

Middlebrook Leads WHS At Adidas Challenge

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As usual, when the stakes are high, Watauga High senior Darby Middlebrook usually delivers in a big way. Take Saturday for instance. The WHS men's and women's cross country teams ventured to Cary, N.C., for the Adidas Cross

Country Challenge. And Middlebrook turned in another strong effort against a very competitive field in the Women's Championship Race.

She finished second in 18:02.8 at the WakeMed Soccer Complex. Sophomore Eliza Dekker of Durham Academy won the race in 17:44.2. Madison Harman was 16th in the field completing the race in 19:07.4. Those efforts by Middlebrook and Harman are also national standards in the 5,000-meter run. The Pioneers finished third as a team with 149 points. Cardinal Gibbons won the meet with 115 points.

Middlebrook also finished ahead of Brooke Gordon of T.C. Roberson, who finished fifth in 18:24.6. Kathleen Mansure of the Pioneers was 30th (19:45.3).

Kaitlyn Herman of the Pioneers finished 11th (14:21.4) in the JV Girls White Race; Taylor McKinney was 22nd (14:57.1). The Pioneers finished third as a team with 96 points. Jesse Wangler finished 35th in the JV Girls Red Race in 22:44.3. WHS finished ninth with 241 points.

On the men's side, Josh Anderson paced WHS in the Men's Championship Race with a 14th-place finish (15:59.3); Peter Vandenberg was 45th (16:35.6). The Pioneers finished fifth with 266 points. Blacksburg, Va., won the meet with 57 points. Midlothian finished a distant second with 147 points.

Jacob Soule turned in a 22nd-place finish (18:36.9) in the JV Boys Red Race II; Ryan Hellenbrand was 35th (19:05.4). WHS finished seventh with 87 points. Matthew Hellenbrand was 19th (12:38.0) in the JV Boys White Race. Caleb Zimmerman was 28th (12:52.2). WHS will have some runners competing in an Ashe County High meet Monday. The Pioneers will host the High Country Classic on September 29.