



Team contenders: New Providence, Metuchen and Middlesex met in the F Division race at the Shore Conference Invitational last month and New Providence finished well ahead of the other two.

Individual contenders: Liz Wagner of New Providence, Erica Lordi of Middlesex and Shuang Meng of Highland Park.

Predictions: Wagner will finish first and lead New Providence to its initial title since it winning North Jersey, Section 2 in 1998.

#### SOUTH JERSEY

##### DELSEA

##### GROUP 4

Team contenders: Shawnee, ranked No. 4 and the Meet of Champions winner last year, looks to regain the sectional title it had won for 12 straight years before Toms River East ended that streak last year. Joining the hunt will be No. 7 Cherokee, No. 8 Toms River East, No. 16 Toms River North and Toms River South.

Individual contenders: Olympic Conference champion Lisa Burkholder of Cherokee, Katie Van Horn of Triton and Kim Bonner and Robin McDowell of Shawnee.

Predictions: Burkholder beat all the top runners in this field last week in the conference meet and will do so again. Shawnee will get its title back, winning by about 12 points.

##### GROUP 3

Team contenders: Defending champion Moorestown, ranked No. 9, and No. 10 Ocean City should wage a memorable duel. Moorestown is seeking its sixth straight sectional title while Ocean City is chasing its first since 1993. At the South Jersey Open on Nov. 11, Moorestown defeated Ocean City, 73-76.

Individual contenders: This could be the one of the best races of the season as defending champion Brittany Sedberry of Ocean City, fifth at the Meet of Champions last year, hooks up with Arianna McKinney of Highland Regional. The two met last month at the Shore Coaches Invitational and McKinney came out on top in 18:45 with Sedberry second in 18:56.

Predictions: Moorestown and McKinney will prevail.

##### GROUP 2

Team contenders: Haddonfield, Haddon Township and Haddon Heights.

Individual contenders: Defending champion Vanessa Wright and Abby Booker of Haddonfield.

Predictions: Wright will win again and lead Haddonfield to its first title since 1999.