

The Boston Globe

Massachusetts All State Champions

All-State track: Vaulting To Victory

FITCHBURG -- Lincoln-Sudbury freshman Sophia Romeri was the 13th seed in the pole vault. Her best jump -- 9 feet -- came a week ago in the Class A meet.

Yet, with the state title on the line, Romeri cleared 10 feet, 6 inches, capturing first place and lifting the Warrior girls past Bromfield, 32-28, for the All-State title last night at Fitchburg State College.

Before the final event, Bromfield held a 28-25 advantage over L-S. However, the heroics by Romeri quickly halted any premature celebration from Bromfield.

"I knew the team needed me," said Romeri. "I was really nervous, but I just wanted to try my hardest and see what happened. I knew there was going to be tough competition. I am just really excited right now. This is definitely one of the most exciting moments in my life.

Coach Mel Gonsalves agreed that Romeri was sensational. "Look up the definition of clutch in the track and field dictionary, and this performance will be in there," he said. "I have been coaching for a long time, and that is the most poised I have ever seen someone perform.

Romeri definitely deserves most of the credit for L-S victory, but so does the 4x400 relay team. Olivia Reed, Emily Mephan, Molly Binder and Dana Jamerson -- all sophomores -- teamed up to capture first place with a time of 4:00.02.

"No questions about it, there are certainly tears in my eye right now," said Gonsalves. "I had a wild vision that we could do this.

"I have to give a lot of credit to my coaching staff. We have 130 kids to coach. This is one big family. We had 130 kids and a great coaching staff all working towards excellence. This was truly one unit working together to make a community proud."

"This was such a great team effort," said Romeri. "Everyone really came together today and this year. This is such an unbelievable feeling, and I am so proud of everyone on this team."

Lincoln-Sudbury catapulted to the top of the team standings behind freshman pole-vaulter Sophia Romeri's first-place finish of 10-6. The Warriors finished with 31 points, defeating Bromfield (28), Bridgewater-Raynham (27), and Acton-Boxboro (26) on the strength of Romeri's final vault, which came in the day's final event.

The closest finish came in the 4 x 400, where Lincoln-Sudbury's Dana Jamieson cleared the line just ahead of Bridgewater-Raynham's anchor. The top three times were Lincoln-Sudbury at 4:00.02, Bridgewater-Raynham at 4:00.06, and Stoneham at 4:00.66.