

WHS Women Spice Up Taco Bell Invite

Written by Mike Kelly
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Watauga High women's track coach Randy McDonough must be smiling from ear to ear following his team's performance Saturday at the Taco Bell Invitational in Columbia, S.C. The Pioneers posted five top-ten finishes and finished tenth in a very competitive field with 20 points. More importantly, they finished ahead of Class 4A rivals,

North Mecklenburg (tied for 14th), Greensboro Dudley (tied for 28th), Butler, Hopewell, Providence (tied for 33rd), T.C. Roberson (37th), East Forsyth (41st) and West Charlotte (45th). The 4x800 relay team (Madison Harman, Darby Middlebrook, Hailey Middlebrook and Julia Roberts) got things started Friday night by finishing first and besting the field by three seconds (9:22.33). It was the only event WHS won, but Darby Middlebrook finished third in the mile run (5:00.14); Harman finished 14th in that event (5:16.23). Hailey Middlebrook finished fifth in the 800-meter run (2:20.49), the 4x400 relay team was ninth (4:10.26) and Taylor Drummonds tied for tenth in the women's pole vault with a jump of 10-feet.

Roberts finished 16th in the 400 (1:01.26); Kathleen Mansure was 33rd in the 3,200 (12:25.81); Alison Seramur tied for 19th in the pole vault (nine-feet). Middle College won the meet with 43 points; West Mecklenburg (the only Class 4A school from North Carolina to finish ahead of WHS) finished second with 37 points.

Reid Harris and Andrew Vandenberg turned in WHS's best efforts on the men's side. Harris tied for fifth in the pole vault with a jump of 14-feet; Vandenberg finished eighth in the 3,200 as he crossed the finish line in 9:33.51. Max Ruble was 14th in the pole vault (13-feet); Josh Anderson was 28th in the 3,200 (9:51.74); Bryan Brackney was 20th in the 800 (2:00.09); and the 4x400 relay team was 23rd (3:32.77). Team wise, the Pioneers tied for 52nd with three points; Berry Academy won the meet with 31.5 points; Crest finished second with 30 points.

The Pioneers will compete at the Porter Relays in Lenior Wednesday.