



VHSL 4A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WRAPUP
Feb 17, 2018



9 Hawk swimmers competed at States this year (8 boys, 1 girl). The boys finished 8th and the girls (girl actually) tied for 25th out of a total of 36 teams. Two team records were broken. The boys 200 freestyle relay of **Marshall Brooks, Jack Hufner, Patrick Townsend and Luke Daley** broke their own record set last weekend at Regions going a 1:29.64 – first time under 1:30.00. Sophomore Luke Daley broke the 200 freestyle record with a time of 1:46.72.

Senior Patrick Townsend was the team's top performer posting 3rd place in the 100 fly and 6th in the 100 back. **Claire Grant and Luke Daley** had exceptional meets with both going 2 for 2 best times.

The following swimmers participated at states:

Josh Altman (Sr), Marshall Brooks (Sr), Luke Daley (So), Jacob Eisele (Fr), Claire Grant (Jr), Jack Hufner (So), Ross Newton (Sr), Ben Schoenwiesner (Fr), Patrick Townsend (Sr).

Meet Notes and Observations:

Claire's 1:02.73 in the 100 back represents the fastest 100 back swim since Lindsey Pierce set the current team record back in 2009.

Luke's 52.62 in the 100 back represent a Junior National qualifying standard – his first.

Class 4A swimming continues to blow up. Last year nearly every state record was broken at this meet. This year 16 new records were set (out of 22 events). Examples:

Last year to make top 16 in the boys 200 freestyle the time was a 1:52.0. This year, 1:48.84.

Last year to make the top 16 in the boys 500 freestyle the time was a 5:18.50. This year, 4:54.61. This is a 24 second difference!

My good friend, Karen Seeber, the Atlee Head Coach, likes to give me hard time about how much fast 5A is. Not this year. In more than half of the events 4A had faster winning times than 5A. A comparison with 6A also shows that 4A was competitive in most events. The state qualifying standards are sure to get much faster next year.

As an alternate it pays to be prepared. **Sophomore Jack Hufner** was first alternative for the 500 freestyle. At an important championship meet like this, alternates will not usually get to swim. However, due to an illness, a competitor had to back out and Jack got an opportunity to swim.

What an outstanding meet to watch. Although our team was not involved in vying for the State Championship I found myself watching the meet through the final event – the girl’s 400 free relay. On both sides, the meet came down to the final race of the evening. Jefferson Forest led Monacan 193-190 going into the relay. Winner take all. Jefferson Forest took an early commanding lead through the first two swimmers but Monacan cut the lead down to a body length going into the final four lengths. Jefferson Forest held on for win and the State title.

The girl’s side was even more dramatic. Blacksburg clung to a half point lead over King George, 195.5 to 195. Jamestown was hanging around in 3rd place at 192. After the first two swimmers, Blacksburg powered out strong from an outside lane and found itself in second place. King George and Jamestown were buried fighting for fifth and sixth place,. During the third leg, both King George and Jamestown pulled up just behind Blacksburg setting up a wild finish. King George would have to beat Blacksburg to win the title. Jamestown would not only have to beat King George and Blacksburg but would need to place two spots or better to win. During those last four lengths, the pool arena was deafening with the cheering. Jamestown pulled out a 2nd place finish. King George and Blacksburg faded to 6th and 7th respectively. Jamestown pulled out a five point victory to win its fourth straight state title.

Scores:

Boys

Jefferson Forest	233
Monacan	224
Kettle Run	162.5
Lafayette	154
Salem	147
Loudoun	119
Courtland	114
Hanover	101.5

Girls

Jamestown	226
King George	221
Blacksburg	220.5
Monacan	215
Riverside	205
Hanover	9 th (tied for 25 th)