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Brookline, L-S are regional warriors

By Pat Ouellette

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EAST GREENWICH, R.I. - The Brown Invitational was just another stop along the way for the freight train that is the Brookline cross-country team. With the state championship looming and in need of fine-tuning, top-ranked Brookline went searching for tougher competition.

The Warriors raced against some of the other top teams in the Northeast yesterday and finished with 46 points, cruising past Smithtown, N.Y. (74 points), East Greenwich (92), McKee Staten Island Technical School (170), and New York's Collegiate School (186) to win the boys' overall Division 1 championship.

Brookline's Robert Gibson won the boys' championship in 15 minutes 13.7 seconds and was followed by teammates David Wilson (15:31), Michael Burnstein (15:38.6), Elliot Lehane (16:06.3), Brendan Grove (16:35), and Ryan Hardiman (16:37). Coach Michael Glennon said his team focused on staying close and working as a group.

"Rob, Michael, and Elliot have been together since they were freshman and David has been a great addition. They all work hard to make sure the fifth or sixth guy is right with them," Glennon said. "Our goal is to have all five top guys be league all-stars and I think they're on their way to accomplishing that goal."

Lincoln-Sudbury (28 points) won the girls' Division 1 championship, led by a fourth-place finish from Andera Keklak (18:35.2). L-S also took positions 8-11 with Dana Jamieson (18:54), Emily Mephram (18:56), Ellie Hylton (18:56.2), and Claire Arthur (18:56.3). Triton's Keely Maguire had the third-fastest time in course history (17:13.9) and Emily Jones of Bromfield had the seventh-fastest (17:31).

Lincoln-Sudbury coach Chris Tarello preached the importance of a "pack mentality" and it worked to perfection as four Warriors finished within 2.3 seconds of each other. "That mentality finally clicked for us today," he said. "These girls competed as a team and got stronger as the race went on."