

Island Sports

Boys' track takes eighth consecutive division title

By Stephanie Heelan Cotsonas

The North Kingstown High School boys' track and field team was recently crowned Southern Division champions for the eighth consecutive years. Jamestown was well represented among the competitors.

North easily won the Division Meet after going 9-0 in the regular season. "Nobody has beaten this team in a dual meet in the southern division in eight years. It is great accomplishment for the guys," Head Coach Charlie Breagy said.

The team is deep in the post season, attending three big meets within a week and continuing to qualify individuals for the state meet.

North took second place out of 28 teams behind powerhouse Bishop Hendricken at the Schomp Invitational on May 10 at the Curtis Corner Middle School.

The division meet was held at North Kingstown on May 13 and the Skippers attended the Classical Classic at Mount Pleasant last Saturday, where they placed third in the large school category behind Hendricken and Hope High Schools.

There are 50 runners, jumpers and throwers on the NK roster and 14 are Jamestown residents, including eight seniors.

It is no surprise that islander and senior Nate Wigton is the one to beat in the 800-meters as he has dominated the event this season and took first at the Schomp, Division

and the Classical Classic meets. "Nate recorded the fastest 800 time in Rhode Island this year so far at 1:58.6," Breagy said.

The 4x400-meter relay team consisting of island seniors Wigton and Rory Farrell, and North Kingstown residents Andrew Buresh and Kevin Alexander has had a stellar season. At the Penn Relays in Philadelphia on April 26, the team ran a 3:27.4, which at the time was the fastest recorded time in Rhode Island for the season. They then took first at the Schomp with a time of 3:26.90, which broke the school record the foursome previously set at the Penn Relays. The team took first at the Classical Classic, and at the Division meet the 4x400 relay team including Wigton, Farrell, Buresh, and Kenny Cheston took first.

Islander Chris Clark, a senior, was crowned the new division champion in the pole vault with a jump of 12-feet. "I knew if I did my best and they did their best I would beat them, but I am still really excited," Clark said. He also took fifth at Schomp with a jump of 11-feet, 6-inches. Breagy is pleased with Clark's jumping and has high hopes for the rest of the season. "I think Chris can jump 12-and-a-half-feet this year."

"I hope to jump higher than 12-and-a-half-feet at states which would put me in fifth place. I would be happy with that," Clark said.

Also in the pole vault, Jamestown resident and senior Peter Im-

briaire took eighth place at Schomp, third at the Division Meet and fifth at the Classic and all three jumps were 11-feet. "Peter got a personal record in the pole vault. He will go over 12-feet and he will probably score at states," Breagy said.

Team newcomer and Jamestown resident John Perrotti joined the team as a senior and has been a big scorer for the Skippers. In his first time competing in the high jump at a dual meet, Perrotti won the event, which won the meet for the Skippers.

Breagy is pleasantly surprised by Perrotti and said, "John is doing a great job and has been the difference this year on the team. He walked on at the beginning of the season and he is our main jumper. He can long jump, triple jump and high jump and he is very good at all three." In the high jump Perrotti took sixth at Schomp, second at Divisions and he tied for second at the Classic at the same height of 5-feet, 8-inches.

In the long jump, Perrotti took fourth at Divisions and sixth at the Classic with a jump of 19-feet, 4-inches. Also at the Division meet Perrotti took seventh in the triple jump.

Breagy was very happy with the performances at Schomp, where in addition to the 4x400 relay, the school record in the 110-meter hurdles was broken by Alexander, who took first place with a time of 14.7. Also in the hurdles, Mike Spahr of Jamestown took third with a time of 16.2. At the Division Meet Alexander and Mike Spahr took first and fourth, respectively.

"Mike (Spahr) had a great race. He is doing fantastic this year and he is only a sophomore. We have two sets of brothers, the Spahrs and the Chestons, and all four are going to be fantastic hurdlers," Breagy said.

In addition to the hurdles, Mike Spahr also placed third in the high jump at Divisions with a jump of 5-feet, 6-inches. At the Division Meet, freshman Will Spahr placed



Andrew Buresh, left, Nate Wigton, Rory Farrell and Kevin Alexander set a new school 4 x 400 meter relay record of 3:26.90 at the Schomp Invitational. The team competed at the Penn Relays in April.

Photo by Adrienne Downing

eleventh in the 300-meter hurdles.

Buresh and Farrell have been battling out the 400-meter dash all season. At Divisions, Buresh and Farrell took first and fourth place, respectively, and at Schomp they placed third and fifth with times of 51.7 and 52.10. At the Classic they tied for second place with a time of 52.0.

Islander James Stewart placed ninth at Divisions and took 18th place at Schomp in the 1500-meters. Also at Divisions, Stewart was a member of the fifth place 4x800-meter relay team with Nathan Anderson, Travis Crocker, and Mike O'Keefe of North Kingstown.

Islanders Jordan Segal, Eric von Hohenleiten and Will Reardon have added to the depth of the Skippers field events. As one of the team's seniors, Segal took ninth at Divisions and tenth at Schomp in the shot put. von Hohenleiten placed 12th in the hammer throw and senior Reardon competed in the pole vault. Other members of the team from Jamestown include Drew Matley and Cameron Toppa.

With nine teams competing in 19 events, North easily won the Division Meet with 175 points, ahead of East Greenwich with 131

points. Going into the meet, Breagy thought they would be pushed to win. "Westerly and East Greenwich have some superstars. The depth in the southern division is of national caliber and Rhode Island has never been as strong in middle distance as it is this year."

Islander Alex Sakovits is a member of the Bishop Hendricken track team and has been consistent in the 800-meters. At the Classical Classic, Sakovits took third in the 800-meters and at Schomp he took fifth with a time of 2:00.60. Sakovits was part of the Hendricken 4x400-meter relay team which took second place behind North Kingstown.

Looking ahead, Breagy said they will use the Class A Meet and another invitational for times to get everyone qualified for states.

In 2007, North won its first ever boys' state track and field title, breaking Hendricken's nine-year winning streak. Looking ahead to this year's state meet Breagy said, "We will do well at states, we have a shot, but it is a long shot. Hendricken has a lot of kids and they are very well stacked in the field events."

The Class A Championship meet will be held on May 24 at Hendricken and the State Meet will be held on Saturday, June 7, at Brown University.

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