

# 2012 West Virginia State Champ Predictions

SwimWV is back again for another round of predictions for this year's WVSSAC State Swimming Championships! I have teamed up with the same former high school coach as last year to gain more perspective and analysis.

*\*Disclaimer: In no way are these predictions meant to offend or discourage anyone. This is simply how I predict things to unfold at the state meet. If you don't like them, then change them. Go out and prove me wrong! You don't win on paper, you win in the pool. Good luck to ALL swimmers and here's to a great 2012 state meet!*

## BOYS

### 200 Medley Relay

**2011 Results:** GW1:40.93, Bridgeport 1:43.63, Parkersburg 1:47.54, Hurricane 1:47.80, Winfield 1:48.38, John Marshall 1:49.03

**State Record:** Parkersburg (2009) 1:40.65

SwimWV Predictions: 1. Hurricane 2. South Charleston 3. Bridgeport 4. Brooke 5. Capital 6. Notre Dame	Coaches' Predictions: 1. Bridgeport 2. Hurricane 3. South Charleston 4. Capital 5. Brooke 6. Notre Dame
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**SwimWV:** Just as last year the favorite in the medley relay doesn't even make it out of regionals only this year it's the boys of GW (last season the ladies of Parkersburg suffered an unfortunate DQ at regionals). What that means is this race become much harder to pick. I underestimated Hurricane last season but there is no overlooking them this season with a stellar performance at regionals. I picked them to take the win followed by South Charleston. However, the dark horse right now is Bridgeport. They left Frank Csonka out of this one at regionals but if they decide to take advantage of the GW disqualification and put him here they can drop nearly five seconds. Brooke and Capital should also final and could finish in any order. For the sixth spot I went with Notre Dame who made some relay moves at regionals by putting Jake Preaskorn in this relay.

**Coach:** These relays are always so hard to guess. George Washington was a full second of a favorite over everyone in the state and just needed to coast safely through regionals. Yet, as SwimWV mentioned...here we are again. With GW out, it makes sense for Bridgeport to go jostle the relays to make this their focus, so I give them the edge over Hurricane. 3-6 are really anyone's guess.

### 200 Freestyle

**2011 Results:** T. Warden 1:44.86, J. Shaffer 1:45.58, D. Wayne 1:50.31, F. Csonka 1:51.22, F. Inglehammar 1:51.45, K. Simmons 1:51.62

**State Record:** Tim Phillips (PKB) (2009) 1:39.14

<b>SwimWV Predictions:</b> 1. Tate Warden (Capital) 2. Keegan Simmons (Jeff) 3. Sean Snider (Parkersburg) 4. Zach Kidd (GW) 5. Matt Lowther (Bridgeport) 6. Josh Barnette (GW)	<b>Coaches' Predictions:</b> 1. Tate Warden 2. Keegan Simmons 3. Zach Kidd 4. Sean Snider 5. Matthew Lowther 6. Josh Barnette
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**SwimWV:** Warden posted a blistering 1:41.0 at MSAC two weeks ago (an All-American Consideration time) and barring MAJOR disaster he is going to run away with this one. Tim Phillips' state record may be a bit of a stretch but I won't count out a great push towards it from Warden. Simmons and Snider have also been under 1:50 this season and could have a great battle for second. Kidd made a move to the 200 this season which will help GW in the team title race, especially if his teammate Barnette can get into finals as well. Barnette and Lowther are three seconds ahead of the next fastest time and both look to final and drop some time.

**Coach:** For those of you that saw Tim's dominance in the 200 freestyle in 2009, you'll see a similar display this year from Tate. The battle for second ought to be a fantastic sight though. Simmons has gone a 1:46, Kidd went 1:49 in December and isn't scared of anyone, and Snider has also been under 1:50 before. In one of the most difficult events to swim well, you'll see some of the greatest swimmers the state has to offer.

## 200 IM

**2011 Results:** T. Moore 1:56.09, M. Csonka 1:59.13, Z. Shurow 2:07.93, Z. Kidd 2:08.38,  
C. Kay 2:11.61, J. Harrick 2:15.01

**State Record:** Tim Phillips (PKB) (2008) 1:51.19

<b>SwimWV Predictions:</b> 1. Nate Carr (CCHS) 2. Jake Preaskorn (Notre Dame) 3. Jacob Nason (GW) 4. Jacob Crain (CCHS) 5. Zach Shurow (Hurricane) 6. Jacob Douglas (Nitro)	<b>Coaches' Predictions:</b> 1. Nate Carr 2. Jacob Nason 3. Jake Preaskorn 4. Jacob Crain 5. Zach Shurow 6. Heston Smith (University)
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**SwimWV:** Nate Carr is the only swimmer in this race that has swam under 2:00 this season having done it twice. I expect him to possibly push the state record, he has been within a second and a half at a club meet, but may fall short this season. Preaskorn will finally get some great competition here with Carr and should also go under 2:00. The Jacob's (Nason and Crain) had a great race at regionals with Crain outtouching Nason by .08 but GW needs all the extra points it can get without its medley relay. Shurow comes in with the next best series of times and should also be under 2:10. The final spot could go to many swimmers but I went with Douglas however don't count out Smith from University or Childers from Winfield.

**Coach:** Nate, the second half of “TNT” with Tate Warden on their club team, will also breeze through his first event. Phillips’ record in the IM is in serious jeopardy. 2-4 are a bit fuzzier. Jacob Crain had to swim a lifetime best in the IM at regionals to touch out Nason, who swam a 2:00 in December. I give the edge to Nason with Jake Preaskorn sneaking in between them. There’s a huge drop to Shurow at 5<sup>th</sup> and Smith at 6<sup>th</sup>.

## 50 Freestyle

**2011 Results:** S. Fetsko 21.36, A. Green 21.76, B. Davis 22.12, D. Artimez 23.18, J. Weber 23.33, C. Gill 23.42

**State Record:** Tim Squires (B-U) (2010) 20.53

SwimWV Predictions:	Coaches’ Predictions:
1. Frank Csonka (Bridgeport)	1. Frank Csonka
2. Adam Poe (South Charleston)	2. Adam Poe
3. Jack Wright (Hurricane)	3. Connor Gill
4. Connor Gill (Elkins)	4. Jack Wright
5. Alex Petry (Fairmont Senior)	5. Alex Petry
6. Loy McGuire (Huntington)	6. Loy McGuire

**SwimWV:** This event lost a lot from graduation and boys choosing other events which leaves it wide open for anyone to take. Csonka comes in as the top qualifier and the fastest swimmer in the field. I will take him for the win but don’t count out the freshman Poe as a dark horse. Both need to keep an eye out for Wright as well. Gill was a finalist last season and with a great race could sneak past Wright. Petry and McGuire are the only other swimmers to be under 24 at regionals and could round out the top six.

**Coach:** This event doesn’t have a lot of depth, with nearly two seconds between 1<sup>st</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. First and second are pretty darn close though, with Poe having gone a 22.2 to Csonka’s 22.0. Wright comes to West Virginia by way of Colorado and could sneak into the mix for 3<sup>rd</sup>, but I’ll give the edge to Gill.

## 100 Butterfly

**2011 Results:** T. Warden 53.27, M. Lynch 54.08, J. Crain 55.49, J. Nason 55.57,

A. Brumley 57.09, F. Ingelhammar 57.66

**State Record:** Tim Phillips (PKB) (2009) 47.61

SwimWV Predictions:	Coaches’ Predictions:
1. Jacob Nason (GW)	1. Jacob Nason
2. Connor Gill (Elkins)	2. Jack Wright
3. Keegan Simmons (Jefferson)	3. Keegan Simmons
4. Jack Wright (Hurricane)	4. Connor Gill
5. Heston Smith (University)	5. Heston Smith
6. Josh Jobs (Parkersburg)	6. Josh Jobs

**SwimWV:** Like the 50 freestyle this race looks to be much more wide open than many this season. Defending champion Warden chose other events leaving Nason as the only finalist from last season. He comes in with the best series of times and the only swimmers in the race to break 54 this season. Gill, Simmons and Wright have been within half a second of each other and expect one of the best races of the meet for second here. Smith is the only other swimmer to be under 1:00 this season and is a solid fifth

place. Jobs has the next best times from throughout the season so I picked him to complete the top six but look for Salakovich of Brooke and Nelson of Bridgeport to possible sneak into the A final.

**Coach:** Nason’s fly has looked really sharp this year, with a low 53 around midseason. He should have this race comfortably. Gill & Wright are battling for the second consecutive race with Keegan Simmons thrown in the mix this time. I decided to go with the “revenge factor” for Wright getting him the silver.

### 100 Freestyle

**2011 Results:** S. Fetsko 47.21, A. Green 47.90, B. Davis 49.54, F. Csonka 50.17, N. Zeli 51.48, D. Artimez 51.94

**State Record:** Tim Squires (B-U) (2010) 45.31

SwimWV Predictions:	Coaches’ Predictions:
1. Austin Green (SCHS)	1. Austin Green
2. Frank Csonka (Bridgeport)	2. Frank Csonka
3. Adam Poe (South Charleston)	3. Adam Poe
4. Zach Shurow (Hurricane)	4. Zach Shurow
5. Josh Harrick (Brooke)	5. Chris Kay
6. Chris Kay (GW)	6. Josh Harrick

**SwimWV:** It was a little surprising to see Green choose this event this season having only swam it twice but last year’s runner-up looks to claim his first state title in this race. Green comes in nearly a second and a half faster than his nearest competition but the battle for second between Csonka and Poe could be tight. Both swam season bests at regionals and are within three tenths of one another and the only other swimmers under 50 seconds. Another talented freshman, Shurow looks to break the 50 second barrier and could get a great race with Harrick and Kay. Also keep an eye on Mannon from Spring Valley who could easily break into the top group.

**Coach:** I don’t expect any major surprises in the top 3. Shurow went a lifetime best in regionals and might grab another one at states, so he could be locked in, too. I swapped 5 & 6 with SwimWV just to be difficult.

### 500 Freestyle

**2011 Results:** J. Shaffer 4:52.00, D. Wayne 5:02.62, S. Snider 5:04.60, Z. Kidd 5:05.27,

K. Simmons 5:05.90, C. Dixon 5:10.04

**State Record:** Travis Green (South Charleston) (2007) 4:36.90

SwimWV Predictions:	Coaches’ Predictions:
1. Tate Warden (Capital)	1. Tate Warden
2. Zach Kidd (GW)	2. Zach Kidd
3. Sean Snider (Parkersburg)	3. Sean Snider
4. Matt Lowther (Bridgeport)	4. Matt Lowther
5. Noah Salvatore (WPHS)	5. Noah Salvatore
6. Jacob Douglas (Nitro)	6. Jacob Douglas

**SwimWV:** Again Warden is in a class by himself here. Don't be surprised to see him down Travis Green's state record here either. Kidd and Snider have also both been under 5:00 at MSAC where it came down to the finish with Kidd taking it over Snider. I look for them to battle it out again here but as I've said, GW needs all the extra points they can get in the team title race so I went with Kidd. Lowther has the next best series of time and swam by himself at regionals so look for his time to improve with more competition from Salvatore and the others. The sixth and final spot could go to a number of swimmers but I went with Douglas.

**Coach:** No wild guesses here, I went straight chalk. Warden's best time is faster than the state record, so if he wants it—it's all his. Both he and Kidd took it easy at regionals, and I expect a 1-2 finish from them. Next year, swimmers 2-6 return so there could be a nice little rivalry with all the swimmers who don't claim gold this year.

### 200 Freestyle Relay

**2011 Results:** Bridgeport 1:33.44, Hurricane 1:34.03, Wheeling Park 1:34.11, Parkersburg 1:35.61, Jefferson 1:35.79, Brooke 1:36.56

**State Record:** Parkersburg (2008) 1:29.69

SwimWV Predictions:	Coaches' Predictions:
1. Charleston Catholic	1. Charleston Catholic
2. Hurricane	2. Hurricane
3. South Charleston	3. South Charleston
4. Bridgeport	4. Elkins
5. Elkins	5. Bridgeport
6. Capital	6. George Washington

**SwimWV:** Charleston Catholic and Hurricane had a great race at regionals last weekend and I expect them to again this week. I have to give the edge to Catholic who will have Nate Carr on the end of their relay. South Charleston will have both Poe and Green to bookend their relay but don't have quite the depth to hang with Catholic and Hurricane however I believe their duo gives them a bit of a leg up on Bridgeport. Elkins and Capital will also look to push the others and move up in finals.

**Coach:** The depth of Region Four becomes clear when you realize South Charleston has two of the fastest sprinters in the state on their relay on they're the third fastest 200 free relay at the regional championship. I don't have any reason to think there will be changes at the top, so I'll stick with SwimWV's pick. I'd expect George Washington to use some of their swimmers from the medley relay on this relay, so they should move into finals.

### 100 Backstroke

**2011 Results:** C. Kay 56.19, M. Lynch 56.87, C. Gill 57.41, A. Petry 59.41, A. Brumley 1:00.96, J. Artimez 1:01.15

**State Record:** Michael Walker (Bridgeport) (2005) 51.87

SwimWV Predictions:	Coaches' Predictions:
1. Nate Carr (CCHS)	1. Nate Carr
2. Chris Kay (GW)	2. Chris Kay

3. Josh Harrick (Brooke)	3. Josh Harrick
4. Alex Petry (Fairmont Senior)	4. Alex Petry
5. Shawn Gee (Washington)	5. Sam Mannon
6. Sam Mannon (Spring Valley)	6. Shawn Gee

**SwimWV:** Like Warden in his event, Carr is in a class by himself here. He owns the top four times of the season and comes in nearly four seconds ahead of Kay. Look for him to make a great run at Michael Walker's seven year old record as well. Kay is the defending champion and comes in with the next best series of times. Harrick is the only other swimmer to go under a minute at 1:00 and again has a better series of times than the others. Petry finished fourth a season ago and should also break the minute barrier. Gee and Mannon look to dip under 1:00 as well.

**Coach:** Carr, Kay, and Harrick have all but secured their 1-2-3 spots. Petry went a 59 last year, so I'll give him the edge for 4<sup>th</sup>. Gee & Mannon are interchangeable at the 5-6 position, I'll go with Mannon.

### 100 Breaststroke

**2011 Results:** T. Moore 59.16, M. Csonka 1:01.37, J. Crain 1:04.67, E. Judd 1:04.91, A. Mull 1:06.36, J. Weber 1:06.56

**State Record:** Thomas Moore (GW) (2011) 59.16

SwimWV Predictions:	Coaches' Predictions:
1. Austin Green (SCHS)	1. Austin Green
2. Jake Preaskorn (Notre Dame)	2. Jake Preaskorn
3. Logan Lehosit (Bridgeport)	3. Logan Lehosit
4. Jacob Crain (CCHS)	4. Jacob Crain
5. Josh Barnette (GW)	5. Matt Spence
6. Colin Meadows (GW)	6. Josh Barnette

**SwimWV:** Thomas Moore's state record from last season will most likely be shortly lived as Green has already swum under that time back in December and again at regionals. Green has been under 1:00 five times this season, no other swimmer in the race has even been under 1:02, and should be the first swimmer to swim under 59 at the state meet. Preaskorn is clearly the second best swimmer here and I wouldn't be surprised to see him getting pretty close (or going under) the 1:00 barrier as well. Lehosit is has a two second cushion over Crain. Barnette and Meadows could really help GW here if both can get into finals. George Washington could get any number of swimmers into finals here with Lilly and Peyatte also in the race; also don't overlook Spence of Spring Valley as well.

**Coach:** Green looked effortless in the water at regionals and should have no problem with the meet record. The freshman Preaskorn could be looking at a 1:00 flat time which would be great in years past—but not this year. Spence had a great swim to move from potentially watching consols to now getting a shot at finals. Standing in front of him are Lehosit & Crain, who should be in at 3 & 4.

### 400 Freestyle Relay

**2011 Results:** GW 3:22.42, Hurricane 3:28.63, Winfield 3:30.57, Wheeling Park 3:30.82,  
Jefferson 3:32.38, Brooke 3:32.63  
**State Record:** Parkersburg (2009) 3:19.02

<b>SwimWV Predictions:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. George Washington</li><li>2. Charleston Catholic</li><li>3. Bridgeport</li><li>4. Elkins</li><li>5. Parkersburg</li><li>6. University</li></ol>	<b>Coaches' Predictions:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. George Washington</li><li>2. Charleston Catholic</li><li>3. Bridgeport</li><li>4. Elkins</li><li>5. Parkersburg</li><li>6. University</li></ol>
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**SwimWV:** This could be one of the greatest races of the meet; George Washington and Charleston Catholic were within .02 of each other at regionals. This race is also big points for GW in the team race and a win here could really help. Bridgeport is a solid third but didn't have much competition at regionals so they could easily drop a lot of time but I just don't know if they have enough fire power to keep up with GW and Charleston Catholic. Elkins looks like another solid finalist and should have a great race with Parkersburg. The final spot could go to a number of teams but I gave the nod to University.

**Coach:** While the George Washington/Charleston Catholic battle expects to be fierce, it's downright shocking to see how far they are behind the great Parkersburg relay. I have this one going without any surprises, but only because I can't figure out where the surprise will happen. There should be an unexpected team in the top six.