zumbo, Sam Erwin, Forrest Brown, Marcus Funston), the 200 free style relay (Sam Erwin, Sean Zumbo, Brandon Michelson, Noah Allain) and the 400 free style relay (Forrest Brown, Justin Zumbo, Noah Allain, Marcus Funston).

David Gragg was named Co-Coach of the Year in men's swimming, sharing the honor with Brent Tomberlin of South Caldwell. Jake Pierce of Fred T. Foard was named Swimmer of the Year on the men's side; Leah Watts of Fred T. Foard and Janie Kennedy of Hickory shared Swimmer of the Year honors on the women's side. LeeAnn Privett of St. Stephens was named Coach of the Year.

The WHS women finished in third place in the NW3A/4A Conference this season. St. Stephens won the conference title; the WHS men finished second. South Caldwell won the men's championship. The WHS women also produced three state qualifiers at the Class 4A Western Regional in Huntersville on February 4----the 200 medley and the 400 free style relays, and Darby Middlebrook in the 100 breast stroke----but because of a scheduling conflict with the indoor state track meet on February 11, WHS was forced to miss the state swimming meet. Darby Middlebrook won the state championship in the women's 1600-meter run at the state indoor meet.