

The Boston Globe

Stars back on course

By Jason Claffey, Globe Correspondent | September 30, 2006

At the end of last season, the Brockton boys and the Newton South girls were atop the heap in Division 1 cross-country in Eastern Massachusetts. With the first big meet of the season today, the Boston Invitational at Franklin Park, here's a look at some of the finest in EMass, including the Brockton boys and the Lincoln-Sudbury girls, the top-ranked teams by the Massachusetts State Track Coaches' Association.

Last year's Division 1 Coach of the Year, Steve McChesney of Newton South, returns a squad that includes league all-stars Kelsey Karys, Emma Rudie, and Hannah Westbrook. The Lions run in the competitive Dual County League against perennial powers Concord-Carlisle, Westford Academy, and Lincoln-Sudbury -- a team seen by many coaches as the biggest challenge to Newton South.

In the challengers' corner, L-S finished 13th at All-States last year in coach Chris Tarello's first season. Tarello came to L-S from New Jersey with a reputation for generating title-winning programs. He said his junior class of Dana Jamieson, Hannah Ziobrowski, Emily Mephram, and Molly Binder is blossoming into a championship-caliber quartet. Along with sophomores Barbara MacNeil and Rachel Potter, L-S boasts one of the deepest lineups in EMass. At the Amherst Invitational Sept. 16, all six finished in the top 20. Tarello warns that early victories -- over Newton South (in a league meet) and Dennis-Yarmouth (by a narrow margin at Amherst) -- won't automatically translate into a state championship. "We beat Newton early in the season last year and they came back to beat us at states," said Tarello. "Newton and D-Y are still the top programs in the state."