

# 2012 West Virginia State Championships Recap

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:	Coach Predictions:
1. Buckhannon-Upshur	1. Buckhannon-Upshur
2. Wheeling Park	2. Wheeling Park
3. Notre Dame	3. Morgantown
4. Morgantown	4. Notre Dame
5. Weir	5. Weir
6. George Washington	6. Winfield

**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.

**What really happened:** It was the ladies from Buckhannon who made a statement in preliminaries with a new state record of 1:52.73. While they didn't go quite as fast in the finals (1:54.19) they still won by nearly two seconds; it gave the ladies the top two times in state meet history. Making a huge move to second was George Washington; clearly reminding everyone that they are never to be underestimated. Their final time moved them up to the 10<sup>th</sup> fastest performers in history. Notre Dame edged Wheeling Park by .06 to claim bronze. Rounding out the finals was Morgantown in fifth and Weir in sixth.

**How did I do:** Well as I mentioned the only way B-U didn't win this relay was a disqualification and they didn't. The Bucs led from start to finish and their win was never in doubt. As I said GW dropped a whopping six second from their regional time to claim second and start their bid for a team title. As I predicted Notre Dame was third while Wheeling Park fell to fourth. Morgantown and Weir also dropped one spot to finish fifth and sixth. I predicted all six of the finalists to make the top group and go 6 for 6 in event one!

**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

<p>SwimWV Predictions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Megan Clemens (Nitro)</li> <li>2. Katie Murto (Morgantown)</li> <li>3. Abby Hendershot (Parkersburg)</li> <li>4. Cecelia Jebbia (Wheeling Park)</li> <li>5. Claire Coleman (Hurricane)</li> <li>6. Luisa Holland (Jefferson)</li> </ol>	<p>Coach Predictions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Megan Clemens</li> <li>2. Cecelia Jebbia</li> <li>3. Katie Murto</li> <li>4. Abby Hendershot</li> <li>5. Luisa Holland</li> <li>6. Claire Coleman</li> </ol>
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**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).

**What really happened:** Megan Clemens used a huge last 25 to overtake Katie Murto down the stretch. Clemens time moved her up to the fifth fastest performer and performance in history. Murto also moved into the top ten at number six. The ladies had the entire crowd on their feet to see who would take their first title in the event but in the end it was Clemens who got her hand on the wall first. Hendershot was the only other swimmer to break 2:00 to finish a solid third place. Cecelia Jebbia was fourth with Allison Moore and Bekah Shephard finishing fifth and sixth.

**How did I do:** Well as I said Megan Clemens had never won a state title in this event but Katie Murto wasn't going to make it easy. Murto took it out hard but Clemens roared back down the stretch. My top three finished exactly where I predicted as the three seniors outshined the three sophomores. My fourth place prediction also finished right where I thought but the final two spots ended up going to Moore and Shephard. Moore dropped nearly three seconds from regionals to move up to the A final while Shephard shaved four seconds from last week. In the end I am currently 10 for 12.

**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. deBuchananne 2:23.16

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

<p>SwimWV Predictions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Madisyn Lyons (Winfield)</li> <li>2. Kelsey Ferguson (Weir)</li> <li>3. Katlyn Curnes (Wheeling Park)</li> <li>4. Rachael Adams (Morgantown)</li> <li>5. Emily Sotomayor (Charleston Catholic)</li> <li>6. Carson Cunningham (Notre Dame)</li> </ol>	<p>Coach Predictions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kelsey Ferguson</li> <li>2. Madisyn Lyons</li> <li>3. Katlyn Curnes</li> <li>4. Rachael Adams</li> <li>5. Emily Sotomayor</li> <li>6. Carson Cunningham</li> </ol>
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**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) Hogleund (GW) and Hageboeck (GW) as well.

**What happened:** Kelsey Ferguson pushed the pace from the start and never relinquished her lead over Madisyn Lyons. Ferguson's time of 2:10.91 moved up to fifth all-time. Her prelim time of 2:12.13 also made the top ten performances at number eight. Lyons final time of 2:12.51 makes her the fifth fastest performer in history. A disqualification in preliminaries left Katlyn Curnes out of the finals and moved Rachael Adams to third and Emily Sotomayor to fourth. The two freshmen, Katie Hageboeck and Alexis Simpson completed the finals in fifth and sixth.

**How did I do:** Well as I said I wouldn't be surprised to see Kelsey win here and she finished her high school swimming career where she began it, atop the podium in the IM. Lyons put up a great fight but just couldn't get past the senior here. With Curnes' disqualification in prelims my fourth and fifth place

*predictions moved up one spot to third and fourth respectively. Hageboeck continues the huge time drop for the women of GW to make the A final and claim fifth. Simpson rounded out the final in sixth in her first year of high school swimming. Up to the point I'm 14 of 18.*

**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.

**What really happened:** *The underclassman reigned supreme here as Maggie Miller and Samantha Hall swam to a dead heat. The two talented freshman tied to both claim their first state title. Miller breaks into the top ten times all-time with her prelims swim of 24.76, she becomes the fifth fastest in history. (Samantha Hall went faster in the 200 free relay to become the sixth fastest performer all-time). Alyssa Morris took third a mere two hundredths ahead of defending champion Delaney Johnson. Morris also moves into the times at ninth with a 25.08. Audrey Sweeney finished fifth (10<sup>th</sup> fastest performer in history) with Anna Davis taking sixth.*

**How did I do:** *Samantha Hall led for nearly 48 yards of this race but a great finish from Maggie Miller gave the two ladies a share of the state title. Alyssa Morris finished third for the second year in a row while Johnson finished where I predicted in fourth. Sweeney dropped two spots to fifth while Anna Davis had a great prelim swim to move up to the final and claim sixth. Up to this point I'm 19 of 24 finalists.*

**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 in a 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.

**What really happened:** *It was another freshman who claimed a state title here as Notre Dame's Cassie Oltman bettered the field of upperclassman to take her first win. With her time of 1:00.19 she becomes the seventh fastest performer in state meet history. While she was off her winning time at regionals, Oltman used a strong second 50 to better Alyssa Morris and Courtney Miller who finished right behind at second and third. Also under 1:02 was Claire Coleman in fourth. Ileana Ille and Heather Gacek completed the top six.*

**How did I do:** *Well I said it could be another freshman atop the podium and it was as Oltman laided claim to her first title. Alyssa Morris moved up two spots from my predictions as Courtney Miller finished right where I thought. Coleman dropped two places as Ille stayed put. Once again I underestimated the George Washington swimmers and left Heather Gacek out of my predictions but the ladies were out to prove me wrong! Through the 100 fly I'm 24 of 30.*

**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

<p>SwimWV Predictions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maggie Miller (B-U)</li> <li>2. Audrey Sweeney (Parkersburg South)</li> <li>3. Delaney Johnson (Elkins)</li> <li>4. Abby Hendershot (Parkersburg)</li> <li>5. Samantha Hall (Elkins)</li> <li>6. Erika Poling (Hurricane)</li> </ol>	<p>Coach Predictions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maggie Miller</li> <li>2. Delaney Johnson</li> <li>3. Audrey Sweeney</li> <li>4. Abby Hendershot</li> <li>5. Samantha Hall</li> <li>6. Erika Poling</li> </ol>
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**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.

**What really happened:** *It was again the Maggie Miller who claimed her third title of the meet (second individual) ahead of a stellar field who were all within two tenths of each other at the halfway mark. Miller's final time of 54.09 and prelims time of 54.14 move her to the seventh and ninth spot all-time and she becomes the fifth fastest performer all-time. It didn't come easy as she held off defending champion Johnson. Abby Hendershot and Samantha Hall also dipped under 55 seconds to finish third and fourth. Erika Poling and Audrey Sweeney finished in fifth and sixth respectively. Sweeney's preliminary time of 54.61 makes her the eighth fastest performer in history.*

**How did I do:** *Miller was the swimmer to beat and while she didn't dip below 54 seconds sometimes it's just a matter of getting your hand on the wall first. Delaney Johnson, Abby Hendershot, Samantha Hall, and Erika Poling all moved up one place from the predictions while Audrey Sweeney fell to number six. I predicted all six of these finalists which brings my total to this point to 30 of 36.*

**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 though 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. deBuchananne 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. Clemens 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).

**What really happened:** Megan Clemens lead from start to finish claiming her second win of the meet. Her time of 5:06.78 becomes the fourth fastest time all-time in state meet history and moves her up to the third fastest performer all-time it also gives her her final state title of her stellar high school career. Lyon finished second and becomes the fifth fastest performer with her 5:11.20. Katie Murto used a great back half to edge past Cecelia Jebbia for third place which moves Murto into the top ten performers all-time at number ten. Allison Moore finished just ahead of Bekah Shephard for fifth as Shephard gave Morgantown valuable points by getting into the A final here.

**How did I do:** Well as coach said, if Clemens wins the 200 she wins the 500 and she did. I went with the freshman Lyons but Clemens just wasn't going to be denied one last win here. Lyons swam a stellar swim as well to claim second in her first state meet appearance. As I thought it was Kate Murto who finally edged Jebbia in her final individual race. Allison Moore continued George Washington's incredible performance while Bekah Shephard used a big prelim swim to move up to the A final (which turned out to be valuable in the Mohigans title bid). Through seven I'm 35 for 42.

**Coach:** I'm hesitant to do this, but if Clemens wins the meet h00, 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.

**What really happened:** Elkins jumped out to a half second lead after a great leadoff leg from Samantha Hall and never looked back. The Lady Tigers laid claim to their first relay win in school history and established a new state record in the process. Morgantown also went under the old state record and became the second fastest team in history. Buckhannon-Upshur was a solid third place while George Washington continued to impress in fourth. Nitro and Parkersburg South completed the top six.

**How did I do:** well as I thought it was though the combination of Hall and Johnson were just too strong to be beat. Gainer and Varner also had great swims to boost the ladies to a state record, crushing the old record by over a second and a half. Morgantown and B-U finished as I thought it second and third. I know I keep repeating myself but it was the ladies of GW who were the overall surprise of the meet and finished fourth here. Nitro and Parkersburg South each dropped one spot to finish fifth and sixth. Through the relay I'm 40 of 48.

**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).

**What really happened:** Courtney Miller is simply in a class of her own here. The senior from B-U once again set a new state record with her preliminary swim of 56.64; that along with her final time of 56.93 gives her the four fastest times in state meet history. It should be noted that her time was an All-American Consideration time and was just off the pool record (the correct pool record is 56.51 set in November 2011). Erika Poling once again claimed a runner-up title. Savannah Slaughter's prelim time moved her up to the eighth fastest performer in history as she finished third in finals. Ileana Ille, Anna Davis, and Jenna Pierce completed the final. This event strong for both Morgantown and George Washington in the team title race.

**How did I do:** As I've said there was no way that Courtney Miller wasn't going to win here; the rest of the field was much closer and harder to predict. It was Poling who took second with Savannah Slaughter and Ileana Ille switched places in third and fourth as did Pierce and Davis in fifth and sixth. Up to this point I'm 46 for 54.

**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

SwimWV Predictions:	Coach Predictions:
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1. Kelsey Ferguson (Weir)	1. Kelsey Ferguson
2. Katlyn Curnes (Wheeling Park)	2. Katlyn Curnes
3. Emily Sotomayor (Charleston Catholic)	3. Emily Sotomayor
4. Cassie Oltman (Notre Dame)	4. Cassie Oltman
5. Luisa Holland (Jefferson)	5. Schelli Linz
6. Schelli Linz (St. Joseph's)	6. Luisa Holland

**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.

**What really happened:** *This meet was dominated by the seniors and the freshman as each individual winner fell into one of these classes and a win here by Ferguson gave the seniors one more win than the freshman class. Ferguson took her third title in the event and swam the eighth fastest time in state meet history (her time from prelims put her fourth all-time). Sotomayor gave her a good push but just couldn't keep up on the back half; she did however improve her time as the eighth fastest performer in history. Katlyn Curnes was a solid third while Holland finished just ahead of Linz for fourth. Oltman completed the field in sixth.*

**How did I do:** *Well as I thought Kelsey Ferguson finished her career where she began it with a win here. It was her fellow senior Emily Sotomayor who moved up to finished second while Curnes dropped one spot to third. Luisa Holland and Schelli Linz also moved up a spot to fourth and fifth while Oltman fell a few spots to finish six. I predicted the right six here, just a different order, my running total comes to 52 of 60.*

**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

SwimWV Predictions:	Coach Predictions:
1. Elkins	1. Morgantown
2. Morgantown	2. Elkins
3. Notre Dame	3. Notre Dame
4. Wheeling Park	4. Winfield
5. Winfield	5. Wheeling Park

6. Parkersburg	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.

***What really happened:*** Well it was once again the ladies from Elkins who took their second relay title of the meet. The ladies shattered the state record by over two and a half seconds. Morgantown once again broke the state record only to finish second behind Elkins. These two teams were almost seven seconds faster than third place Parkersburg. The Big Reds got a big boost from anchor Abby Hendershot to sneak past George Washington. It was Notre Dame who finished fifth while Wheeling Park completed the final in sixth place.

***How did I do:*** Just as they did in the 200 relay, it was the duo of Hall and Johnson that gave Elkins the advantage they needed to take the win. The ladies from Morgantown were a solid second here well ahead of the rest of the finalists. Parkersburg jumped three spots to claim third and once again it was George Washington who dropped over 10 seconds from their regional swim to move up to fourth. Notre Dame fell a few spots to fifth as did Wheeling Park.

**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.

## Team

**2011 Results:** 1. Morgantown 153, Charleston Catholic 127, GW 120, Elkins 98, Winfield 90

SwimWV Predictions:
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Morgantown</li><li>2. B-U</li><li>3. Elkins</li><li>4. Notre Dame</li><li>5. Wheeling Park</li></ol> |
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**SwimWV:** Back in 2002 the Fairmont Senior men won zero state titles but won the team championships thanks to their incredible depth. This year the same thing could happen to the ladies from Morgantown. Expect a great battle between Morgantown and B-U but the depth that Morgantown has might be enough to win back to back state titles. However, the ladies from B-U have some incredible swimmers and relays to stay in the team race. Elkins will be propelled by their stellar freestyle relays, similar to Charleston Catholic on the men's side. I have Notre Dame and Wheeling Park rounding out the top five as both teams bring great relays and individual performers. Keep an eye out from George Washington who could easily sneak into the top five. While the men are dominated by teams from the south; the women from the north look to battle for the team title.

***What really happened:*** *The battle for first and second was close, just not between the teams I thought it would be. While Morgantown, the defending champions, were the team to beat it was a push from George Washington that surprised many. The Patriots came to win and they came very, very close. In the end the depth of the Mohigans just proved to be too much to overcome. Morgantown claimed back-to-back titles and became just the third team (Fairmont Senior men, 2002, Fairmont Senior women, 2006) to win the team title without taking a single individual or relay title. Buckhannon-Upshur were lead by the Miller sisters and the 200 medley but just didn't have the depth to keep pace with Morgantown or George Washington. Elkins relays and duo of Hall and Johnson were enough to keep them in fourth. Notre Dame also used strong relays and overall solid performances, along with a win by Oltman, to complete the top five with only four swimmers.*

*Overall I finish at 57 out of 66, or 86%. I congratulate all swimmers on a job well done and a terrific season! It was overall a very great meet for the women this year!*

*Once again the ladies claimed more state records than the men. I want to offer a special congratulations to the new state record holders: B-U's Courtney Miller, Michaela Mills, Patricia Loughney, & Maggie Miller (200 medley relay), Elkins's Samantha Hall, Christa Varner, Kayla Gainer, & Delaney Johnson (200/400 free relays) and Courtney Miller (100 back).*

*Also another special congratulations to Courtney Miller for achieving an All-American Consideration time in the 100 backstroke.*

*To the women from Morgantown, defending a title is never easy, other teams were gunning for you but you held your ground and gave an overall stellar team performance. You may walk away from the meet without any individual or relay first places but your depth proved to be the key. You each stepped up and swam with heart and determination. You become the first women's team to win back-to-back titles since George Washington did it in 2003-2004.*

*My MVP for this year...again it was a really tough choice with so many great performances and record breaking performances. In the end I chose Bekah Shephard from Morgantown. Your team needed you to step up and have big swims and you did just that. Your prelims performance got you into both A finals in the 200 and the 500 which gave your team the boost it needed to hold off George Washington.*

*I offer my congratulations to those swimmers who shook up the rankings, who went out there and proved me wrong and swam great races. The predictions are never the true finishes and as I said before if you didn't like them go out there and change them and many of you certainly did!*