

The Boston Globe

L-S, New Bedford tie

By Mike Lipka, Globe Correspondent | February 24, 2007

Ties usually occur in soccer, so excuse Lincoln-Sudbury girls' track coach Mel Gonsalves if he doesn't feel like kicking a ball around any time soon. That's because for the second straight week, his talented Warriors won a title -- this time the All-State indoor championship -- but had to share the trophy with another team.

"It's our nature to want to try to win," said Gonsalves, whose team won the outdoor state title outright last spring, but this time won without standout Dana Jamieson (stress fracture). "Obviously right now, we're totally content with winning one in spring, and now one in winter."

At last week's Division 1 meet, the overturned ruling of a disqualification of New Bedford's 4 x 200 relay team dropped Lincoln-Sudbury into a tie with Acton-Boxboro for the team title. But last night, New Bedford used a second-place finish in the 4 x 200 and a dominating performance by senior Lauren Barber to tie the Warriors at 30 points at the Reggie Lewis Center.

"We just did the city of New Bedford proud, and I'm real happy for that," said Whalers coach Tom Giasson. "Last week, I was standing here in protest, and now I'm just standing here in the middle of the Lewis Center state champions."

Barber took home the title in the 55-meter hurdles (8.21 seconds) and finished second to defending champ Arantxa King of Medford in the long jump (17 feet 3 3/4 inches), earning 18 points. Lincoln-Sudbury, meanwhile, earned 18 points in one race, as junior Molly Binder (3:01.39) and sophomore Jessica Griffin (3:01.92) took first and second in the 1,000.

After New Bedford's Chelsea Metivier snagged fourth in the 55-meter dash and Lincoln-Sudbury's Emily Mephram finished fifth in the 600 -- both improvements on their seeds -- it came down to the relays.

The Warriors' top quartet (Calli Pappas, Griffin, Mephram, and Binder) -- which was switched from the 4 x 400 by Gonsalves -- set a meet record in winning the 4 x 800 in 9:25.20. The Whalers (Kelsey Mediros, Metivier, Anifreed Sinjour, and Barber) immediately countered with their second-place finish in the 4 x 200 (1:46.14) to move back into a tie.