

Island Sports

Skippers beat Hendricken to capture state title

By Adrienne Downing

Charlie Breagy, coach of the North Kingstown boys' track team, did not mince words when he explained to his 4 x 400 relay team what results they needed to dethrone Bishop Hendricken as the reigning state champions.

"I told them it was simple, finish in fourth place, you lose, finish in third place, you win," Breagy said. "I knew they would give 100 percent, so my only advice was to tell them they had one more lap around the track and to dig deep."

Hendricken had a nine-year stranglehold on the state title, but in less than 50 meters, the Skippers ended the Hawks reign and put an exclamation point on an exciting season.

North Kingstown led Hendricken, 72-67, after 18 events and needed a third place or better finish to take the state title.

Islander Nate Wigton, Andrew Buresh and Billy Zile had placed second in the 4 x 800 meter relay to start the day, and Wigton and Zile placed third and fourth respectively in the 800 meters. The fourth



The North Kingstown High School boys' track team celebrated their state championship last Saturday. Islander Nate Wigton, holding plaque in center, was a member of the winning 4 x 400 team.

Photo by Greg Coppa

team member, Kevin Alexander, had second place finishes in both the 110- and 300-meter hurdles.

"We were tired out going into the 4 x 400, but we just buckled down and gave it everything we had," Wigton said. "The entire stadium was on its feet cheering for

us. It was very exciting."

Alexander ran the leadoff leg and by the time he handed the baton off to Buresh, the Skippers were in second place. Wigton took off with North Kingstown in third place and handed off to Zile in fourth place.

"Kevin is fast out of the blocks because he does hurdles, so he ran the lead leg. Nate was supposed to run anchor, but we knew he was tired from the 800 and Billy had passed two guys in the straightaway in his last race, so we switched them," Breagy said.

With 100 meters to go, Zile was still in fourth place and Breagy admitted he thought North's chances for winning were over.

"He just wouldn't give up and with about 50 meters remaining, he passed the guy in third place and I knew we had it," Breagy said. "Even with that he would not quit, he just kept coming and about two or three yards before the finish he passed the runner from Hope to take second place and break a school 4 x 400 record in the process."

Hendricken won the relay, but the Skippers eight points were enough to give them the 80-77 win and the title.

"The amazing thing is that track is really 19 different sports, so to go against Hendricken 19 different times and come out the winner is just incredible," Breagy said.

"To finally do it, to pull off a state championship against Hendricken, I never thought it was possible. It was fantastic," Wigton said. "It is almost like my life is complete."

Wigton, who was a member of the boys' cross country state championship team this past fall, will now have his choice of championship jackets to wear.

The win was truly a team effort for the Skippers, who did not win any event but had seven second-place finishes.

"We were really focused on the team," Wigton said. "There was no superstar to carry us, everybody had to do their part to get it done and it makes the win that much more important." Also posting second place finishes were, Teddy Coppa in pole vault and Tim Daly in the hammer throw.

"Everywhere we had to take care of business, we did," Breagy said. "The strength of this team is its depth and everyone stepped up the one time when it really counted."

Breagy also points out the coaching was a team effort, as well.

"A lot of people put in a lot of effort to make this happen. Coaches Chabot, O'Neil, Tetreault, Kells, and Logan, along with John Kelly with the pole vaulters really were instrumental in helping us to win the title," Breagy concluded.

The team's focus has now shifted to the New England Championships on Saturday.

"Our goal is to have fun and break a state record," Wigton con-

Four hundred compete in Ali's Run event

By Adrienne Downing

The wind looked as if it was going to be a factor in Sunday's Ali's Run, but over 400 runners and walkers were undaunted by the headwind they faced at the beginning of the race.

The children's race started promptly at noon, with 75 more runners than last year. The runners, who ranged from ages 1 to 10, were rewarded with a trophy when they crossed the finish line.

Course record holder, Keven O'Neil of North Kingstown, was the 5K-race winner this year and he was only seven seconds off of his 2002 record time, finishing in 15:56.

O'Neil is the North Kingstown girls' cross-country team coach and he encourages his runners to support the race every year.

"They have done a lot for the North Kingstown cross country and track teams and we should be supporting them every year we can," O'Neil said. Last year the teams were unable to participate in the race because the state meet was rescheduled because of rain to the same day as the race.

Finishing slightly behind O'Neil was Brandon Burns of North Kingstown. Burns was also the Men's 18 and under category winner and he finished with a time of 16:52.

Islander Nate Wigton, who had raced with the state champion Skippers team the day before, came in third place with a time of 18:02.

Jeff Walker, of Westerly, placed fourth in the race and was also the winner of the Men's 40-49 division with a time of 18:42.

Jeffrey Vuono, also of Westerly, finished seven seconds behind Walker to round out the top five finishers.

Other division winners included; Kristen Rugg (21:54), Women's 18 and under; Jon

White (18:50), Men's 19-29; Kate Buckley (19:25), Women's 19-29; Jennifer Décolleté (20:23), Women's 30-39; Lisa Meehan (22:38), Women's 40-49; Joe Hall (19:52), Men's 50-59; Andrea Davis (25:54), Women's 50-59; Andrew MacKeith (23:22), Men's 60 and over; and Leslie Maher (27:00), Women's 60 and over.

There will be an Ali Dunn Island Cup soccer match on Sunday, starting at 1 p.m., at the Eldred Avenue fields between Jamestown's Rams FC Fortuna and South Kingstown's premier team.

Bird sanctuary to hold road race

The first annual Norman Bird Sanctuary 5K road race will be on Saturday, June 16, beginning at 9:30 a.m. There will be a children's fun run at 9 a.m. Norman Bird Sanctuary is located at 583 Third Beach Rd., in Middletown.

For more information, visit www.normanbirdsantuary.org.



STERLING APPRAISAL SERVICES

136 West Main Road
Middletown, Rhode Island 02842

is pleased to announce

JOYCE ANTONIELLO

has joined our firm.

Residential & Commercial
Lending · Estates
Litigation · Tax Appeals

Office 401-367-0888 Fax 401-847-6029
Email Appraiser@SterlingAppraisers.net

Where are your fabulous *Red Shoes?*



We make it easy to find your favorites.

401.423.2819

Call for a **FREE** In-home or phone estimate





We're the Low Cost Leader

Custom Closets | Garage Cabinets | Office Systems

True Value
Help Is Just Around The Corner.

SUPER HARDWARE STORE

- Paint & Supplies
- Cabot Stains
- Electrical
- Plumbing & Heating
- Glass & Screen Repair
- Lumber

Hours:
M-F 7am - 6pm
Sat 7am - 5pm
Sun 9am - 3pm

1 STOP BUILDING SUPPLY CENTER

847-8460

236 Connell Highway, Newport

Quality & Friendly service is our specialty