

Class A could turn out to be a very interesting meet after Sectionals. ACS came out of 1A East very strong qualifying 26 scoring opportunities (probably a record given Sectionals) All the speed will be coming out of the 1A West though. Wesleyan, who is no stranger at the Podium, may have the best shot at bringing ACS down a step. Other teams that should pop up on the 'old manual scoreboards' are OLM, Mt.Zion Carrollton, Athens Academy, FPD, Darlington, Baconton Charter, Chattahoochee County, Gordon Lee and Galloway. Look for over 10 teams to score 20 points.

ACS - 26 chances to score.... Defending Team State Champs are going for a 3-peat. Individual Defending Champions are: Destiny Jenkins 800 /1600; Mary Echols 300 Hurdles (2010); 4x4 Relay - 2 time defending champs; Other athletes of note: Bryanne Acker, 2nd fastest time in 800 in state this year; Natasha Braughton in the 400; Samantha Cortese in the shot and discus; Brea Byrd in the pole vault. ACS has (2) 4 x 100 squads at state and (2) 4 x 400 teams at state, possibly the only team at state to qualify 4 relay squads. Coach Cummings says, "To 3 peat we will have to beat a very strong Wesleyan team that is good in the field events, but we have the opportunity to score 40 points or more the last 4 events Saturday (800 / 200 / 300 hurdles/ 4 x 4) coming down the stretch."

Wesleyan- The Lady Wolves are ferocious in the Field Events and no doubt should atop the 'ol leaderboard' when Finals begin Saturday after opening ceremonies. Katie Frerking won an intense HJ competition at West Sectionals clearing 5-6 and along with teammate Hannah Hoskin could seize big points early. Holli Wilkins is capable of scoring big in the Discus and Shot placing 2nd at Sections. India Welton won the PV at 10-6 on a misses and teammate Adrienne Lee q'd at 9-6. Landyn Duley is also a threat in the TJ to score big and chip in a few in the 100m. Caroline Reed has an op to score in both the 1600/3200.

OLM- Coach Mark Tolcher commented on OLM's opportunities, "Mercy's Morgan McClure is dialed in to compete for a State title in both the 400 and 800. She has been focusing on these events for the past two years and may push Jenkins from ACS in the 800m. Colleen Kelly, in her first full year of track, has risen to the top in the 300 meter hurdles and could score also in the 100h. The 300h is her event and her goal simply is to win."

Darlington - I spoke with Coach Parrish and here's what he had to say about Darlington's chances in Albany, "We at Darlington are thrilled to have State qualifiers in 15 of the 16 events this coming weekend. Our goal, as always, is to finish in the top 4 and get a trophy; we feel we have a great shot to do just that. Individually, we are led by senior sprinter Paige Banks and senior distance runner Ansley McDurmon. Paige is looking to score in both the 200 and 400 meters. She is running the 400 meters for the first time this year and has yet to reach her full potential in that event. Ansley is looking to score in the 1600 and 3200 and is on the verge of some breakthroughs. We are also excited about our 4 x 400 team and hope to break our school record of 4:09 after running a 4:12 at Sectionals."

First Presbyterian Day- FPD has had more than their share of misfortune with All-American Grace Tinkey being out for this Spring season with injury as Grace would have surely added 20 points. However, its given runningmate Victoria Coppage a chance to shine and she has taken full advantage becoming one of the favorites to win the 1600/3200 with strong times from sectionals of 5:09/11:17!

Mt.Zion Carrollton- Mt.Zion Carrollton's opportunities are all speed/sprint/relay related. Hannah Wood is blazing fast in the 100/200 at 11.85 and 24.75 q times from West Sectionals and there 4x100 and 4x400 squads should add a few points.

Galloway- Coach Beatty commented, "Maddie Felts, a junior from Galloway, is the 3 time region 5 champion in the triple jump and last year's state runner up. She has jumped 36' 9" and has an opportunity to compete for a state title. Felts also won region 5 in both the 400 meters and 800 meters. She has state meet experience having competed as a freshman and sophomore in the 400 meters (3rd place) each year."

Athens Academy- Torie Owers is the top overall thrower in Ga and ranked 7th nationally in the Discus and 2nd in the Shot Put. .

Baconton Charter- Kimmie Davis is their ace and may challenge in both the both short sprints for the title.

Chattahoochee County- Jasmine Steen (#1 LJ mark 1A) , Latrese Hubbard, Shanila Chapman, Karaysha White and the relay teams could push ChattCo onto the leaderboard...