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DIVISION 1 INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Lincoln-Sudbury girls share title

By Chris Estrada, Globe Correspondent | February 17, 2007

For Lincoln-Sudbury track coach Mel Gonsalves, it was elation, then disbelief, followed by acceptance.

After his girls' 4 x 400-relay team won in a meet-record-breaking 4 minutes 2.26 seconds, it appeared the Warriors had come from 9 points down to nip Newton South and Acton-Boxboro for the Division 1 indoor track title yesterday at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center.

But New Bedford protested the disqualification of its 4 x 200 team and the DQ was revoked. With that, Lincoln-Sudbury's 1-point victory became a 46-46 tie with Acton-Boxboro. Newton South finished third with 44 points.

Gonsalves pleaded with officials, but he had no choice except to "be a sport about it."

"I just want to make sure things are done fair and square," he said. "I guess it would've been a little different at the end, though, if we didn't get that point. We would have still been going for it but we'd be cheering for a tie. It's different. The mentality is different because you get the troops ready, they go and put a 10-spot on the table, and then at the end of the day, we find out that it's not enough.

"It's disappointing. But we'll find a way to still be happy about what we got accomplished today."

Meanwhile, Acton-Boxboro cocoach Ryan Steege was in a different mood as his team notched its second straight Division 1 title.

"The issue didn't involve us," he said. "We hate to watch the scoreboard, because as a team, we don't like to count points. The fact that it's up there drives me crazy because we don't want to know, and knowing that, and then having to drop, and then having it questioned . . . our girls knew that we don't count points and we don't know, so they just waited until everything was done. We're proud to be state champions two years in a row."