

Kostis Leads WHS In Season Opener

Written by Staff Reports

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Demetre Kostis picked up right where he left off last season. The Northwestern 3A/4A Conference wrestler of the year and a state qualifier paced the Watauga High wrestling team on Saturday in its season opener at Cornelius-Hough High School.

The Pioneers had seven place finishers on the day and they finished eighth out of 13 teams. They finished less than five points out of sixth place.

Kostis won the championship at 132 pounds, and he was also named the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler. Kostis, who was 50-2 last season, defeated defending Class 2A state champion Franklin Wepner of Newton Conover 6-1 in finals.

Gabe Irwin reached the finals at 160 pounds for the first time in his career by defeating Blake Mead Asheville-Robertson by pin in one minute, 57-seconds. He lost in the finals and finished second.

Mark Townsend finished third at 120 pounds. He dropped an 8-6 match in overtime in the semifinals and won his third-place match 4-3 to finish third. That was also Townsend's 100th career win.

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"Overall I was pleased with the guys effort," said WHS coach Todd Allan. "Half of them are young and lack the experience, and a handful of them just got done with football and just aren't in good enough shape yet. But I'm still please with what we accomplished."

WHS will host the 12th annual Old Appalachian Invitational Wednesday at Lentz-Eggers Gym beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Photo Courtesy: Demetre Kostis (middle) celebrates with his teammates and coach Todd Allan, WHS Athletics