

# 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!*

## GIRLS

### 200 Medley Relay

*2011 Results: B-U 1:57.16, Charleston Catholic 1:58.13, Wheeling Park 1:58.96, Elkins 1:59.19, GW 1:59.60, Fairmont Senior 2:02.61*

*State Record: George Washington (2003) 1:55.34*

SwimWV Predictions: 1. Buckhannon-Upshur 2. Wheeling Park 3. Notre Dame 4. Morgantown 5. Weir 6. George Washington	Coach Predictions: 1. Buckhannon-Upshur 2. Wheeling Park 3. Morgantown 4. Notre Dame 5. Weir 6. Winfield
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**SwimWV:** B-U comes in with nearly a 5.5 second lead over the next best time and has consistently been under 1:57 all season. The only way they don't win this relay is a disqualification. Watch for them to shatter the state record as this group has already broken it twice in recent weeks. Wheeling Park is the only other school to clear 2:00 which they did at regionals. Last year they peaked too early but it looks like they will be right on target this season. After that it gets dicey and really, really close. Notre Dame looked solid at regionals so I gave them the nod over the others while Morgantown could greatly benefit in the team race by getting this relay into finals. I rounded out the finals with Weir and GW but don't be surprised to see Winfield, Fairmont Senior, Hurricane, or Nitro move into the A final. Prelims will be key to even make this top group.

**Coach:** The winner is easy in this one. The rest is much more difficult. Morgantown, aware that it didn't need to be brilliant in their conference or regional championships, didn't go all out with tech suits the previous weeks—but they will for states. Weir has made a great run in the last few weeks with only one really established swimmer.

### 200 Freestyle

*2011 Results: K. Gregory 1:54.09, M. Clemens 1:57.05, A. Hendershot 1:57.95, K. Murto 1:59.35,*

Holehouse 2:01.71, Humpe 2:04.71

**State Record:** Kaley Gregory (Hurricane) (2011) 1:54.09

SwimWV Predictions:	Coach Predictions:
1. Megan Clemens (Nitro)	1. Megan Clemens
2. Katie Murto (Morgantown)	2. Cecelia Jebbia
3. Abby Hendershot (Parkersburg)	3. Katie Murto
4. Cecelia Jebbia (Wheeling Park)	4. Abby Hendershot
5. Claire Coleman (Hurricane)	5. Luisa Holland
6. Luisa Holland (Jefferson)	6. Claire Coleman

**SwimWV:** For the past three years Megan Clemens has taken a backseat to Kaley Gregory in this event. Well Kaley has moved on to Marshall, meaning the three-time runner-up is poised to take her first 200 free title this season. Clemens is the only swimmer who broke 2:00 at regionals but don't overlook a number of swimmers who are gunning for an upset here. Murto, Hendershot, and Jebbia went head-to-head last week at regionals with Hendershot nipping Murto at the wall. However, Morgantown is in a battle with B-U for the team title and all the extra points can help so I gave the nod to Murto who will swim in her home pool. Coleman had an amazing regionals and looks to continue to drop time here. The final spot will be a fight between Holland and Notre Dame's Catie Preaskorn but also watch for Moore (GW), Hines (Parkersburg) and Varner (Elkins).

**Coach:** If Clemens wants that elusive state title, it has to be here (because I'm not so confident about her 500). Watching CeCe and speaking with her, I'm constantly impressed with her desire to win. I see her overcoming last year's obstacles and getting the runner-up spot. Expect Murto to also go under 2:00, and a great scramble for the 4-6 positions.

## 200 IM

**2011 Results:** A. Dupay 2:09.80, K. Ferguson 2:12.80, L. Gutierrez 2:13.94, E. Poling 2:19.55,

K. Curnes 2:19.72, M. deBuchanne 2:23.16

**State Record:** Ann Cipoletti (GW) (2003) 2:08.91

SwimWV Predictions:	Coach Predictions:
1. Madisyn Lyons (Winfield)	1. Kelsey Ferguson
2. Kelsey Ferguson (Weir)	2. Madisyn Lyons
3. Katlyn Curnes (Wheeling Park)	3. Katlyn Curnes
4. Rachael Adams (Morgantown)	4. Rachael Adams
5. Emily Sotomayor (Charleston Catholic)	5. Emily Sotomayor
6. Carson Cunningham (Notre Dame)	6. Carson Cunningham

**SwimWV:** Four years ago Kelsey Ferguson took the 200 IM title as a freshman, now as a senior she has goes head-to-head with another talented freshman. Lyons comes in with a three second cushion over Ferguson but I expect a great dual between two great swimmers. I give the nod to Lyons but don't be surprised to see the senior claim another win here. Curnes looks to be a solid third with Adams a solid fourth. Sotomayor should drop time from her regional swim so don't be surprised to see her overtake

Adams as well. I went with Cunningham to round out the final after a beautiful swim at regionals. Watch out for Simpson (Woodrow Wilson) Hoglund (GW) and Hageboeck (GW) as well.

**Expert 1:** This year marks the healthiest Ferguson has been in a while, and she's been taking advantage. This will be a great showdown between her and Lyons. I'll take the upperclassman. There's a major drop to reach the rest of the field and in my eyes they seem set in their positions.

### 50 Freestyle

**2011 Results:** D. Johnson 24.88, O. Holehouse 25.32, A. Morris 25.55, A. Sweeney 25.67, C. Miller 25.88, M. McKinley 25.90

**State Record:** Jennie Spencer (Doddridge County) (2003) 24.04

SwimWV Predictions:	Coach Predictions:
1. Maggie Miller (B-U)	1. Maggie Miller
2. Samantha Hall (Elkins)	2. Samantha Hall
3. Audrey Sweeney (Parkersburg South)	3. Alyssa Morris
4. Delaney Johnson (Elkins)	4. Delaney Johnson
5. Alyssa Morris (Cabell Midland)	5. Audrey Sweeney
6. Mollie McKinley (Bridgeport)	6. Mollie McKinley

**SwimWV:** This goes down as the hardest race to predict at this year's meet. Anyone from the top five could take a win here that's how close it is. Sweeney comes in as the top seed but a mere one hundredth over Miller, who owns the top time of the group. Hall pushed her all the way at regionals so look for her to play spoiler here. Johnson hasn't looked as sharp this season but one thing we know is never to count out a champion. Morris has played bridesmaid many times in this race and will gunning for the others to finally take a win. McKinley had a brilliant swim at regionals and is the only other swimmer to be under 26 seconds so I went with her but watch for Humpe (Wheeling Central), Ross (Nitro), Holehouse (Morgantown) or Minney (Fairmont Senior) to sneak into finals.

**Coach:** The only thing I can confidently say is that we won't have a senior winning. There's no gut feeling at all, this feels like picking names out of a hat. Good luck!

### 100 Butterfly

**2011 Results:** L. Gutierrez 59.53, A. Morris 1:01.61, K. Dulaney 1:01.85, R. Adams 1:02.77, M. McKinley 1:03.34, H. Gacek 1:04.41

**State Record:** Lexie Gutierrez (Winfield) (2010) 59.09

SwimWV Predictions:	Coach Predictions:
1. Cassie Oltman (Notre Dame)	1. Cassie Oltman
2. Claire Coleman (Hurricane)	2. Courtney Miller
3. Courtney Miller (B-U)	3. Alyssa Morris
4. Alyssa Morris (Cabell Midland)	4. Claire Coleman
5. Ileana Ille (Morgantown)	5. Mollie McKinley
6. Mollie McKinley (Bridgeport)	6. Ileana Ille

**SwimWV:** Notre Dame got a big boost from Oltman this season and she could be the third straight freshman champion of the meet with Lyons and Maggie Miller. Her regional swim was awesome and she'll take a run at Lexie Gutierrez's state record here as well. Coleman also had a great swim at regionals and looks poised to challenge Oltman and dip under the 1:00 barrier. Miller comes in with the next best series of times but Morris was 1:01 last season so don't be surprised to see a great race for third. Ille, a transplant from Ohio, gives Morgantown another standout swimmer and they will be a in battle with B-U for the team title so look for her to challenge Morris and Miller. McKinley again had a great swim at regionals so I went with her to round out the final but look for Faris (RCB) or Adams (Morgantown) to move up here.

**Coach:** Last year, this was my favorite race to watch. Dulaney was the favorite going into finals with the defending champion an underdog because of an off-season injury. Dulaney took a commanding lead at the start, but Gutierrez ran her down at the last wall and Morris passed her with inches to go. The medal presentation was...memorable, to say the least. Now, I'm not saying this year will top last year...but the potential battle for 1<sup>st</sup> has me really excited. Firsthand accounts of the rivalry between Oltman & Miller are intense, and Morris, Coleman, McKinley, and Ille could certainly play a factor at the end. This is my call for race of the meet.

### 100 Freestyle

*2011 Results: D. Johnson 53.86, A. Hendershot 54.00, A. Sweeney 55.36, J. Humpe 56.36, A. Davis 56.56, J. Pierce 56.73*

*State Record: Jennie Spencer (Doddridge County) (2004) 52.70*

SwimWV Predictions:	Coach Predictions:
1. Maggie Miller (B-U)	1. Maggie Miller
2. Audrey Sweeney (Parkersburg South)	2. Delaney Johnson
3. Delaney Johnson (Elkins)	3. Audrey Sweeney
4. Abby Hendershot (Parkersburg)	4. Abby Hendershot
5. Samantha Hall (Elkins)	5. Samantha Hall
6. Erika Poling (Hurricane)	6. Erika Poling

**SwimWV:** This was another tough race to pick but based on times from club meets I went with Miller again. She has been 53 back in the fall so I can see her getting down that far again here. But Sweeney has been looming for two seasons to take a title and this could be the race she does it. The defending champion Johnson has been a 53 as well at last year's state meet so watch out for her and Hendershot who finished second a year ago. Both ladies haven't looked as strong throughout the season but it only matters in the end and I don't expect them to back down from the challenge. Hall and Poling come in only four tenths apart and look to complete the top six but a strong swim from Humpe (Wheeling Central) or Pierce (Morgantown) could get them into the A final as well.

**Coach:** The sprinting talent from central West Virginia is on display here as three of these swimmers train together in Buckhannon and two others train together in Parkersburg. I'll give the edge to Miller & Johnson to go 1-2. Place three through five are interchangeable though.

### 500 Freestyle

**2011 Results:** K. Gregory 5:06.03, M. Clemens 5:12.53, K. Murto 5:28.52, C. Jebbia 5:33.77, M. deBuchanne 5:41.90, A. Moore 5:46.69

**State Record:** Leigh Sanders (Morgantown) (1999) 5:01.46

SwimWV Predictions:	Coach Predictions:
1. Madisyn Lyons (Winfield)	1. Megan Clemens
2. Megan Clemens (Nitro)	2. Madisyn Lyons
3. Katie Murto (Morgantown)	3. Cecelia Jebbia
4. Cecelia Jebbia (Wheeling Park)	4. Katie Murto
5. Catie Preaskorn (Notre Dame)	5. Catie Preaskorn
6. Allison Moore (GW)	6. Allison Moore

**SwimWV:** Again it looks to be the freshman Lyons to take her second title in as many races. She comes in nearly seven seconds ahead of Clemens; Leigh Sanders record looks a little bit out of reach this season but keep an eye on it for years to come. Clemons won this event two seasons ago but I expect her to take second in her final individual race for Nitro. Murto and Jebbia were within five hundredths at regionals but I took the senior over the sophomore in her final individual race as a Mohigan. There is a large gap after these four but Preaskorn looked strong at regionals swimming unchallenged. I think Moore will sneak in ahead of teammate Hageboeck for the final spot. Also keep an eye on Shephard (Morgantown) and Wyrosdick (Fairmont Senior).

**Coach:** I'm hesitant to do this, but if Clemens wins the 200, I believe she'll pull off the 500. If she doesn't win the 200, then the 500 belongs to Lyons. Jebbia has defeated Murto twice in a row (once by a lot, once by a little), so I'll expect the trend to continue.

### 200 Freestyle Relay

**2011 Results:** Morgantown 1:42.69, Elkins 1:45.44, Parkersburg 1:45.86, Brooke 1:47.52, George Washington 1:48.23, Charleston Catholic 1:48.34

**State Record:** Morgantown (2011) 1:42.69

SwimWV Predictions:	Coach Predictions:
1. Elkins	1. Elkins
2. Morgantown	2. B-U
3. B-U	3. Morgantown
4. Nitro	4. Nitro
5. Parkersburg South	5. Parkersburg South
6. Fairmont Senior	6. Fairmont Senior

**SwimWV:** Morgantown comes in as the defending state champions with three of their four members from last year's record breaking relay back but the ladies from Elkins have come within two-tenths of

Morgantown's time from last season. Buckhannon has pushed both teams all season and has a better overall series of times than Elkins and Morgantown but I just don't think they can hang with them all the way through. Elkins has been under 1:43 twice at both the Splash Invitational and Regionals so I have to go with them for the win. But keep an eye on Morgantown, its time from regionals wasn't great but I expect them to push Elkins all the way. B-U looks a solid third but one bad swim or exchange and this is anyone's race. Nitro comes in with a two second lead over Parkersburg South and both relays have been under 1:50 at regionals. The sixth and final spot looks to be up for grabs between Fairmont Senior, Cabell Midland, Bridgeport, Parkersburg, GW, Woodrow Wilson and John Marshall.

**Coach:** There's a lot of tension between the Elkins & Buckhannon-Upshur relays, and this will be the culmination of a year of battling. I expect to see some great swims. With every tenth being important, the relay takeoffs are vital. Morgantown won't be far behind, but I don't see them knocking off the top two teams.

### 100 Backstroke

**2011 Results:** C. Miller 57.97, K. Dulaney 59.69, E. Poling 1:01.02, S. Slaughter 1:02.71,  
R. Adams 1:02.97, R. Roda 1:08.64

**State Record:** Courtney Miller (B-U) (2011) 57.97

SwimWV Predictions:	Coach Predictions:
1. Courtney Miller (B-U)	1. Courtney Miller
2. Erika Poling (Hurricane)	2. Erika Poling
3. Ileana Ille (Morgantown)	3. Ileana Ille
4. Savannah Slaughter (GW)	4. Savannah Slaughter
5. Jenna Pierce (Morgantown)	5. Anna Davis
6. Anna Davis (GW)	6. Jenna Pierce

**SwimWV:** The two-time defending state champ is back for one last go and I don't see her relinquishing her title in her final race of her high school swimming career. Miller is the only swimmer in the race that has been under a minute and she has done it almost every time she swims. She has already swam under her own state record back in November so watch for her to break that again but also keep an eye on the WVU pool record of 56.51. Poling was third as a freshman last season and looks to also get close to the 1:00 barrier. Ille and Slaughter should have a great race for third with Pierce right behind them in fifth. The final spot looks to be close between Davis, Cunningham (Notre Dame) and Riggs (Brooke).

**Coach:** Miller should wrap up an amazing high school career with another title & record. Erika Poling looked great at regionals, and while swimming with her mind elsewhere. My gut feeling says Ille over Slaughter who hasn't been the same this year. Anna Davis has been getting healthy the last few weeks and is capable of touching out Pierce.

### 100 Breaststroke

**2011 Results:** A. Dupay 1:07.43, K. Ferguson 1:08.18, E. Sotomayor 1:09.70, K. Curnes 1:09.98,  
M. Holbert 1:10.90, S. Linz 1:11.77

**State Record:** Ann Cipoletti (GW) (2002) 1:06.70

<b>SwimWV Predictions:</b> 1. Kelsey Ferguson (Weir) 2. Katlyn Curnes (Wheeling Park) 3. Emily Sotomayor (Charleston Catholic) 4. Cassie Oltman (Notre Dame) 5. Luisa Holland (Jefferson) 6. Schelli Linz (St. Joseph's)	<b>Coach Predictions:</b> 1. Kelsey Ferguson 2. Katlyn Curnes 3. Emily Sotomayor 4. Cassie Oltman 5. Schelli Linz 6. Luisa Holland
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**SwimWV:** Ferguson won this event in both her freshman and sophomore season before finishing runner-up last season to Dupay; well Dupay has moved out of state and Ferguson looks poised to finish her high school career where she started it for years ago. Watch out for Curnes though; the two see each other often and have had great races over the past two seasons but I have to go with the senior on this one. Sotomayor also broke 1:10 last season so look for her to do it again this season. After that it gets tricky. Oltman and Holland look to be solid finalists as does Linz who was 1:11 last season. However there are many swimmers lingering and waiting for someone to falter in prelims; watch for Worrels (John Marshall), Mills (B-U), Loughney (B-U) and Ross (Nitro) who could sneak into the top six.

**Coach:** I don't think the state record is in jeopardy, but I could see a low 1:07 from Ferguson on her final swim. Sotomayor is hard to predict; she could go a 1:08 or a 1:12 and neither would surprise me. I think Oltman will touch out Linz, who seems to swim really well in Morgantown.

### 400 Freestyle Relay

*2011 Results: Morgantown 3:45.66, Charleston Catholic 3:50.98, Winfield 3:53.52, GW 3:57.14, Wheeling Park 3:57.29, Bridgeport 3:59.71*

*State Record: Morgantown (2011) 3:45.66*

<b>SwimWV Predictions:</b> 1. Elkins 2. Morgantown 3. Notre Dame 4. Wheeling Park 5. Winfield 6. Parkersburg	<b>Coach Predictions:</b> 1. Morgantown 2. Elkins 3. Notre Dame 4. Winfield 5. Wheeling Park 6. Parkersburg
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**SwimWV:** It looks to be Morgantown and Elkins once again battling for top honors here. Elkins has looked brilliant recently but the ladies from Morgantown are all back from last year's record setting relay. I expect both teams to be at the top of their game but I had to go with Elkins who will bookend their relay with Johnson and Hall. Notre Dame decided to put their top ladies in this relay, a wise choice, and look to be a solid third place. Winfield, Wheeling Park, and Parkersburg come in only four tenths apart and are the only other teams to be under 4:00 at regionals. However as it is every year this relay can be tricky to predict with teams dropping a lot of time from their regional swims. Look out for Weir and George Washington to dip under 4:00 and make finals.

**Coach:** Elkins seems like the favorite going in, but I can't get past the fact that Morgantown brings back the entire state record team. For that reason only, I'll pick Morgantown. The rest of the races are a bit of

a toss-up. I can't seem to figure out why Wheeling Park isn't faster. Maybe they'll put something together and slip into the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot, but I'm not confident enough to predict it.