

For Immediate Release
23 May 2022

Wakulla Middle School Wildcats Find Success at State!

A bittersweet weekend for the Wakulla Wildcats as they made their long-awaited journey to the FLYRA State Championships.

Events began Saturday morning at 8am with **Makiya Cash** competing in the Shot put, pulling in 6th place finish in her flight and 26th overall.

Boys Triple Jump wrapped up with a strong finish: **Jordan Barnes** placed 37th, **Dax Dichio** came in 10th in his flight and 31st overall, **Derek Davis** achieved 1st place in his flight and 11th overall with an incredible 36'7" jump! **Brett McMillan** placed 2nd in his flight and 13th overall, also with a 36'7" jump. **Andrew Nelson** pulled up 2nd in his flight and at 14th place overall with 36'6.75" on his jump.

While the boys Triple Jump was moving along, **Andrew Nelson** was jogging back and forth to participate in the MS Boys High Jump event. Andrew set his personal best and broke his standing record at WMS with a spectacular jump clearing 5'6" and finishing 6th place overall, earning a medal at the FLYRA Championship!

The meet moved along as we stood sideline for the boys Long Jump to watch **Andrew Nelson** once more. Andrew took his 3 attempts and came in 11th place overall with an 18' 5.75" jump.

In the lane next to Andrew, **Ember Odom** and **Makiya Cash** were warming up for the girls Triple Jump. Makiya placed 34th overall and Ember coming in at 28th. Makiya's qualifying jump also broke the school record previously set by Ember. These girls have really leaned on each other through this season, with Ember truly showing leadership skills by helping a younger athlete reach her potential.

The final event of our day was the boys 4x100m relay. **Barnes, Davis, McMillan, and Nelson** took their place on the track and readied themselves for the fight of the career as they raced the top teams in the state. At the ready, go, Davis took off at an incredible speed giving our team an impressive head start. A clean handoff to McMillan and we maintained neck and neck with 2nd place. McMillan gets the baton off to Barnes who keeps up the momentum and a beautiful handoff to Nelson who brought it all the way to the finish line in under 50sec! The boys broke their previous record, coming in at 47.67sec and found themselves earning the title of the 9th fastest relay team in the state of Florida.

The event wrapped up and the Wildcats prepared to return home and with a big sigh, Coach Ferguson said, "Boys, I'm so proud of you. And I'm going to miss you." A truly sweet and sad moment as both coaches realized their time with these athletes has come to a close.

Coach Ferguson and Coach Isaacs would like to thank the team sponsors for their monetary support: InVisual Creative Services, RBN Construction, B&W Land Clearing, Leverage Payment Solutions, Holiday Campground, Gulf Coast Elevators, Odom Surveying, WCSO and Sheriff Miller and Treasured Kustoms,

Mr. & Mrs. Silas and Pam Morgan, Frank and Mary Dichio, Lindsey Cole, and Quincee Messersmith. Thank you to our principal, Mr. Simeon Nelson, for being all in. Thank you to our athletic director Mr. Bill Peck for all of his guidance.

Wildcats, go be great War Eagles. Your school, your family, your friends, your community... they are proud of you. We'll be watching!

Until next season, thank you Wakulla, for all of your support.