

# Island Sports

## North boys' track team wins Southern Division

By Stephanie Cotsonas and Adrienne Downing

The North Kingstown High School boys' track team won their sixth consecutive Southern Division championship on Friday. The boys have not been defeated in a regular season dual meet for six straight years and they kept their streak alive when they pulled off a one-point win over the rival South Kingstown Rebels at CCRI Lincoln.

"We went into the 4 x 100-meter relay four points down, and with the first place in the relay, we took the win," Coach Charlie Bregay said. "On paper they looked like the better team, but I felt like we had spread our athletes out the right way and I knew we had a good chance. It played out exactly the way we thought it would."

The win brought back memories of an almost identical win in the outdoor state championships last spring. "The excitement of beating South for the division was second only to winning states last year," the coach said.

The winning relay team consisted off Will Cawley, Andrew Buresh, islander Rory Farrell and Kevin Alexander, who beat the Rebel's squad by two-tenths of a second, finishing the relay in 1:11.2.

"We were doing the points the whole time and knew it came down to the relay going in. We needed four points to win the meet and a relay gets you five," Farrell said.

Jamestown resident Nate Wigton won the 600-meters with a time of 1:28.8 and then came back on short rest to also take first place in the 1000-meter run in 2:44.3.

"I had 10 minutes of rest between the 600 and the 1000. As soon as I was done with the 600, I immediately had to try to get my breathing down and I started



Jordan Segal, left, and James Stewart, right, gave their team some much-needed points in North Kingstown's win over the South Kingstown Rebels.



Photos by Andrea von Hohenleiten

massaging my legs," Wigton said. "I ran a personal best in the 600. I didn't mean to, but I had to because the guy from South was right with me."

Bregay didn't pull any punches with Wigton about his need to get a win for the Skippers in the 1000-

meters. However, he was confident that the relay team could pull off the win, so the meet result rested with Wigton.

"I think I was the most nervous that I have ever been before a race," Wigton said. "This was literally the toughest race I have ever

run. My legs weren't ready to pick up the speed, but I had to battle every second because he (the runner from South) was on my back the entire time."

Other highlights of the meet included Cawley's wins in the 45-meter dash and the 300-meter run,

and islander James Stewart's third place finish in the 1500-meters with a time of 4:42.9. Will Spahr came in second in the 45-meter hurdles, and his brother Mike came in fourth with times of 7.3 and 8.1, respectively. Mike Spahr also placed third in the high jump at a height of 5-feet, 2-inches.

Senior Jordan Segal finished third in the shot put, with a throw of 37-feet, 4.25 inches.

Islander Eric von Hohenleiten came in third in the weight throw, with a throw of 40-feet, 11-inches. "Eric did very well. His job was to finish in third place in the weight throw and that is exactly what he did," Bregay said. von Hohenleiten said he knew he had to get third place in order to obtain the points needed for the win. "The team was strong after my event," he said.

With the dual-meet season now over for the boys, Bregay said the focus for the team will be to qualify as many people for the state meet as they can. "The more people we qualify, the better our chances are for a championship," Bregay concluded.

## Skippers girls' track has sweet victory over South

By Stephanie Heelan Cotsonas

The undefeated North Kingstown High School girls' indoor track team beat South Kingstown, 56-44, in an exciting meet last week at CCRI in Lincoln.

"Before the meet, I told the kids to keep their game faces on for the next two meets. They did and they were healthy and running strong," head coach Jen Chabot said.

In the first race of the night, the 3000-meters, islander Erin Brennan took second place after developing a cramp and holding on to keep the Skippers in scoring position. Two races later she was back

in the 1500-meters, and after taking a commanding lead, held off a South runner and took first place and a much-needed five points for North with a time of 5:18.9. "South has a good distance runner and Erin did her job and ran two strong races for us," Chabot said.

Jamestown resident Caitlin Downing took third place in the 45-meter hurdles, achieving her personal best time in that event, and Cate Brennan took fifth. Only two-tenths of a second separated first and third place in the 45-meter dash. South took first and second place, but Renee Dubuc had her personal best time of 6.5 seconds to secure third place for the Skippers.

Chelsea Tetreault, Meg Scully and Dubuc placed one, two, and

three for a sweep in the 300-meter run.

Alexa Mazur and Lauren Proctor took second and third in the 1000-meters. This was only Mazur's second time running the 1000, but she has really taken control of the race and now is the person to beat.

Mazur, Proctor and Downing swept the 600-meter run. Downing edged a South runner by a head nod at the finish, after a gutsy run down the stretch. "I knew this meet was going to be very close, and was determined to do my best. I was a little frustrated because I was cut off several times on my last lap, and I was pushed to the back of the pack," Downing said. "On the last turn, I saw my coach telling me it was time to go and I

muscle up to pass the South runner on the last stretch for third place. I was extremely happy that my efforts scored points and contributed to the night's win."

The individual runners were not the only ones who contributed to the win for the Skippers.

Meg McGovern took first place in the weight throw and Ali Lofgren also gave North a big boost by posting a 31-foot, half-inch throw in the shot put.

The 4 x 100-meter relay team of Dubuc, Scully, Tetreault, and Mazur beat the Rebels by a mere three-tenths of a second.

The meet came down to the 4 x 400-meter relay. Tetreault and Downing each put up a 68 second split to keep North within closing distance. When Scully took the handoff from Kara Proctor, she gave an all-out effort and passed the South runner with a half-lap to go, handing North Kingstown the win. Chabot was thrilled with the victory and said, "It was a great race to end the meet."

The track team's last regular season meet is tonight against Classical at 8 p.m. at CCRI Lincoln. The Skippers will be looking to repeat as Morris Division champions.

## Help reunite cats with their owners

**FOUND:** Extremely friendly dark orange neutered male cat. Has been in the area of the dump for 2 to 3 months. He appears to be 4 to 6 years old.

**LOST:** "HEMMINGWAY" aka "GEO," a solid white cat with small grey patch on its forehead. He escaped in the West Ferry/lower Narragansett Avenue area on Jan. 18.

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