

## **AA**

This class has been razor close the past few years with as many as 5 teams on the board separated by a few points. There are 4 dominate schools coming back to Albany in 2012 including defending champ Decatur, a speed crazy Greater Atlanta Christian squad, Westminster strong as ever and a much deeper Blessed Trinity squad. Also, don't sleep on Southeast Bulloch or North Oconee for a podium spot.

**Greater Atlanta Christian**----With 3 of the top 5 rated 100 athletes in AA, its all about SPEED for GAC as they are loaded and dominate in the relays as well as all the sprints 100,200 and 400. The Lady Spartans are led by Maileka Slayton with the #1 AA leading times in the 100 (12.10) and 200 (24.58) and teammate Brittany Arnold and Airica Palmer are within striking distance of HUGE points also in the short sprints. Kayin Mujahed is a threat in the 400m. In just 4 events, GAC is capable of scoring 56 points, wow!

**Decatur AA**- They are the defending state champions and will score a multitude of points in the relays, field events and sprints returning a strong team led by hurdler Lexi Shields and hurdler/ jumper Ashleigh Rasheed. Rasheed is a top TJ' athlete and could score also in the LJ. Alaina Cook and Shields have the ability to score big in the 100h and in the 300h Shields and Rasheed could make it a sweep of the top 2 places. Decatur could put this class to rest after the 300h if not the 4x400. Akilah Haynes and Aliya Parker may notch some big points in the short sprints as well.

**Blessed Trinity AA**- The Lady Titans bring a well balanced team to Albany. Coach O'Sullivan remarked, "Bailey Willett and Anna Gandolfo are Blessed Trinity's two best chances at receiving individual state titles. They are both incredibly hard workers at their respective events, and have earned all that they have accomplished this season through their rigorous training schedules. This may be the deepest team that we have sent to the state meet in the last five years"

**Westminster AA**- Westminster always brings a balanced squad down south and this year isn't much different. Coach Sudderth commented on the troops, "Our senior Captains, Olivia Hewitt and Katerina Papadopoulos lead us down to Albany. This will be Olivia's 3rd trip to Albany (HJ), while Kat is making her first appearance (PV). Like Olivia, junior Sahara Fletcher, will be making her 3rd trip to Albany as well (8/16). Fellow distance athletes Janine DePree (16/32), Emily Fuqua (32) and Emily Alcorn (8) will also be competing in Albany. These girls have worked incredibly hard and are excited to represent Westminster in Albany!"

**Southeast Bulloch**- Has a well balanced team that will score in several events led by outstanding jumper and sprinter Breanna Gates. Gate's talent could score big points for the Jackets with pr of 18-06 in the LJ (#1 in AA), as well as top times winning both short sprints at Sectionals. Philicia Batton is multi-talented athlete excelling the 100h and 5-2 HJ'r and with misses anything is possible as proven in past state meets. Jasmine Roberts is highly ranked in the TJ and won the AA east Sectional at 36-9.25 as well as teammate Nira Byrd qualifying for Albany. Look for them in both relays also in the lead pack. Don't sleep on SE Bulloch...

**North Oconee AA**- Like usual, the Lady Titans qualified alot of athletes for state, especially with Sectionals, but only have a few girls with the ability to score big points. I've watched her run all season trotting around the oval with little competition, so watch out for defending 1600m champ Olivia Pigg to have another great state meet and push Fletcher in both the 800 and 1600. Dorie Faber also is a threat to score big points in the 1600/3200. Sydney Rodkey has been in a class of her own in the vault and it should be fun to watch her go for 12-00 Friday.